

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER



90th Anniversary

Annual Report

November 12, 2011

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
2011 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Chapter Chair	<i>Timothy Linehan</i>
Chapter Vice Chair	<i>Wayne Tursi, Sr.</i>
Secretary	<i>Darlene Dunbar</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
Bicycling Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Rick Merritt Bruce Ebbets</i>
Conservation Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Jamie Lee Andrew May</i>
East of the River Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Nancy Mann Jeff Keel</i>
Education Committee Chair	<i>John Crist</i>
Excursions Committee Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Family Activities Co-Chairs	<i>Janet Ainsworth Debra Rich</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chairs	<i>Tom Carruthers David Roberts</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee Chair	<i>Barry Gorfain</i>
Member at Large	<i>Barry Gorfain Paula Zimbrea</i>
Membership Committee Chair	
Mountaineering Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Art Morenz Jesse Morenz</i>
Program Committee Chair	<i>David Bellemare</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Darcy Witham</i>
Newsletter Co-Editors	<i>Maggie Grayson Debra Rich</i>
Northwest Camp Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Tom McGrath Rob Parlee</i>
Trails Committee Chair	<i>David Boone</i>
Webmaster/AMC Outdoors Liaison	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Whitewater Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Mark Schappert Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Committee Chair	<i>Christopher Rees</i>
Regional Director	<i>Dale Geslien</i>

CHAPTER CHAIR'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that 2011 was another year of growth for the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. We are slightly larger today than we were at this time last year. Seventy-five (75) additional individuals have discovered for themselves what we in CT-AMC have long known:

...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.

From CT-AMC Mission Statement

Our finances remain solid; we finished the year under budget. The cost of producing and mailing activity listings has long been one of the largest expenses of our chapter. Consequently, we've continued our efforts to "nudge" the committees and our membership to make the transition from paper-based to electronic communications. While it is, admittedly, a bit harder to read an *electronic* version of our chapter newsletter whilst standing at the stove stirring dinner, we're hopeful that the introduction of iPads, Smart Phones, Kindles, and other electronic marvels will enable more of our members to make the switch from paper; doing so not only saves the chapter a farthing or two in printing and mailing costs, it also helps us reduce our carbon footprint.

Our chapter continues to offer significant numbers of activities. It was a busy year with more than a dozen dinner/programs, over 800 hikes and backpacking activities, nearly 100 technical climbing events and education programs, more than 30 AT trail work parties, more than 70 paddling trips, and in excess of 200 bicycle rides. We were also engaged in a number of local conservation issues, including the successful effort to reform Connecticut's Recreation Use Liability law, a number of invasive species eradication efforts, and a regular series of lectures and "table talks" about renewable energy and energy conservation. Clearly our chapter had a very busy year!

One event that deserves special mention was our chapter's first-ever caving activity. As an ice climber, I relish the crisp, frigid air of winter; the smell of balsam fir and the crack and crunch of blue ice under my crampons. Consequently ***I*** cannot see the attraction of slithering through narrow subterranean passages that are covered in slimy bat poo, but our Young Member Committee practitioners of the sport assure me it is great fun. To each their own, I suppose. That is one aspect of the Appalachian Mountain Club that is most attractive: we are a community of varied sport enthusiasts linked by a shared love for a natural world that we believe is deserving of our care and protection. Whether one paddles,

pedals, hikes, or climbs, there is a “home” in the AMC (though I’m still not sure about that caving “thing”...).

The year ahead looks to be similarly busy. The Trails Committee will be working to re-engage with youth on AT work projects. We would like to build out our chapter’s offering of outdoor skills programs. There have been discussions about how best to coordinate our conservation efforts, both within the chapter and with other like-minded local recreation and conservation / environmental stewardship organizations. There is more we could do to get the club’s “message” out through increased participation at gear shop “club days” and other “tabling” opportunities. We would like to expand our schedule of family-oriented activities. All of this, of course, would be in *addition* to the regular programming of hikes, paddles, climbs, bike rides, dinner/talks, and work parties that have been the core of our chapter’s efforts.

None of this would be possible without the involvement of a legion of dedicated volunteers, 173 of whom qualified for the chapter’s volunteer recognition award in 2011. Their names are listed in the Annual Gathering program. We’re grateful for their dedication of time and energy to the efforts of the chapter.

The 2012 Executive Committee will be a mix of continuing members and new faces. Earlier this year our long standing Flatwater and Coastal Paddling Chair, Jean Trapani, took advantage of the turmoil in the job and housing markets to snare a new home down in Florida. We celebrate her opportunity to paddle year round, even as we miss her wise counsel on the many issues that come before the Executive Committee. Jean is a truly amazing individual; her knowledge of environmental and other issues related to paddling is encyclopedic. It’s been an inspiration to work along side her these past few years. We were pleased that Barry Gorfain was willing to take over from her and continue what has been a very successful committee.

Our long serving Program Chair Dave Bellemare is also stepping down due to conditions of turmoil – only in his case the “turmoil” is a result from the arrival of his first child. We join him in celebrating this new life, and wish him well with his new challenges.

Young Member Committee Chair Chris Rees is also moving on due to the arrival of a squirmy new future hiker. We look forward to his (and Dave’s) assistance with Family Activity Committee programming in a few short years.

Mountaineering co-chairs Art and Jesse Morenz are concluding their terms in that committee’s standard two year leader rotation. Their term of service has been notable for the marked increase in “depth” in their committee’s technical skills.

Nancy Mann is stepping down as chair of East of the River; I’ve enjoyed working with her and appreciate the enthusiasm and continued support that she brought to our meetings.

Secretary Darlene Dunbar’s decision to spend the winter months recreating in another clime left the rest of the Executive Committee grumbling with jealousy. She has done a very good job keeping the Executive Committee “on task” regarding our obligations to the club. She’ll be missed.

The chapter’s nominating committee has been much busier than usual this year. They were successful in finding candidates for many of the committee leadership positions, but there are still a few openings. Members who are willing to assist the chapter in the months and years ahead are encouraged to speak with Bruce Laroche, chair of the nominating committee, or with any member of the current or 2012 proposed Executive Committee for information or to volunteer.

My tenure as chapter chair has concluded. I’m grateful to all of the Executive Committee members who have provided assistance over the past three years. It is astonishing how much these folks do and what they accomplish. On a personal level, it has been an enjoyable learning experience, both in regards to the AMC as an organization and about the recreation and conservation challenges that exist here in Connecticut and throughout the AMC region, which stretches from Maine to Washington D.C On the other hand, I’m looking forward to spending *less* time answering e-mail and *more* time outdoors playing!

See you out there!

Tim Linehan
Connecticut Chapter Chair



CONNECTICUT CHAPTER ANNUAL GATHERING – 2010

The 89th Annual Gathering of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club (CT-AMC) was held on November 20, 2010, at the Rocky Hill Marriott in Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

Tim welcomed everyone to the Annual Gathering and gave a summary of the evening's events.

Program Chair Dave Bellemare announced the names of the Silent Auction winners.

Tim thanked Dave and the Program Committee for all the hard work that went into planning the event and asked them to stand for a round of applause.

In addition, Tim expressed appreciation to everyone who donated items for the silent auction; who organized, planned, and presented afternoon workshops; and who staffed the committee tables. He asked the audience to join him in a round of applause for everyone for the time and effort they put into the event.

Tim remarked that everything about the year's activities is covered in the Annual Report, but he wanted to touch upon a few things that were of particular note.

First, in the "headline issues" of membership and finance, chapter membership was steady at around 8,000. The Fairfield Country Group has been particularly active in recruiting new members to the chapter. From what Tim could determine from older chapter chair reports, it appeared that the high-water mark in membership was just over 10,300 when Eric Stones was chapter chair ten years ago. Obviously we're down a bit since then but we've been holding steady in the 8,000 range for the past 3 years while all manner of social and financial upheaval has been taking place around us. This is no small achievement when other similar organizations continue to see a slide in their membership. While working as an Information Volunteer at Highland Center the past summer Tim met a gal who was involved with *The Mountaineers*, an organization similar to AMC that has chapters primarily in the Pacific Northwest. She spoke of the very difficult times her organization has been experiencing. By comparison, our chapter, and the AMC as a whole, is doing very well to maintain our membership.

Turning to finances, the chapter finished the year under budget. One of the biggest expenses for the chapter has been printing and mailing costs. Several committees have completely eliminated snail-mail communications. The result of the belt-tightening efforts is that the chapter has been able to reduce its expenses faster than the economic

environment has reduced its income. So we're doing well. This is no small achievement in the current economic environment.

Tim remarked that it had been a busy year for the chapter, noting the following:

- The number of individuals whom we contact via our committee e-mail lists expanded.
- We've expanded our use of e-mail for distribution of activity lists and other communications. Our chapter took advantage of a newly approved capability of sending out chapter-wide e-mail messages. As noted earlier, this conversion from paper to electronic distribution has reduced cost for printing and postage.
- Each of the activity committees qualified new leaders. Of all of the achievements we accomplished during the year, this one might be the most important as it is these individuals that make it possible for the chapter to expand the list of activities that we make available to the membership
- We sponsored bicycle rides on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and week-ends, April through September and ran four regional bike trips
- We hosted a series of monthly conservation speakers and acquired monitoring devices that chapter members may borrow to evaluate our home energy use. The Conservation Committee entrusted me with one of their Kill-o-watt meters and it was very interesting to see which devices around the house were the most energy hungry. Tim will be publishing a brief article on his experiences with the device in the next newsletter.
- We sponsored over 30 family oriented activities, including two activities for "special needs" families.
- There were 38 Young Member oriented hikes, paddles and socials.
- In all, the chapter listed and sponsored over 600 hikes, back packing trips, and ski outings
- The Education Committee scheduled two "soft skill" leadership training sessions, a Leave No Trace trainer course and sponsored a SOLO led Wilderness First Aid (WFA) program.
- The Fairfield County Group (FCG) continued their successful program of speaker meetings, offering a variety of 9 different programs, as well as a holiday bash and a BBQ.

- The chapter's two paddling committees were equally busy this year offering various skill development programs, pool sessions, as well as scheduling local and regional paddles
- Mountaineering ran a series of rock and ice climbing education classes and programmed weekly rock, ice and gym climbs throughout the year and sponsored several regional weekend trips.
- Senior newsletter editor Darcy Witham and her team implemented a streamlined editing / proof-reading process that greatly expedited our newsletter production process and resulted in wonderful, full color versions of the newsletter, which are available online. Tim told the audience that those who have not yet converted their newsletter delivery from paper to electronic are really missing out. Tim encouraged everyone to visit the club's Member Center to request electronic delivery of the newsletter.
- A large number of work projects were completed by the seemingly indefatigable crews from our Trails and Northwest Camp committees. A total of 2,996 hours were volunteered for projects on or near the Connecticut section of the Appalachian Trail (AT)

A moment of silence was observed as members stood to honor the memory of those CT-AMC members who passed away since the last Annual Gathering.

<i>Frederick Bailey</i>	<i>Eleanor Bielak</i>
<i>Stephen Bonneville</i>	<i>Cindy Chevins</i>
<i>Doug Christie</i>	<i>Emmerson M. Clark</i>
<i>Kristine Della Fera</i>	<i>Lando J. Dominici</i>
<i>Nate Dorpalen</i>	<i>Elizabeth A. Egli</i>
<i>Frederick D. Havens</i>	<i>Cyril Hudock</i>
<i>Jo Ann Jones</i>	<i>Ilka Krochmal</i>
<i>Worthington Mixer</i>	<i>Norm Norbert</i>
<i>Harry William Odell</i>	<i>Roger Peloquin</i>
<i>Andrew Pryshiak</i>	<i>Peter Ratchford</i>
<i>Robert Romano</i>	<i>Lesley Santora</i>
<i>W. James Schumaker</i>	<i>Ellen Torrance</i>
<i>Allan N. Williams</i>	<i>Mary Witkavitch</i>

Next, Tim spoke about the chapter's volunteers, noting that it would be impossible for the chapter to succeed without their many hours of effort and planning. The first of the chapter's recognitions is the Chapter Stewardship Award that is given annually to members who lead five or more chapter activities or who donate 30 or more hours of time to chapter

programs. Tim directed the audience to the Annual Gathering Program, which included a list of the award recipients, including the Trails Awards. He asked that the award recipients stand as a group and accept the applause of the audience.

Tim introduced Trails Committee Chair Dave Boone, who described the Trails Committee Awards.

Tim called Past Chapter Chair Dave Cullen to present the year's Appie of the Year Award and the Lifetime Service Award.

Dave Cullen presented the Lifetime Service Award to veteran hike leader and long time Excursions Committee member Dave Cronin. Dave became a twenty-five year member this year. The recipient of the Appie of the Year was Chapter Secretary Carol Hassett.

Tim thanked Dave Cullen and asked for a round of applause for Dave Cronin and Carol Hassett.

Tim then recognized those who became fifty-year club members in 2010:

Mr. Bill Blaha
Mr. William Dodge
Mr. Edwin Hahn
Mr. John C. Hicks
Mr. Bente Morch
Ms. Patricia Mudge
Mrs. Marjorie Ranger
Mr. Richard Ranger
Mr. John Stankard

Mr. John Hicks was present and received his fifty-year pin. Tim asked the audience to join him in a round of applause for John and the other eight recipients in acknowledgement of their five decades of support for the AMC.

Tim noted that 40 individuals completed their 25th year of membership in 2010. Past Chair Paula Burton was present and Tim asked her to stand for acknowledgment of her achievement. .

Tim introduced AMC Vice President Walter Graff. He invited Walter to the podium to say a few words on what is taking place with the club's Maine Wood's Initiative.

The Harry Duren/Greg Simons Scholarship Fund Chair Eric Stones was unable to attend the evening's meeting. Tim spoke briefly about the Scholarship, noting two scholarships were awarded in the past year. Letters of appreciation from both of the recipients were published in the Fall Newsletter. The scholarships are not funded by the chapter's general funds but through individual donations.

Tim asked the Past Chapter Chairs in attendance to put on their red hats and stand:

- Beth Bryan Critton: 2006-2007
- Paula Burton: 1997-1998
- Dave Cullen: 1995-1996
- Mary Dorpalen: 1993-1994
- Trish Niece: 1987-1988
- Anne Bailey 1985-1986
- Judy Besancon: 1983-1984
- Ledge Clayton: 1975-1976

Tim asked the audience to give the Past Chairs a round of applause.

Tim thanked the members of the 2010 Executive Committee who served over the past year. He asked them to stand as he called their names and asked the audience to give them a round of applause.

At 7:57 p.m., Tim called to order the business portion of the 89th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Tim called for a motion to accept the Secretary's Report as presented in the 2010 Annual Report, which was received, seconded, and passed. Tim then called for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented in the 2010 Annual Report, which was received, seconded, and passed.

The next item of business was the election of the 2011 Executive Committee.

Tim called upon Bruce Laroche of the Nominating Committee to present the slate of nominees for 2011. He asked each nominee to come forward as his/her name was called.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Chapter Chair | <i>Tim Linehan</i> |
| Chapter Vice Chair | <i>Wayne Tursi, Sr.</i> |
| Secretary | <i>Darlene Dunbar</i> |
| Treasurer | <i>Al Puches</i> |
| AMC Outdoors Liaison | <i>Jim Scheef</i> |
| Bicycling Co-Chair | <i>Bruce Ebbets</i> |
| Bicycling Co-Chair | <i>Rick Merritt.</i> |
| Conservation Co-Chair | <i>Jamie Lee</i> |
| Conservation Co-Chair | <i>Andrew May</i> |
| East of the River Co-Chair | <i>Nancy Mann</i> |
| Education Chair | <i>John Crist</i> |
| Excursions Chair | <i>David Roberts</i> |
| Family Activities Co-Chair | <i>Janet Ainsworth</i> |
| Family Activities Co-Chair | <i>Debra Rich</i> |
| Fairfield County Co-Chair | <i>Tom Carruthers</i> |
| Fairfield County Co-Chair | <i>David Roberts</i> |
| Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair | <i>Jean Trapani</i> |

- Member at Large
- Member at Large
- Membership Chair
- Mountaineering Co-Chair
- Mountaineering Co-Chair
- Newsletter Co-Editor
- Newsletter Co-Editor
- Northwest Camp Co-Chair
- Northwest Camp Co-Chair
- Program Chair
- Trails Chair
- Webmaster/Technology Chair
- Whitewater Co-Chair
- Whitewater Co-Chair
- Young Members Co-Chair
- Regional Director

- Barry Gorfain*
- Paula Zimbreaan*
- open*
- Art Morenz*
- Jesse Morenz*
- Maggie Grayson*
- Darcy Witham*
- Tom McGrath*
- Rod Parlee*
- Dave Bellemare*
- Dave Boone*
- Jim Scheef*
- Mark Schappert*
- Dennis Wigg*
- Christopher Rees*
- Dale Geslien*

A motion was made for the secretary to cast one ballot for the slate as presented. The motion passed.

Tim asked for a motion to be made to adjourn the meeting. At 8:05 p.m. a motion to adjourn the business meeting was made, seconded, and passed.

Dave Bellemare then introduced the program speaker, Dr. Jesse Stone, a physician, professional whitewater kayaker, and founder of and director of Soft Power health. Dr. Stone's presentation, *Paddling through Life: Where Kayaking Has Taken Me*, covered her adventures in paddling from New York City to the Nile River in Uganda and many places in between.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Hassett, Secretary



TREASURER' S REPORT
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009 AND 2010

	2009	2010
Cash at January 1	\$82,096	\$91,180
Revenue Collected:		
Joy Street dues allocation	29,603	29,185
Program activities	19,455	20,950
Contributions	2,100	4,200
Reserve funds- sources (1)	11,517	1,850
Local sale of memberships	2,228	1,933
Leadership training	7,194	7,586
Merchandise sales	845	111
Interest and investment income (loss)	(1,218)	7,607
Total revenue collected	\$71,724	\$73,422
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	18,639	19,561
Reserve funds- uses (1)	5,065	5,418
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	1,963	1,040
Conservation	127	686
East of the River	923	725
Education	5,187	6,514
Executive	11,537	8,731
Fairfield County	228	0
Membership	1,742	927
Mountaineering	1,102	2,375
Newsletter	7,913	7,326
Trails	5,299	6,804
Whitewater	2,312	4,545
Young Members	603	430
Total expenditures	\$62,640	\$65,082
Cash at December 31	<u>\$91,180</u>	<u>\$99,520</u>

TREASURER' S REPORT
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2010 AND 2011

	2010	2011
Cash at January 1	\$91,180	\$99,520
Revenue Collected:		
Joy Street dues allocation	19,573	19,191
Program activities	12,592	8,010
Reserve funds- sources (1)	1,625	1,910
Local sale of memberships	1,803	1,806
Leadership training	6,726	6,775
Contributions	4,100	1,225
Merchandise sales	66	205
Interest and investment income(loss)	3,700	6,674
Total revenue collected	\$50,185	\$45,796
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	11,306	8,620
Cost of merchandise		1,000
Reserve funds- uses (1)	4,910	4,600
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	615	482
Conservation	567	178
East of the River	676	186
Education	5,351	5,446
Executive	3,726	2,936
Flatwater		26
Membership	578	427
Mountaineering	914	74
Newsletter	6,053	5,690
Trails	3,519	2,721
Whitewater	3,280	878
Young Members	132	0
Total expenditures	\$41,627	\$33,264
Cash at September 30	<u>\$99,738</u>	<u>\$112,052</u>

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:

	<u>12/31/09</u>	<u>12/31/10</u>	<u>9/30/11</u>
Reserve funds:			
AT Handicap Accessible Project	10,342	10,342	9,688
Duren and Simons Mem. Scholarships	5,038	4,190	2,433
Jim Wright Memorial	264	264	264
Stanley Grant Reserve	2,472	66	66
Stephen Meyers Memorial	782	782	782
Whitewater Reserve	8,695	7,405	7,225
L. L. Bean Grant		241	
Durr Donation	11,230	11,230	11,230
General fund	<u>52,357</u>	<u>65,000</u>	<u>80,364</u>
Total cash	<u>\$91,180</u>	<u>\$99,520</u>	<u>\$112,052</u>

Al Puches – Treasurer

Bicycling Committee

NEWSLETTER; The Bike newsletter this year was published and was sent by e-mail only and is available on our website. Terry Pappagallo again this year did a great job as our newsletter publisher

RIDE COORDINATOR; Joann Hewitt our bike rider coordinator has done a great job again this year keeping all rides for our newsletter, AMC Outdoors and our web-site and the ride leader list up to date.

QUICK NOTICE; Tom Ebersold has done an outstanding job sending all rides to our quick notice yahoo e-mail group list of close to 400 names and also posting to our website so bike leaders can send out last minute rides.

MONDAY DAY RIDES; Judy Kunkel had a very successful year with a ride every Monday from April 1, through the end of October with the ride coordinator of each month responsible for leading rides.

TUESDAY NIGHT RIDES; Wayne Tursi was in charge of the rides this year and did a great job with rides running from April 6, to the end of September. This is our most successful ride with a great turn out each night with an average of 60 to 80 bikers each night of all levels, with rides 15 to 40 miles. Bike leaders Ray Taksar, David Waldburger, Rick Merritt, Wayne Tursi and Judy Borrmann leading longest rides of 35 to 40 miles.

Other leaders helping were Susan Grant, Bruce Ebbets, Jim Gleba and Maryann Carr.

THURSDAY NIGHT RIDES; Was very successful ride again this year with rides averaging 20 to 30 riders each week and most all going to dinner after the ride and bonding very well. Rides were mostly hilly, with no cue sheet, averaging 20-30 miles. Finlay and Mary Ferguson were in charge and Beverly Medlin and Mark Henebry ride leaders with rides running from May through August.

WEEKEND BIKE TRIPS; We ran 3 successful trips this year. Hampton Beach, NH in May with leaders Rick Merritt, Sue Grant and Bruce Ebbets; Cape Cod, MA in August with leaders Terry Bludeau and Susan Whalen; Fairlee VT with leaders Finlay Ferguson and Mark Henebry. All trips were full and without incidents.

Conservation Committee

WEEKEND DAY BIKE RIDES; Did well this year with a ride each Saturday and Sunday with many days with more than one ride. Hopefully next year we can do better.

BIKE LEADERS; We added about 3 new ride leaders this year but need to find more people to step forward and encourage other bike leaders to lead more rides.

Bruce Ebbets is stepping down as co-chair and Sue Grant will be replacing him. Sue is a strong rider and leads many long and hilly rides.

Rick Merritt and Bruce Ebbets Bike Co-Chairs



While few Americans list the environment as a major policy concern, your Conservation Committee has been busy trying to educate & advocate on behalf of the Earth. Committee member Bob Andrews lead a group of students from ECSU in an "Alternative Spring Break";whereby, students built a new trail shelter by day and heard from environmental leaders- such as Dr. Barres from "Reforest the Tropics" and at night Amy Paterson from "Connecticut Land Conservation Council." Your Conservation Committee is now working on formalizing ties with ECSU around a working ECSU/AMC/CFPA Environmental Club.

Committee member Russ Charest continued to educate & enlighten people by displaying his "Energy Conservation Savings Board" @ several venues throughout the state: Beardsley Zoo's "Party for the Planet"; Hamden Earth Day; New London Field of Greens Farmer's Market; Fiddleheads Natural Food Co-Op; Naugatuck Earth Day,etc. Ever the perfectionist/tinkerer Russ is always improving & modifying the Board so people have access to the most recent energy savings devices readily available.

The Committee has been given the rights to show Carbon Nation, and is in the process of setting up dates at local schools, libraries and other possible venues including the first showing at our November committee meeting. A list of showings, places, times and dates will be kept on the conservation web page for people to check for a screening near them.

Recently, starting in October Jamie Lee has started some family hikes that will be the first Saturday of each month. In October it was an invasive species hike at Macchimoodus State Park and in November we will be at Bluff Point in Groton. For December we will be back at Macchimoodus State Park. The hikes are a collaborative effort between AMC and Synergy Sensations as well as Denison Nature Center for an all access adventure series of hikes for families with disabilities. Our plan is to run these hikes through the Winter and Spring of 2012. Hikes will be posted on the AMC trip listing so hope people will check the listings for 2012.

Legislatively, your Chapter Chair Tim Linehan lead an energetic response from AMC in joining and participating in a coalition -lead by Connecticut Forest & Parks and Bike/Walk Connecticut- that successfully extended Liability Protection to Municipal & Quasi-Public Lands (i.e Towns & Water companies acting in good faith can not be held liable for accidents on their property). On Federal level, despite strong headwinds against spending on the environment we actively

lobbied for adequate funding for the Land & Water Conservation Act (LWCF) which, among other things funds money for land acquisition /preservation in the Highlands Region of Connecticut. Representatives from AMC also were active participants in the drafting and revising of Connecticut's Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) . SCORP gives town planners, town land trusts, etc. a guide of how they should allocate scarce land resources in our densely populated state. The updating of SCORP is also necessary to receive the aforementioned LWCF funding.

While we are a noble, proud, and accomplished few, we always welcome more input, more insight, and, heck, more sweat.

Thank You for giving us the resources we need to do what we do.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE:

Bob Andrews
John Hamlin

Russ Charest
James O'Rourke

Timothy Grover

Jamie Lee – Co-Chair
Andrew May – Co-Chair

East of the River Committee

The Connecticut-AMC East-of-the-River (EOR) hiking group is an infinitely-interesting gathering of people who enjoy midweek walking in various locations. Most of the hikes take place in Connecticut forests and parks, but some destinations are urban settings such as Boston and New York, Rhode Island beaches, New Hampshire mountains, rail trails, college campuses or historic Connecticut towns. EOR hike leaders are especially inventive when planning hikes, offering opportunities to explore history, art, nature - even poetry, in unusual locations. Thus the EOR name can be misleading, as hikes take place throughout the state and, sometimes, outside its borders.

Every week, two hikes are offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays. One hike, the "alternate," is usually more gentle and perhaps shorter. A more vigorous hike takes place on the same day and may include longer, more challenging terrain.

This year the weather has been especially daunting. Heavy winter snows made driving and hiking difficult and deep snow prevented access to some trails. Icy areas posed some danger. This summer prolonged periods of high heat made hiking uncomfortable and caused some cancellations.

Through it all, EOR leaders offered a variety of destinations for hikers.

A highlight of the EOR year is a delicious spring dinner with a program often featuring world travel.

Come join us!

EAST OF THE RIVER COMMITTEE:

Nola Currie
Marilyn Lassow

Dot Davis
Jean McCarthy

Ruth Griffin
Carolyn Olsen

Nancy Mann – Co-Chair

Jeff Keel – Co-Chair

Education Committee

The Education Committee had another successful year filled with well-attended learning opportunities and in August welcomed two new instructors (John Ivanisin and Janice May).

Sixteen participants completed the committee's Leadership Training School held November 19-21, 2010 at White Memorial in Litchfield, Conn. Instructors were John Crist, Dale Geslien, Keith Spaar, Jeff Hogan, Leo Kelly, Merri Fox and Aaron Gorban, AMC's Leadership Training and Risk Management Manager. The training covered topics such as Trip Planning and Management, Leadership Styles, Group Dynamics, Leave No Trace Principles, Map and Compass, Leadership Opportunities, AMC Policy and Forms, Accident Scene Management, Risk Management and Leader Liability as well as experiential learning scenarios.

The committee's SOLO Wilderness First Aid and CPR Training took place on April 16-17, 2011, with 42 participants. SOLO instructors and Education Committee members Leo Kelly along with SOLO another instructor conducted the training. The popular training continues to sell out each year.

Leo Kelly continued his involvement as historian with the Club-wide Mountain Leadership School in June

14 participants completed the Leadership Training Session held on June 26, 2011, at Sleeping Giant State Park in Hamden. Keith Spaar instructed along with Dale Geslien and David Roberts. Most participants were interested in becoming hike leaders. Core members of the Education Committee met several times during the year to socialize over pizza and more to the point to plan our events. We also met to "train the trainer" for our two newest members/instructors and discuss current leadership training curriculum and ways to recruit new instructors so that we can resource more training sessions.

There are four people currently registered for the committee's Leadership Training School, which will be held November 18-20 at White Memorial in Litchfield, Conn. The training is also being advertised by the Delaware Valley Chapter.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

<i>Dave Boone</i>	<i>John Crist</i>	<i>Jeff Hogan</i>
<i>Leo Kelly</i>	<i>David Roberts</i>	<i>Keith Spaar</i>
<i>Janice May</i>	<i>Dale Geslien</i>	<i>John Ivanisin</i>
<i>Merri Fox</i>		



Excursions Committee

In the twelve months to the end of September 2011, Connecticut Chapter Hike Leaders posted 610 hikes, almost equal to our previous record and remarkable in a year which featured an unusual number of wet days and also high gas prices. Most of our hikes are now submitted only a few days before the hike date and if forecasts are bad, Leaders no longer post hikes for those days, whereas in the past when our systems were less developed more hikes were posted and then subsequently canceled due to bad weather. While more efficient this reduces the number of hikes now posted.

As usual hikes and other Excursions' Committee events accounted for more than 60% of all activities run by the CT Chapter during the year.

Over 100 different Hike Leaders led at least one hike during the year demonstrating the depth of our group of Hike Leaders and over 70 of our Hike Leaders and volunteers qualified for Chapter "recognition" awards as a result of leading 5 or more hikes or contributing 30 or more hours to support our efforts. All of our Leaders deserve our thanks and appreciation for their efforts.

In addition to hikes led by Hike Leaders who are not part of a sponsoring group, hikes sponsored by EOR, the Thursday Western CT Group, Young Members and Family Activities again made a major contribution. EOR Midweek Hiking continued to sponsor four well attended hikes each week, the Western CT Thursday Group sponsored at least one hike each week, and our Young Members group sponsored about 20 hikes and backpacking trips. The Family Hikes program has continued to be active averaging two family hikes a month this year. Sponsoring groups make a real contribution to the success of our hiking program and Excursions values highly the work not only of the Hike Leaders who lead hikes sponsored by these groups but also the work done by the coordinators for these groups.

Many of our Hike Leaders in addition to leading local hikes led backpacking and ski trips both inside and beyond the state and also led Major Excursions. Hike Leaders also strongly supported chapter-wide events such as National Trails Day, Give a Day to the AT, and AT Day, which was run by Excursions.

Once again the Excursions Committee sponsored the AMC's Fall Hiking Week as well as August Camp. We thank everyone who organized and led hikes at these great events.

We also thank the Education Committee, comprised mainly of Hike Leaders, for organizing the weekend-long Annual Leadership Training School in Litchfield and a one-day Leadership Training Session, both of which were very well attended and which are extremely important in providing potential Hike Leaders with high quality training. With their help we added a significant number of new Hike Leaders during the year.

Jim Scheef, did a great job as our Webmaster and we thank Jim for all of the work he does for the Excursions Committee. The Excursions Committee is essentially all electronic, has eliminated paper from its operations, and as a result operates at almost zero cost. Our principal hike email list now include over 1,400 names and in total our hike notices go out to over 3,000 names. Our Weekly Upcoming Hikes List has become 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.

Behind the scenes, several volunteers spend countless hours maintaining our lists, approving hikes, distributing emails and responding to many emails from hikers and potential hikers. Their contributions are very much appreciated.

The Excursions Committee was pleased to welcome Don Button, an experienced Hike Leader, as its newest member.

Excursions Committee

Dave Roberts - Chair

Dave Cronin, Carol Hassett, Don Button, Eric Stones, Fiona Nicholson



Fairfield County Group

In the year to the end of September 2011 the Fairfield County Group (FCG) organized a total of eleven events. This program consisted of five speaker meetings in Westport; four speaker meetings and a December Holiday Bash in Bethel; and an Annual BBQ Picnic in Redding.

In Westport FCG's 2010/2011 season of five speaker meetings attracted a total audience of well over 300 people despite a snow storm on the day of one of the meetings. FCG's Westport meetings are well established with attendees enjoying excellent presentations, a hot pasta dinner, dessert, wine, coffee and a great atmosphere. The meetings this season were held at Saugatuck Congregational Church in Westport while major renovations were undertaken at Christ and Holy Trinity Church which FCG had used for a number of years.

In Bethel FCG's meetings feature appetizers, wine, desserts and coffee, as well as great speakers and interesting movies. The four speaker meetings in Bethel during the 2010 / 2011 season attracted crowds averaging about 30 people per meeting although attendances in Bethel still show significant variation.

FCG's speaker meetings featured a wide range of topics, mainly in the armchair travel category, which in the 2010 / 2011 season included Antarctica and the Arctic, Patagonia, Syria and Jordan, Bolivia and Utah. FCG also featured a successful showing of the movie "Legacy of the Great Aletsch." AMC Hike Leaders Dave Cronin and David Roberts both presented.

FCG's Annual Picnic at Putnam Park has now been running for several years and has established itself as a very pleasant outdoor event. This year FCG organized three morning hikes which attracted over 20 people, and almost 40 people enjoyed burgers and hot dogs on a sunny afternoon. FCG's Annual Holiday Bash in Bethel early in December 2010 featured music and dancing as well as fine holiday fare with over 35 people enjoying the event. FCG's events not only help to retain members within the club but have also directly resulted in a significant number of people joining the AMC at FCG meetings.

FCG has continued its communications efforts with posters and press releases for all its events and has enjoyed good local media support. All FCG events are listed in Outdoors, on the chapter web-site and have featured regularly in the chapter newsletters. FCG email lists now have about 650 names and we continue to collect names for these lists.

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. Almost all of our speakers now present for no fee, and we have controlled our other costs carefully.

In addition to having a wonderful committee FCG enjoys the support of many other volunteers who are always willing to help out in many ways. FCG Co-Chairs David Roberts and Tom Carruthers wish to thank all of them for their contribution to FCG's success.

FAIRFIELD COUNTY GROUP COMMITTEE

<i>Darcy Batzarian</i>	<i>Lorraine Cronson</i>	<i>Paul Garborino</i>
<i>Fiona Nicholson</i>	<i>Al Puches</i>	<i>Eleanor Sasso</i>

Tom Carruthers – Co-Chair

David Roberts – Co-Chair

Family Activities Committee

Slow and steady, the Family Activities Committee chugged along in 2011, the third year of its existence. As of Columbus Day weekend, it had held or scheduled a dozen hikes. Former co-chair Eric Stones was responsible for the majority. Co-chairs Janet Ainsworth and Debra Rich also contributed. As was true last year, National Trails Day and AT Day hikes were offered. Committee leadership has been working with Faith Salter, AMC volunteer relations, on developing strategies to increase the number of leaders and participants.

Janet Ainsworth – Co-Chair

Debra Rich – Co-Chair



Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee

This has been a transition year for Flatwater/Coastal Paddling. Longtime chairperson Jean Trapani has left us for the warmer waters of Florida. She built up a wonderful and varied program during her tenure, which has been difficult to maintain. Some programs, such as winter pool sessions, have not survived, but our trip leaders have continued to offer favorite trips and develop new ones on a wide variety of water: lakes, creeks, flat rivers and open water. While the number of trips is slightly down, the quality remains high.

We offered 15 events this year: 8 flatwater, 4 coastal sea kayak, 2 skills days and one workshop. Partnering with such groups as The Last Green Valley and the New Haven Hiking Club, we have brought new paddlers into our group. CT Trails Day and AT Day were celebrated with events on Selden/Whalebone Creeks and Twin Lakes respectively. Two skills days are now offered on Lake Wintergreen, giving paddlers the chance to get more comfortable in their boats, gain confidence in their paddling abilities and practice wet exits and self- and assisted rescues. By demonstrating the wet exit, a paddler can join in on sea kayak trips.

There are many paddling groups throughout the state that can be easily accessed, but few offer the competent, knowledgeable, skilled leaders as the AMC. Participants know they can have a safe and enjoyable time on the water.

FLATWATER/COASTAL PADDLING COMMITTEE

Debra Tedford Robert White Tom Ebersold Dale Geslien Jean Lange

Barry Gorfain-Chair



Membership Committee

As of October 2011, total membership stood at 8,162 which represents a net gain of 75 over 2010. The club will be sending out an additional mass-mailing in November; we anticipate a slight increase in membership before the calendar year-end as a result of that mailing. Our (existing member) renewal rate improved to 85% and our (first year member) retention rate improved to 44%. Both categories are slightly better than average for the club as a whole.

Two new membership programs - a temporary membership card and a new "Membership in a Flash" (which replaces the old "Membership in a Bottle" program) are being beta-tested at Joy Street and the north country facilities. We hope to incorporate those programs into our chapter efforts during 2012.

The committee sent out approximately 950 new and renewing member letters and kept the chapter supplied with promotional materials for various tabling opportunities. We are reviewing our chapter promotional materials with the intent of "freshening" the information and adding descriptions of new committees and activities.

The committee also awards the 25 and 50 year membership pins and the Appie of the Year and Lifetime Service awards.

We will also be working to recruit a network of "adopters" who will ensure that there is a continual supply of AMC materials at their local EMS, REI, and other retailers. These individuals might also assist with club-day "tabling" activities and the like.

Special thanks go to the Conservation Committee and the Fairfield County Committee for their regular "tabling" efforts on behalf of the chapter.

Tim Linehan

Dave Cullen

WELCOME

Mountaineering Committee

The year started with great ice climbing conditions in New Hampshire and CT. A beginner's ice climbing class was held in January in North Conway NH. The Thomaston ice climbing area was closed all season due to the fall and injury of a hiker there in 2010. The owners still have the area posted "no trespassing". The Ragged Mountain Foundation attempted to start a dialog with the owners of the property but to date have not been successful.

In the spring of 2011 mountaineering held its Beginners Rock Climbing Class. This class is always popular and "sold out" as it does most years. In addition a new mentoring program was started in 2011 where experienced AMC mountaineering members work one on one with new climbers to teach them rock climbing skills and safe climbing practices. Two mountaineering members also completed the AMGA Single Pitch Instructor course with IMCS in North Conway, NH.

Thursday night outdoor rock climbing started in mid April. These very popular "after work" climbs are held in Farmington, Plainville and Thomaston. On the first Thursday of each month committee members and other climbers get together at a local pizza restaurant for the monthly meeting. The last Thursday night outdoor climb was held Oct 6 at Pinnacle Cliffs in Plainville. Thursday night climbs for the rest of 2011 will be at Prime Climb in Wallingford CT.

Weekend rock climbing trips were held at various crags in CT, the Shawangunks and DAKs in New York and in the White Mountains in New Hampshire. 2011 also saw more committee members advancing in their climbing skills and taking the sharp end (lead climbing).

In 2011 we added St John's Ledges as a Thursday night climbing location on an experimental basis. Unfortunately there was no interest so this location will not be part of the Thursday night climbing in 2012

In 2011 members of the mountaineering committee traveled to Red Rock Canyon in Nevada, The Adirondacks and the Shawangunks in New York; the White Mountains in New Hampshire; the Alps in France; Seneca Rocks in W Virginia and Squamish in Vancouver BC. These trips encompassed multi-pitch rock climbing, alpine mountaineering and multi-pitch ice climbing.

In November the co-chair positions will change. Two newer current mountaineering members were nominated at the September meetings and plans are underway for the transition.

MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE:

*Mike Adelson
Skip Frey
Bob Lener
James McCall
Tristan Morenz
Russ Sherwood
Audrey Suseno
Kurt Zoner*

*Dan Bordeau
Peter Gajdosik
Gini Kramer
Carol Morenz
Gustavo Nava
Mark Sondeen
Gary Zempel*

*John DeAngelis
Dominick Galletti
Tim Linehan
Jesse Morenz
Tina Rosser
Mark Spain
Paula Zimbrea*

*Art Morenz – Co-Chair
Jesse Morenz – Co-Chair*



Newsletter

The AMC in Connecticut, our CT-AMC quarterly newsletter, reaches more than 8,000 chapter members through online distribution and direct mail. *AMC in Connecticut* is also distributed to numerous advocates and supporters who subscribe via e-mail or who download the newsletter from the chapter Web site. This electric distribution allows readers an easy way to reduce their carbon footprint while helping to defray printing and mailing costs for the chapter. The newsletter showcases CT-AMC member information, such as an update from our chapter Chair, information about upcoming events, and many other stories/articles of interest to our constituents.

Each newsletter is always a group effort, so all submissions and comments are greatly appreciated. The goal of the newsletter is to foster greater CT-AMC membership and to recruit participants for upcoming events. The publication also works to persuade members to try new activities and encourages more members to volunteer and give of their time.

Darcy Witham is senior editor of the publication. As a volunteer, she manages all aspects of production, including preparing initial content outlines/editorial calendars and providing her highly creative, colorful design layout skills. Debra Rich and Maggie Grayson are co-editors of the newsletter, providing copyediting and proofreading services. Darcy and her team also work on a number of additional CT-AMC-associated flyers, announcements, and letters, which are sometimes bundled with the newsletter.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Darcy Witham – Senior Editor

Maggie Grayson – Newsletter Co-Editor

Debra Rich – Newsletter Co-Editor

Northwest Camp Committee

The Northwest Camp cabin, constructed of American chestnut continues to stand tall on the Taconic plateau tucked away in an old-growth Eastern hemlock forest. The sparkling pristine stream adjacent to the cabin drains to Sages ravine and is part of the Schenob book 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. The State of Massachusetts designated the basin as an “Area of Critical Environmental Concern” in hopes of long-term preservation and responsible management. The Berkshire Chapter of The Nature Conservancy claims it is the most diverse watershed east of the Mississippi river with over forty species of rare and endangered flora and fauna. The Housatonic Valley Association has declared the watershed part of its “Critical Treasures of Connecticut” and the AMC is part of the Highlands Coalition that states, “The Mid-Atlantic Highlands’ resources are severely threatened by suburban sprawl and industrial development”.

Therein lies the challenge of properly sustaining a self-service cabin and tent platform on 125-acres, high on the northwest shoulder of Bear Mt. The Northwest Camp committee members are always up for the challenge and continue to successfully manage the property by reducing its footprint and adhering to the Bylaws that govern the committee.

Five productive committee meetings took place in 2011 and one was solely dedicated to planning for the 60-year anniversary. On Saturday, August 13th the Northwest Camp committee hosted a well-planned celebration as a tribute to the long-standing Northwest Camp cabin and the former committee members who made it possible. The night before the celebration, participants and planners were treated to a spectacular viewing of over 20 Perseid meteors from the summit of Bald peak. The cabin was built in 1951 by hand on leased land and after 60 years it still serves as an outstanding destination for many AMC members and non-members. Some might say, its even got better! The Committee offered champagne to toast the 60-year-old cabin with a chocolate raspberry cake along with a miniature (almost identical) cabin made from pretzels and graham crackers. Of the thirty or so participants, some of the original crew was present such as Don Pratt, Joan Ensor Katan, Charlie Katan and Norm Sills. The NW Camp committee expresses sincere thanks to these dedicated long-time AMC members including current Committee members John and Marge Hicks. Special thanks also to Committee

members Carol Langley and Paul Thoma who worked diligently for over a year, organizing the celebration.

The Committee continuously seeks new members with fresh ideas to help deal with the never-ending resource demands from camp users. Conserving cordwood has been addressed many times and the most recent planned task calls for the installation of a damper with a fusible link above the woodstove on the ceiling. This will help heat the upstairs loft, comply with building codes and likely reduce the consumption of cordwood used to heat woodstove and cabin. Another challenge is dealing with the constant erosion and soil buildup on the up-gradient side of the cabin. The Co-chair and Cabin Monitor met with Sean Hayden at the cabin in August. Sean is a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control and a Connecticut Certified Soil Scientist with the Northwest Conservation District. He offered a free site assessment based on our concerns and our plans to bring in heavy equipment to deal with the problem. As a result, a new plan was addressed that includes no heavy equipment but probably more than one work party with many volunteers. The Committee offers sincere gratitude to Sean Hayden for taking the time out of his busy schedule to meet with us on-site.

The Committee donated \$200 to the Ridgerunner program. Regional Trails coordinator, Matt Moore states “The money goes a long way and can help buy necessary gear and supplies to keep the staff supported and happy. Your show of support and the opportunity for our staff to meet committee members strengthens our community and the Ridgerunners' sense of that community. We are proud and happy to work with the Northwest Camp committee and to work to keep it as special and beautiful as it is.”

The hopes remain alive that this treasured piece of property encourages the cooperative support within the AMC to ensure and sustain its long-term health and viability for future generations.

Committee Roster

Rod Parlee (Co-Chair, Conservation Director) *
Tom McGrath (Co-Chair, Moldering Privy Chair) *
Merri Fox (Secretary/Volunteer Hours Coordinator)*
Paul Ives (Past Chair/Caretaker)*
Sue Ives (Registrar) *
Al Puches (Treasurer) *
John Hicks (Past Chair/Caretaker – Camp Trails Committee Chair)*

Donald Klein (Cabin Monitor) *
Craig Kennedy (Cabin Monitor)*
Paul Thoma (LNT Trainer)*
Carol Langley (Green Mt Club, CT Rep)*
Chuck Doll (Past Chair)
John Rek (Past Chair/Caretaker)
Steve Troop
Ron Zlotoff
*Marge Hicks**
Tom Nichols
Andy Johnson
Ken Kostak

* denotes 30 volunteer hours plus

The following are NW Camp Committee Events for 2011-2012:

November 4-7, 2011 NW Camp Fall Workparty

November 12, 2011 CT AMC Annual Gathering

December 8, 2011 NW Camp committee meeting at CFPA

January 28, 2012 AMC ANNUAL MEETING at UMASS

March 2-5, 2012 NW Camp Winter Weekend

May 4-7, 2012 NW Camp Spring Workparty

August 10-13, 2012 Annual Perseids Meteor Shower

October 13, 2012 AT Day (tentative)

November 2-5, 2012 NW Camp Fall Workparty



Program Committee

The Program Committee organized the Saturday, April 16TH Spring Dinner and the Saturday, November 12TH Annual Gathering. This entailed finding locations, making reservations, handling registrations, putting up signs, publicizing the events, and lining up the presenters.

The Spring Dinner was held at the Cheshire Grange on April 16TH. The Grange served a fantastic Dinner as they always do. The event was so Sold-Out that we ended up turning down about 60 people. It was hard to tell so many people that we couldn't get them in. We've never had this many people want to attend the Spring Dinner before. The big draw was our Guest Speaker: Dan Deluca. His presentation, "In Search of the Old Leather Man" was standing room only. The Leather Man was a homeless Frenchman who walked a 365 mile loop every 34 days for six years while wearing 60 pounds of leather. He slept in various caves along the way.

Wendy Hayes and Wilda Wyse ran the registration table while I put up the signs and set-up the Social Hour Table.

The November 12TH Annual Gathering this year is not just another Annual Gathering but is also a celebration of the CT Chapter's 90TH Birthday! We have the very well known: Andrew Skurka giving a talk on; "The Alaska - Yukon Expedition" This is a 4,700 mile expedition which includes: backpacking, skiing, and pack rafting. Andrew was "Adventurer of the Year" by Outside magazine.

This year we have one of the best line-ups of Workshops we've ever had with: David Roberts "Island of Serendipity", Linda Zajac "AMC Climate Change", Art Morenz "Self Guided Bike Tour Through France", Barry Gorfain "Flatwater/Sea Kayaking Tips & Tricks", Jim Motavalli "High Voltage Evolution of the Electric Car", Mark Sondeen & Jesse Morenz "Climbing in the French Alps" and last but not least: Andrew Skurka "Backpacking Gear & Skills Clinic"

Leo Kelly and Wilda Wyse are running the registration table, while Lori Stethers is taking care of the mail in registrations and the making of the name badges.

Program Committee Members

Wilda Wyse - Lori Stethers - Wendy Hayes

David Bellemare – Program Chair

TRAILS COMMITTEE

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

- 106 individual members of the Chapter contributed 3,406 total hours to Trails activities.
- The Committee mourned the loss of long time volunteers and former Trails Chairmen Birge Dayton and Dick Blake. Dick was Chair 1986-1988 and Birge from 1995-1997.
- The AMC-sponsored “Berkshire Teen Trail Crew” operated in Connecticut for a second year, doing needed treadway improvements in the Bear Mountain area.
- Several internal changes within the Committee were made. Henry Edmonds has assumed the role of Overseer of Lands, Jim Liptack has become Overseer of Trails, Walter Daniels has taken on a newly created position of Special Projects Manager, and Russ Waldie accepted the position of Overseer of Shelters/Camps.
- Several encroachments by AT neighbors were investigated and reported. One timber theft case was settled for \$5,500.
- In an effort to involve youth groups with trail maintenance, the Committee sought and obtained approvals to work with groups under the AMC’s Chapter Youth Program. Jim Liptack has been designated as our Chapter’s CYP Coordinator.
- The “Ridgerunner Cabin” in the Housatonic State Forest was again vandalized. The Committee decided to no longer support the use or maintenance of this DEP owned building.
- Another successful “Give A Day to Trails” saw 43 participants go out on 6 different projects. Volunteer hours for the day were 359.
- A Student Conservation Association summer crew completed substantial improvements in the Ten Mile Hill area.
- During the summer ridgerunner season, 5,000 hiker contacts were made, with no major incidents. The ridgerunners also became more involved in trail maintenance activities, and produced a weekly report on Trail conditions for the Committee.
- The Committee was represented at the ATC Biennial Meeting held in Emory, VA. Richard Rouse, Hugh Cobrain, Salley

- Decker and Harlan Jessup were recognized with the NPS “Silver Award” for 25 years of volunteer service to the AT.
- Plans for improvements to the Paradise Lane Trail and campsite were field reviewed by National Park Service staff.
- Misuse and abuse of the Bulls Bridge/10 Mile River area continues to be a major management dilemma. In addition to the widespread littering, it was also found that fires, large scale partying, and vandalism plagues this area.
- A National Park Service Invasive Plant Removal Team operated at several locations along the Trail this summer.
- Tropical Storm Irene washed out several sections of Trail, and made many stream crossings impossible. Although no irreparable damages resulted, the bridge to Sage Ravine campsite and stepping stones at Guinea Brook were washed away.
- The Committee regretfully accepted the resignation of our loyal Secretary, Sanita Gingras.

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

TRAILS COMMITTEE

Denise Badger, Hugh Broughel, Hugh Cobrain, Ted Cowles, Walt Daniels

Henry Edmonds, Sanita Gingras, Gene Grayson, Tim Grover, Harlan Jessup

Jim Liptack, Elaine LaBella, Paul Palmer, Bob Poitras, Walt Rinehart, Brian Sears, Norm Sills, Sue Spring, Ann Sherwood, Russ Waldie

Matt Moore- AMC Regional Trails Coordinator

Adam Brown-ATC Conservation Resource Manager

Dave Boone, Chairman

Webmaster/Technology

2011 Accomplishments

- Completed implementation of Chapter-wide Messaging, a new program offered by AMC to facilitate member communication.
- Participated in an ad-hoc committee on chapter publicity.
- Maintained the website with current information for the various committees and chapter events.

Online Trips System

The AMC Online Trips Listing System received major enhancements this past year resulting in substantial changes to the data entry user interface. I helped test the new system and encouraged our major system users to participate in the test as well. While there was substantial confusion among system users when the new system went live, the new system is a phenomenal improvement and well worth the effort involved.

Chapter-wide Messaging

Last fall AMC gave the chapters access to the membership database to send emails to all chapter members with valid email addresses. This allows us to reach members who are otherwise inactive within the chapter. The first effective use was the Spring Dinner where the turnout was phenomenal. This success was due to more than just the new emails, but it seemed to result in attendance by many otherwise inactive members. I believe this is our most power tool to bring new people to chapter events like the Annual Gathering. As such we should devote adequate recourses to exploit the full potential.

Ad-hoc Publicity Committee

Successful use of Chapter-wide Messaging led me to suggest that the chapter create a new position to coordinate chapter publicity. This committee was the result of Executive Committee discussions of this topic. My role in the ad-hoc committee has been a survey of all current electronic communications including email lists (Yahoo Groups) and social media (Facebook). The committee has yet to discuss the publicity position's possible duties or where it might fit in the chapter organization.

Chapter Newsletter Electronic Distribution

Printing and mailing the chapter newsletter remains a largest single expense for our chapter. Growth in the number of members who “opt-in” for electronic distribution remains low. Please “Opt-in” to receive your future chapter newsletters electronically. The “how to” is on our chapter website at www.ct-amc.org/OptIn.

Chapter Phone Line

The chapter phone line (866-576-6994) continues to provide an easy “computer-less” means to pass out information about East of the River Tuesday and Thursday hikes. In addition, the phone line offers basic chapter, Membership, and Conservation Committee information. The chapter phone number can be used in publicity wherever appropriate.

2012 Goals

- Continue to help AMC improve the Activities Database system.
- Improve chapter communications and publicity thru more effective use of the various tools available.
- Explore moving the chapter website to the Drupal content management system.
- Improve integration with the AMC Activities Database system to make finding activities easier.
- Expand utilization of the chapter phone line as appropriate.

Committee Page Maintainers

I want to thank those who maintain the sections of the website devoted to specific committees:

<i>Jamie Lee</i>	Conservation
<i>Robert White</i>	Flatwater
<i>Mark Schappert</i>	Whitewater, Young Members

All other sections are maintained by your webmaster.

Your faithful web lackey,
Jim Scheef



Whitewater Committee

The CT AMC WHITEWATER COMMITTEE in 2011 has continued to be a strong and vital committee with the help of our leaders. With the ongoing commitment of our leaders like Mark Schappert we continue to have pool sessions and lake sessions. This past year we have increased our Instructional for people who are new and trying to break into whitewater kayaking. We are also concerned about whitewater safety and John Ivanisin our new Whitewater Committee safety expert had taken the Whitewater ACA course for Whitewater rescue instructors and now is sharing his expertise with our trip leaders through whitewater rescue instructional and he will be doing some instructional in the Spring for whitewater kayakers that want to get the whitewater rescue training.

This past year we continued with having our Holiday Pool and Pizza party, Leaders Appreciation Day, trip to the Ottawa Kayak School and many river trips. We would also like to give a special thanks to the River Divas for having stepped up this year in running more trips and helping out in pool and lake sessions (of course the guys helped out and ran trips as well).

The Whitewater committee is saddened by the loss of two of our members; Stephen Forster and Peter Engel.

Stephen Forster passed away at 19 years old. Steve grew up with the CT AMC running rivers and going to Madawaska Kanu Centre, and the Ottawa Kayak School. He went on river trips with us and played at the pool sessions that his father was running for the CT AMC Whitewater Committee. Steve was a friend to all the people that he met along his path and gave of himself to those around him. If you were unsure about running a new river he was always happy to lead you down the river. He was the type of kid that would be there for you if you got yourself in trouble on the river; Stephen will always be remembered for his smile, passion for the sport, kind spirit and willingness to help others; and let's not forget his playfulness. Our condolences do go out to his parents and sister.

Peter Engel was a long time trip leader with the CT AMC. Peter was a larger than life character whose love of the river was quite contagious. Peter would lead trips on the Kennebec and Dead as well as the Hudson where he was a river guide for several years. Peter was a M.D. and Psychiatrist who on several occasions got to use both of his degrees in

practice. Providing medical assistance to injured paddlers and maybe a little Psychiatry in helping newer paddlers navigate tougher runs. He was someone you could always count on and he will be missed by many in the club.

The Whitewater Committee Members for 2011

Mark Schappert and Dennis Wigg Co-Chairs

David Shoup - Leader Coordinator

Paul Edwards – Secretary

Dana Warner, Chris Degraf, Patti Vaughn, Robin Pleshaw, Ed Chase

Jim Kilkenny and Webb Carnes

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

Mark Schappert, Dennis Wigg, David Shoup, Chris DeGraaf, Denise Dieli

Jo-Ann Durdock, Paul Edwards, John Ivanisin, Jeff Magee, Robin Pleshaw

Patti Vaughn, Dana Warner, Martin Whittman, Robert Forster, Marrie Buchsbaum

Young Members Committee

We have had another great year of activities and socials. Unfortunately we are down this year with only 22 events compared to last year's 38 events. That reduction in events is largely attributed to losing Dave Bellemare and Bill Wheeler as active hike leaders. Both are no longer "young members". The year is not yet over and we do expect to have several more events before the year's end.

Facebook continues to be a great way to share stories and pictures from the hikes. We are currently in a transition phase from the old style "groups" to a "page".

This is the last year that Chris Rees will serve as a YM chair. He has a kid on the way and is planning on taking more time to focus on his family. Mark Lufkin and Michael Wert are succeeding Chris Rees as the new YM co-chairs.

Our leaders this year, followed by the number of hikes led:

Ana Ketch (2)

Mark Lufkin (4)

Christopher Rees (2)

Nina Levenduski (2)

Erik Madsen (4)

Debra Rich (1)

Bill Wheeler (7)



Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee's charge is to fill any open chair or co-chair position with qualified volunteers. We are always looking for folks who are willing to give their time to AMC. There are five open positions on the 2012 Executive Committee. Please consider volunteering to fill one of these spots. One doesn't need to be an "expert" to be a committee chair. Executive Committee members are always on hand with support and guidance.

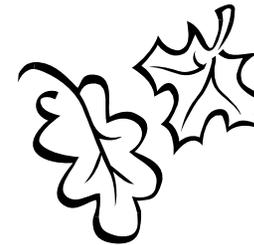
NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Barbara Beckerman

Skip Frey

George Schott

Bruce Laroche - Chair



Nominations for the 2012 Executive Committee

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

Chapter Chair	<i>Wayne Tursi, Sr.</i>
Chapter Vice Chair	open
Secretary	open
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Susan Grant</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Rick Merritt</i>
Chapter Youth Program	<i>Jim Liptack</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Jamie Lee</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Andrew May</i>
East of the River Chair	<i>Alexis Kuchel</i>
Education Chair	<i>John Crist</i>
Excursions Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Fairfield County Co-Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Fairfield County Co-Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Family Activities Co-Chair	<i>Janet Ainsworth</i>
Family Activities Co-Chair	<i>Debra Rich</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair	<i>Barry Gorfain</i>
Member at Large	<i>Paula Zimbrian/open</i>
Membership Chair	open
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Peter Gajdoski</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Kurt Zoner</i>
Newsletter Publisher	<i>Darcy Witham</i>
Newsletter Co-Editor	<i>Maggie Grayson</i>
Newsletter Co-Editor	<i>Debra Rich</i>
Northwest Camp Co-Chair	<i>Tom McGrath</i>
Northwest Camp Co-Chair	<i>Rod Parlee</i>
Program Chair	open
Trails Chair	<i>David Boone</i>
Webmaster/AMC <i>Outdoors</i> Liaison	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Mark Lufkin</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Michael Wert</i>
Regional Director	<i>Dale Geslien</i>

50-Year Members

Congratulations and best wishes to the following Connecticut Chapter members who we are honoring for their 50 years of membership in the Appalachian Mountain Club! They have been invited to attend the Annual Gathering and banquet as guests of the chapter.

Mr. Walter Grierson of Greenwich, Conn.

Mr. Charles Preston of Manchester, Conn.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward and Marion Richardson of Glastonbury, Conn.

