

# APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER



91<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

## Annual Report

November 10, 2012

# 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  
2012 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Chapter Chair	<i>Janet Ainsworth</i>
Chapter Vice Chair	
Secretary	<i>John Grasso</i>
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 Co-Chair	<i>John Crist</i>
Education Co-Chair	<i>Jennifer Wood</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 Chair	<i>Janet Ainsworth</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair	<i>Barry Gorfain</i>
Member at Large	<i>Tim Linehan</i>
Membership Chair	
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Peter Gajdoski</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Kurt Zoner</i>
Newsletter Co-Editor	<i>Maggie Grayson</i>
Newsletter Co-Editor	<i>Darcy Witham</i>
Northwest Camp Co-Chair	<i>Tom McGrath</i>
Northwest Camp Co-Chair	<i>Rod Parlee</i>
Program Co-Chair	<i>Stacey Hoffman</i>
Program Co-Chair	<i>Mike Sinsigalli</i>
Trails Chair	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Webmaster/AMC Outdoors Liaison	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Chair	<i>Mark Lufkin</i>

## CHAPTER CHAIR'S REPORT

Since last year's annual gathering, we've had two leadership changes at the top of the state organization, one quite unexpectedly. I was elected by the Executive Committee to serve until the Annual Gathering after the resignations of both the chair and vice chair in June due to business and professional obligations. I agreed to seek the post for a full term. I look forward to serving as your chair for the next two years.

As I write this, I am getting ready to head to New York for the Fall Gathering, where a jam-packed schedule of valuable meetings and cool things to do outside was on the weekend's agenda. AMC is the oldest conservation-outdoor recreation organization in the nation. It offers a vast array of opportunities to interact with or promote the natural world. Almost daily, the committed volunteer leaders of the Connecticut Chapter (and the rest of the club, for that matter) offer a variety of activities to the public and members alike: hikes, paddling, biking, mountaineering, conservation and social events.

Some highlights of the year include execution of a new 10-year agreement between government and non-profits, including AMC, to manage Connecticut's 55-mile section of the Appalachian Trail, extremely hard work by our Trails Committee to repair the damage of two major storms and implementation of leader membership verification in the trips system by our activity leaders. Also offered were two large social events, including this annual gathering, directed by our program chair, training opportunities by activity committees and the Education Committee, which offered two hike leader training sessions and coordinated wilderness first aid training by an outside provider. Our Conservation Committee has been extremely active in the area of public education. Northwest Camp, a volunteer managed facility in Salisbury, saw record bookings this year. The committee that manages that facility was extremely busy overseeing a self-service cabin, tent platform and 125 acres on the shoulder of Bear Mt.

At the club level, there also has been a change in leadership. Following a nine-month search, the AMC Board of Directors in January selected John Judge to serve as club president, succeeding Andy Falender, who served for 23 years. I have had the pleasure of meeting John on three occasions and each time I am amazed by the miles he travels to learn about all aspects of the club.

The Connecticut Chapter has done what it can to promote Vision 2020, a club-wide strategic plan for the next 10 years. In a nutshell, its goals are: (1) Build a vibrant and diverse community of 500,000 constituents; (2) Help 500,000 kids get outside; (3) Lead regional conservation action; and (4) Broaden the impact of the Maine Woods Initiative (MWI). During my limited tenure as chair, I've seen a great deal of effort to attract kids to our activities. The Family Activities Committee, which I also chair, is devoted exclusively to that. Our chapter has partnered with other organizations to advance the interests of conservation. As I become more involved at the club level, I am sure I will see many other examples of our involvement in this plan.

In closing, I'd like to reiterate that I am honored to be part of the leadership of this amazing organization. As always, we could use more volunteers. We have a variety of needs, including committee leaders, hike/activity leaders and program. If you are interested, please contact me at [chair@ct-amc.org](mailto:chair@ct-amc.org).

Janet Ainsworth  
Connecticut Chapter Chair



## CONNECTICUT CHAPTER ANNUAL GATHERING – 2011

**The 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club (CT-AMC) was held on November 12, 2011, at the Courtyard by Marriott in Cromwell, Connecticut.**

Tim welcomed everyone to the Annual Gathering, gave a summary of the evening's events, thanked everyone for the support he was given in the last three years serving as the Chapter's Chair and received a round of applause.

He then shared that the minutes of the *first* annual gathering of our chapter noted members of the chapter had planned an afternoon hiking at what was to become the MDC's West Hartford reservoir but as bad weather forced them indoors they gathered at the Colt Memorial Parish House where they played billiards, bowled, held the first meeting and enjoyed a supper. This was November 26, 1921!

The minutes from that meeting show that the membership was presented with a detailed report about the *four* activities that had taken place since the chapter's founding in June of that year: a June challenging walk and scramble along the Naugatuck River in Beacon Falls; the following week a visit to the Heublein tower with a hike along the ridge; a September hike at Mt. Higby; and in October a weekend outing in Salisbury with excursions to Sages Ravine, Bear Mountain and Bash-Bish Falls.

Tim remarked that it would not be possible for him to provide a detailed recap of all of *this* year's activities due to the sheer number of programs that we organized and ran. In 2011 our chapter organized and ran more than 600 hikes and backpack trips; 200 bicycle rides; 70 paddling trips; 100 rock and ice climbs and related technical training programs; 10 conservation events; 12 dinner talks; and more *work parties* on the CT section of the Appalachian Trail during 2011 than there were total chapter activities in 1921.

Tim noted the similarities between the 1921 annual meeting and this 90<sup>th</sup> meeting of the chapter including the intended location of the hike that was to begin the 1921 meeting – the West Hartford reservoir system – which was a topic of intense focus for the chapter in 2011 as we successfully partnered legislatively with the CT Forest and Park Association, Bike Walk CT, Sierra Club, and other organizations to ensure that the MDC property remained open to recreational activities. He also noted the challenge of coalition building as a continued focus for 2012.

Tim then welcomed Program Chair Dave Bellemare to the podium who announced the names of the Silent Auction winners.

Tim thanked and recognized 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 the high quality 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.

Contrasting the early meetings of the chapter with today, Tim pointed to transportation being a significant challenge of organizing the 1921 activities. Not all of the members possessed motor-cars and the 1921 trip announcements contained detailed information about train and trolley schedules. And, of course, the announcements had to be sent by post (aka snail-mail) well in advance of the activity.

In contrast, Tim gave a nod to the internet, e-mail, smart-phones, and ever changing communication technology, for our ability to today organize a trip for two days hence – or even the next day – and get the word out to thousands of members and supporters in time for them to learn about and join the activity.

Also from the minutes of that first annual meeting, Tim spoke of the financial differences between the 1921 and our 2011 chapter's finances. The total amount of chapter funds on hand at the time of the 1921 annual meeting was \$1.76, insufficient to meet the chapter's unpaid bills of \$2.94. Unlike today, the AMC had no club-wide Chapters' Central Fund to draw on while they were getting our chapter established. But the members in attendance at that 1<sup>st</sup> annual meeting *rose* to the challenge of the moment and took up a collection. After allocating some of the proceeds to send flowers to one of the members who was ill, the remaining funds were turned over to the newly elected treasurer for 1922 and the CT Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club began its second year of its existence with a positive cash balance of \$6.

Tim stressed that our current mission statement, while it reflects the changes and growth that have occurred in the chapter during the past 90 years, is based on the same core purpose that moved Dr. Augustin Crane, the first chair of our chapter, and his friends to gather in 1921:

*“...the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club encourages people to enjoy and appreciate the natural world. We believe that the mountains and rivers have an intrinsic worth as well as provide recreational opportunity, spiritual renewal,*

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 8,100. While it has been a struggle, our retention and renewal rates have improved over the past few years. While he noted that this struggle could not be addressed in depth at this gathering, Tim said one of the key challenges currently facing the club and chapter is the growth of internet based social groups – meet up groups - and the competition that these sorts of “organizations” provide for paid-membership organizations such as the AMC.

Recognizing we don’t have a definitive “answer” to this challenge as yet, but, while reading through the historical documents from 1921, Tim noted that in *each* of the trip announcements that were sent out that year, existing members were encouraged to invite their friends with the intent of convincing them to join the club, and the chapter. Every activity was treated as an opportunity to recruit membership for the club. Tim stressed the potential value of current members taking on this same recruitment responsibility and that the stability and growth of our chapter depends, in part, on our interaction – and recruitment – of our guests.

Turning to finances, the chapter finished the year 2011 under budget. One of the biggest expenses for the chapter was printing and mailing costs; several of the committees completely eliminated snail-mail communications; and the result of the belt tightening efforts was the chapter’s ability to keep expenses aligned with revenue.

Tim directed people to the Annual report for the complete committee reports and 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 again this year.
- Each of the activity committees qualified new leaders. This metric is crucial to the health of the chapter. We cannot expand our schedule activities and other programming without *first* adding committee leaders

- The bicycling committee may be the fastest growing committee in our chapter in terms of activity offerings. It is not just in the AMC that cyclists are increasingly visible. One of the interesting observations from the MDC / Recreation Use Liability discussions is that the bicycling community is better organized and more active politically in CT than are the hikers (or climbers or paddlers).
- The newest addition to our list of committees, Family Activities, is a growing opportunity for our chapter. During 2011 the committee sponsored over 30 family oriented activities.
- Expanding on his opening comments on the successful coalition effort to expand the protections available through CT's Recreational Use Liability law, Tim recognized three individuals for their significant contribution: Marty Mador of the Sierra Club for his work with members of the state legislature; Eric Hammerling, Executive Director of CFPA for his effective expansion of the coalition effort; and land use attorney and past CT-AMC chair, Beth Critton who provided the coalition with the legal basis and the particulars for the statutory change and produced the documents and addressed point by point legal objections to block the statutory fix. Tim emphasized this successful legislative action only succeeded through the significant effort of individuals partnered through a coalition effort. Describing AMC as a multi-use, multi-sport organization, he pointed to this as an on-going challenge of the 2012 Executive Committee to leverage this unique aspect of the club for the benefit of its members and to achieve results within AMC's long range plan, Vision 2020.

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>Ethel Bacon</i>	<i>Alfred Beale</i>
<i>Eleanor Bielak</i>	<i>Richard Blake</i>
<i>Emerson M. Clark</i>	<i>Stephen Collins</i>
<i>Birge Dayton</i>	<i>Stanley Hart</i>
<i>Charles Keane</i>	<i>John Kordak</i>
<i>Arthur Laske</i>	<i>Paul J. Miller</i>
<i>John D. Quine</i>	<i>Robert Rawson</i>
<i>Lawrence Reitman</i>	<i>Marcia Ryan</i>

*Robert Saarl*  
*Clare S. Shepley*  
*John H. T. Wilson*

*Richard Schmukler*  
*Ellen I. Torrance*  
*Mary E. Witkavitch*

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 173 award recipients, including the Trails Awards. He asked that the award recipients who were present stand as a group and accept the applause of the audience. He added the award recipients will also receive a small recognition gift in appreciation of their contribution to the chapter.

Tim introduced Trails Committee Chair Dave Boone, who described the Trails Committee Awards, and asked those present to come to the podium and receive their recognition pins.

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

Dave Cullen presented the Lifetime Service Award to long time member and Chair of the Trails committee Dave Boone. The recipient of the Appie of the Year was Chapter Webmaster and *AMC Outdoors* Liaison Jim Scheef.

Tim thanked Dave Cullen and asked for a round of applause for Dave Boone and Jim Scheef.

Tim then recognized those who became fifty-year club members in 2011:

*Mr. Walter Grierson*  
*Mr. Charles Preston*  
*Mr. Edward Richardson*  
*Mrs. Marion Richardson*

Tim asked the audience to join him in a round of applause for the recipients in acknowledgement of their five decades of support for the AMC.

Tim noted that 61 individuals completed their 25<sup>th</sup> year of membership in 2011. Susan Evageliou, Harry Evageliou, Kathleen Miller, Bill Rehm and Ann Rehm were present and Tim asked them to stand for acknowledgment of their achievement. .

Tim introduced AMC Director of Chapter and Volunteer Relations Roger Scholl who thanked Tim for his three years of service, recognized other leaders in the chapter for their work and spoke briefly to Vision 2020 particularly as it related to “getting kids outside.”

Roger then introduced and invited Regional Director and past CT chapter chair Dale Geslien to the podium to say a few words. Dale also thanked Tim for his service, shared her appreciation of the CT chapter and gave an update on the search to find a new president for the AMC with Andy Falender’s retirement.

After thanking Roger and Dale for their comments Tim then called out the individual names of the 2011 Executive Committee members and asked them to stand for a round of applause for their effort this past year.

Tim invited Eric Stones to the podium to speak about the Harry Duren/Greg Simons Scholarship Fund. Eric spoke briefly about the Scholarship, noting two scholarships were awarded in the past year but the fund did not have the needed dollars to sponsor two children for 2012. The scholarships are not funded by the chapter’s general funds but through individual donations. He then started a donation hat around the room and by the meeting’s closing the needed dollars had almost reached 100%.

At 7:57 p.m., Tim called to order the business portion of the 90<sup>th</sup> 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 2011 Annual Report, which was received, seconded, and passed. Tim then called for a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented in the 2011 Annual Report, which was received, seconded, and passed.

The next item of business was the election of the 2012 Executive Committee.

Tim called upon Bruce Laroche of the Nominating Committee to present the slate of nominees for 2012. He asked each nominee to come forward as his/her name was called.

Chapter Chair	<i>Wayne Tursi, Sr.</i>
Chapter Vice Chair	<i>Open</i>
Secretary	<i>Open</i>
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 Zimbrea</i>
Member at Large	<i>Open</i>
Membership Chair	<i>Open</i>
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	<i>Open</i>
Trails Chair	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Webmaster/AMC Outdoors 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>

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

Tim then asked the 2012 CT Chapter Chair Wayne Tursi, Sr. to remain at the podium and invited the Past Chapter Chairs in attendance to put on their red hats and join him at the podium:

Gerry Hardy: 1979-1980  
 Sue Hardy: 1981-1982  
 Judy Besancon: 1983-1984  
 Trish Niece: 1987-1988  
 Mary Dorpalen: 1993-1994  
 Dave Cullen: 1995-1996  
 Paula Burton: 1997-1998  
 Eric Stones: 2000-2002  
 Dale Geslien: 2003-2005  
 Leo Kelly: 2008

Together the past chairs awarded Wayne with a red hat and welcomed him to the role of Chapter Chair. Wayne thanked the chapter for electing him as the new chair and then 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, Andrew Skurka, an accomplished adventure athlete, speaker, guide and writer who was named an “Adventurer of the Year” by *Outside* in 2012, the “Adventurer of the Year” by the National Geographic Society in 2007 and the “Person of the Year” by *Backpacker* in 2005. Mr. Skurka’s presentation, *The Alaska – Yukon Expedition*, covered his solo, 4,700 mile, six month Alaska – Yukon Expedition.

Respectfully submitted,

*Darlene Dunbar*, Secretary 2010 – 2011



**TREASURER'S REPORT  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010 AND 2011**

		<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Cash at January 1		\$91,180	\$99,520
Revenue Collected:			
	Joy Street dues allocation	29,185	28,782
	Program activities	20,950	17,191
	Contributions	4,200	1,400
	Reserve funds- sources (1)	1,850	2,741
	Local sale of memberships	1,933	2,186
	Leadership training	7,586	7,105
	Merchandise sales	111	120
	Interest and investment income (loss)	7,607	6,683
	Total revenue collected	\$73,422	\$66,208
Expenditures:			
	Cost of program activities	19,561	18,217
	Cost of Merchandise		2,200
	Reserve funds- uses (1)	5,418	5,375
	Committee operating expenses:		
	Bicycling	1,040	894
	Conservation	686	413
	East of the River	725	201
	Education	6,514	6,189
	Excursions	0	50
	Executive	8,731	8,049
	Flatwater	0	27
	Membership	927	944
	Mountaineering	2,375	74
	Newsletter	7,326	6,968
	Trails	6,804	7,064
	Whitewater	4,545	1,781
	Young Members	430	0
	Total expenditures	\$65,082	\$58,446
Cash at December 31		<u>\$99,520</u>	<u>\$107,282</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT  
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2011 AND 2012

		<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Cash at January 1		\$99,520	\$107,282
Revenue Collected:			
	Joy Street dues allocation	19,191	19,006
	Program activities	8,010	9,447
	Reserve funds- sources <sup>(1)</sup>	1,910	1,200
	Local sale of memberships	1,806	1,650
	Leadership training	6,775	6,790
	Contributions	1,225	2,000
	Merchandise sales	205	1,555
	Interest and investment income (loss)	6,674	6,856
	Total revenue collected	\$45,796	\$48,504
Expenditures:			
	Cost of program activities	8,620	9,994
	Cost of merchandise	1,000	5
	Reserve funds- uses <sup>(1)</sup>	4,600	2,300
	Committee operating expenses:		
	Bicycling	482	250
	Conservation	178	759
	East of the River	186	0
	Education	5,446	5,629
	Excursions		7
	Executive	2,936	3,011
	Flatwater	26	0
	Membership	427	156
	Mountaineering	74	0
	Newsletter	5,690	5,454
	Trails	2,721	6,233
	Whitewater	878	1,296
	Total expenditures	\$33,264	\$35,094
Cash at September 30		<u>\$112,052</u>	<u>\$120,692</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:

			12/31/10	12/31/11	9/30/12
Reserve funds:					
AT Handicap Accessible Project			10,342	9,688	9,688
Duren and Simons Memorial Scholarships			4,190	3,264	2,764
Jim Wright Memorial			264	264	264
Stanley Grant reserve			66	66	66
Stephen Meyers Memorial			782	782	782
Whitewater reserve			7,405	6,322	7,759
LL Bean Grant			241		
Durr Donation			11230	11230	11,230
General fund			<u>65,000</u>	<u>75,666</u>	<u>88,139</u>
Total cash			<u>\$99,520</u>	<u>\$107,282</u>	<u>\$120,692</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 Pappagello 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 6 successful trips this year. Washington, D.C. Leaders Larry Hayden and Maureen Craig. Hampton Beach, NH leaders Sue Grant, Rick Merritt and Barbara Rutigliano. Cape Cod, MA leaders Terry Bludeau and Susan Whalen. Burlington, VT leaders Sue Grant and Bruce Ebbets.. White Mt., VT leaders Rami Haddad and Ben Klass. Fairlee VT with leaders Finlay Ferguson and Mark Henebry. All trips were full and without incidents.

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 4 new ride leaders this year but need to find more people to step forward and encourage other bike leaders to lead more rides.

*Susan Grant and Rick Merritt, Bike Co-Chairs*



# *Conservation Committee*

The Conservation Committee began our year by sponsoring nationally renowned environmental writer, Jim Motavalli who was promoting his new book "High Voltage", which covers the development of the electric car.

The Conservation Committee showed the film "Carbon Nation" on several occasions this past year. Collaborating with the Connecticut Forest & Park Association; Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) Office of Student Affairs; Institute of Sustainable Energy; ECSU Office of Veteran's Affairs; Wesleyan/CFPA; and Three Rivers Community College. The movie is billed as, "A climate change solutions movie that does not even care if you believe in climate change or not". Thanks to these efforts many people saw the film and were exposed to its message of working together to find common sense solutions to the problem of climate change. It also exposed many people to the work of AMC in the Maine Woods, Highlands, etc., as your Club promotes a similar ethos of practical solutions to complex problems.

As with past years, the Conservation Committee has been blessed with the handiwork of Russ Charest's "Energy Conservation Board". With this board in tow, AMC was able to spread the word about Energy Conservation and the work of AMC at several locations throughout the state including the Hamden Earth Day Fair, the New Haven Green Expo, and the Colchester Boy Scout Jamboree. The Energy Display Board was even on display at an Art Gallery in New London, proving that Great Art can be functional!!!

We also had the pleasure of Mark Zartunsky leading a Highlands Hike up Bear Mountain in Salisbury in celebration of National Trails Day.

## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

*Bob Andrews*  
*Russ Charest*

*Jamie Lee, Co-Chair*  
*Andrew May, Co-Chair*

## *East-of-the-River Committee*

The Connecticut-AMC East-of-the-River hiking group is an infinitely-interesting gathering of people who enjoy walking and hiking 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. East-of-the-River hike leaders are especially inventive when planning hikes, offering opportunities to explore history, art, nature - even poetry, in unusual locations. Thus the East-of-the-River name can be misleading, as hikes take place throughout the state and, sometimes, outside its borders.

East-of-the-River has been very active in about 100 hikes this year. Our dedicated hike leaders have presented varied hikes from urban, woods and preserves. We have hiked along various rivers and even art galleries. We have also enjoyed picnic lunches in the woods, local coffee shop stops and delicious lunches at culinary schools.

Other social activities have included a cookie exchange and carol singing in December. Our Spring dinner included an amazing Power Point presentation of Ireland presented by Jeff Feldman of West Hartford.

We are always looking for more hikers and new hike leaders. Come join us!

*Alexis Kuchel, Chair*

## *Education Committee*

In November 2011 we had a relatively small turnout to the 2 day Leadership training School held at White Memorial, however, the group was enthusiastic and reviews of the class were very positive. Although we only had 6 participants, within a month following the training, two had completed their required co-leads and were added to the active leader list. To start the calendar year Jennifer Wood joined the ranks of the Education Committee bringing her experience as a professional educator and outdoor enthusiasts. John Ivanisin was the lead for the committee in planning our spring Wilderness First Aid class on March 17 and March 18 at White Memorial. Registrations came in quickly and reached capacity (42) in early March. John did a great job coordinating the event and lining up volunteers for registration, shopping, cooking and facilitation. In addition to AMC volunteers the facility needed to be reserved, insurance certificate acquired and SOLO instructors scheduled.

This event is our biggest undertaking and is the only profitable event for the committee which allows other events to run without charging high fees. Our one day June leadership training was organized by John Crist and held at Sleeping Giant on June 23. 13 participants enjoyed an intense 8 hour training and great weather. Interest from this group was expressed to lead Hiking, Bicycling, Paddling, Young Members, East of River, Family and Thursday trips. The roster and interests were subsequently shared with all of the executive committee members.

Based on previous feedback from members of the executive committee that more than one single day training was desired, the committee discussed and agreed to staff an additional one day training later in the year. An announcement was made to the executive committee during a monthly meeting at CFPA offering Education committee resources to any activity committee that had interested potential leaders. No requests or inquiries were received so the second session was never scheduled.

The Education committee is currently busy preparing for the November 17 and 18 Leadership training school as well as the April 2013 Wilderness 1st Aid. Both classes are advertised on the chapter website and will be held at White Memorial in Litchfield. Jennifer Wood and Dale Geslien are taking the lead on LTS and John Ivanisin has the reigns again for WFA.

At our highest point this year the Education Committee was up to 12 members (John Crist, John Ivanisin, Keith Spaar, Jennifer Wood, Dale Geslien, David Roberts, Merri Fox, Robin Pleshaw, Leo Kelly, David

Boone, Janice May & Scott Mahakian), 9 of which actively participated in events in the last year. In addition to the 12, Jim Scheef is a valuable contributor to our committee through the periodic updates to our webpage and registration forms. Al Puches also keeps our vital budget accounting and manages our frequent deposits and expenses. I am happy to report that Jennifer Wood has signed on as co-chair for the upcoming year. Our committee is working on a plan to have 3 members attend Mountain Leadership School next summer as well as have at least 2 members instruct. The skills learned there will enhance our chapter's skill base, which is in turn available to all of our activity committees for trainings.

#### EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

*Dave Boone*

*Leo Kelly*

*Keith Spaar*

*Janice May*

*John Ivanisin*

*Jennifer Wood*

*John Crist*

*David Roberts*

*Scott Mahakian*

*Dale Geslien*

*Merri Fox*

*Robin Pleshaw*



## *Excursions Committee*

In the twelve months to the end of September 2012, Connecticut Chapter Hike Leaders posted almost 600 hikes. This was a slight reduction from our previous year, which was a record, but 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. While more efficient this reduces the number of hikes now posted but also reduces the number of cancelations.

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

Almost 100 different Hike Leaders led at least one hike during the year demonstrating the depth of our group of Hike Leaders and over 50 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 11 hikes during the year. The Family Hikes program has continued to be active averaging two family hikes a month this year. Sponsoring groups make a major 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 group coordinators.

Several of our Hike Leaders in addition to leading local hikes led backpacking and ski trips both inside and beyond the state and led Adventure Travel trips. Hike Leaders also strongly supported chapter – wide events such as National Trails Day, Give a Day to the AT, and AT Day, which was again run by Excursions. Since it was started only a few years ago AT Day has grown to be the chapter's biggest outdoor event each year.

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 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. 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.

## EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE

*Dave Roberts, Chair*

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



## *Fairfield County Group*

Fairfield County Group (FCG) had another successful year. In the twelve months to the end of September 2012 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 2011/ 2012 season of five speaker meetings attracted a total audience of around 400 people or about 80 people per meeting despite having to change location and dates during the season. FCG's March 2012 meeting attracted well over 100 people including 80 AMC members, a new record. FCG started its Westport season in Saugatuck Church in Westport but following a fire there in November 2011, FCG had to scramble to find a new location and was helped greatly by the Unitarian Church in Westport which offered space. Since then FCG's Westport meetings have been held at the Unitarian Church and arrangements have been made to continue there through the rest of 2012. FCG's Westport meetings are well established with attendees enjoying excellent presentations, a hot pasta dinner, dessert, wine, coffee and a great atmosphere.

In Bethel, FCG's meetings there also feature appetizers, entrees, wine, desserts and coffee, as well as great speakers and interesting movies. The four speaker meetings in Bethel during the 2011 / 2012 season attracted crowds averaging 40 people per meeting and the Bethel meetings continue to become better established with a growing crowd of regulars.

FCG's speaker meetings featured a wide range of topics, mainly in the armchair travel category, which in the 2011 / 2012 season included New Zealand, Mexico, The Galapagos, The Himalayas, Patagonia, Austria and Bavaria, as well as hiking specific presentation on Hiking The Pacific Coast Trail and The Adirondacks. AMC Hike Leaders Deborah Lewis, Dave Cronin and David Roberts were among the speakers.

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 two morning hikes which attracted over 20 people, but rain and a tornado warning then delayed the BBQ from Saturday until Sunday, the next day, when about 30 people enjoyed burgers and hot dogs on a sunny afternoon.

FCG's Annual Holiday Bash in Bethel early in December 2011 featured live music and dancing as well as fine holiday fare with about 30 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 700 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

Darcy Batzarian	Lorraine Cronson	Paul Garborino
Fiona Nicholson	Al Puches	Eleanor Sasso

*Tom Carruthers, Co-Chair*

*David Roberts, Co-Chair*





## *Family Activities Committee*

Eric Stones and I, the committee's only leaders since Debra Rich's resignation earlier this year, have on average led two hikes per month during the temperate months. Some of these hikes have been high profile, including National Trails Day, the ATC's Family Hiking Day and the club's AT Day. A New Year's Day hike is also planned for 2013. I have been talking to a variety of people about becoming family hike leaders. I have some prospects, both trained and not yet trained. I am hoping that we can add to our ranks in the coming year. I attended the spring chapters retreat, where the topic of family programming was extensively discussed. One thing learned that I have put into practice is to share activities planned by other chapters with our hikers. Other responsibilities within the chapter have slowed my progress in implementing other strategies, such as use of Meet Up to advertise hikes. I am very much interested in finding one or more leaders who would like to plan weekend events.

*Janet Ainsworth, Chair*

# *Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee*

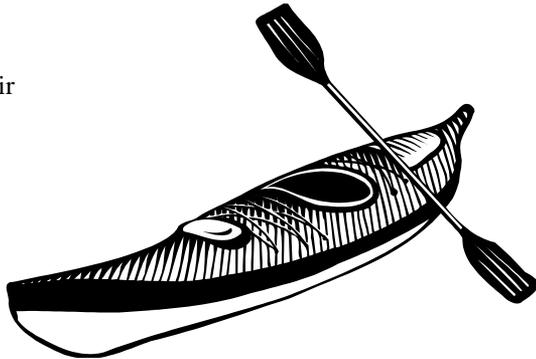
Our paddling season grew a little this year, with 20 events: 13 flatwater, 4 sea kayak, 2 instructionals and one workshop. We continue to bring in new paddlers with our skills sessions on Lake Wintergreen, and Tom Ebersold and Dale Geslien have taken people to enjoy paddling on waters all over the state. Dale is expanding our horizons with paddling, hiking and camping at Lake Umbagog in New Hampshire. Bob White went even further to Baja Mexico for sea kayaking and whale watching. Look for him to stretch his legs hiking National Parks out West for Major Excursions next year.

This past Spring was cursed with low water in our rivers and a few events were rained out for Trails Days, but we always have Long Island Sound for great paddling. Next year, Deb Tedford and Barry Gorfain hope to expand our explorations of our coastline. Connecticut is blessed with such a great diversity of paddling sites: rivers small and large, impoundments and natural lakes, fresh- and saltwater marshes and Long Island Sound. There is something for every paddler.

## FLATWATER/COATAL PADDLING COMMITTEE

*Tom Ebersold*  
*Dale Geslien*  
*Debra Tedford*  
*Robert White*

*Barry Gorfain, Chair*



# *Mountaineering Committee*

2012 has been another solid year for the Mountaineering Committee! Here's our year in review:

## Recreation:

This year, Mountaineering will hold almost 70 climbing events. The unusually mild winter allowed members to climb rock outdoors throughout the season. Ice aficionados yearned for the requisite combination of cold temps and precipitation, but typically received only one of the two. As a result, a number of scheduled alpine outings were cancelled due to "good" weather. The group had to travel north to find climbable ice and snow. We held our annual Season Ice Opener trip and Beginners Ice Climbing course in North Conway in January. The class attracted only four new climbers, two of which were teenagers. Other ice climbing trips were made to the White Mountains, Smugglers Notch, and the Adirondacks. Locally, our weekly gym climbing evenings at Prime Climb in Wallingford were usually attended by 8-12 climbers.

In April, we moved our Thursday night climbs out of doors and, through September, we rotated through eight Connecticut crags including a new one, Junkyard in Watertown. The outdoor climbs were well-attended, particularly the first each month after which we hold our committee meeting at a local pizza restaurant.

We also held numerous weekend trips for multi-pitch rock climbing to the Shawangunks, the Adirondacks, and the White Mountains.

## Education:

This year we sponsored 7 training sessions that introduced club members to our activities or enhanced the climbing and safety skills of our members. Winter season programs included: Introduction to Ice Climbing, Coping with the Cold (how to dress for winter climbing), and Avalanche Beacon Training. We also held classes for Beginners Rock Climbing, Lead Climbing Anchor Building, and Self-Rescue (2 sessions). Also, one of our co-chairs completed the SOLO Wilderness First Aid course in March.

This year in lieu of workshop-based leading and seconding courses, we reverted to a less formal mentoring approach. Hopefully, next year we will have sufficient interest to reinstitute classes.

## Organization:

Considerable effort was devoted to improving committee web resources. We updated and expanded the Mountaineering website, greatly enhanced online directions to climbing crags, and updated our leader list and gear database. Club gear was inventoried, maintained and, when necessary,

retired. We purchased new gear with the goal of being able to provide potential new climbers of any size with loaner gear.

2013 Objectives:

First, attract new climbers to our group through introductory courses, publicizing our climbing events, and participating in Chapter initiatives such as New Member Day and AT Day.

Second, maintain the large calendar of climbing events. Developing additional new leaders will help distribute the effort of organizing and conducting courses and multi-day climbing trips.

Third, encourage and support members as they progress into more advanced climbing by providing a more defined continuum of training and activity.

MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE:

*Mike Adelson*

*Ron Curtis*

*Dominick Galletti*

*Art Morenz*

*Gustavo Nava*

*Audrey Suseno*

*Gary Zempel*

*Sandy Bartell*

*John DeAngelis*

*Bob Lener*

*Carol Morenz*

*Gini Kramer*

*Steve Wall*

*Paula Zimbrea*

*Chuck Boyd*

*Skip Frey*

*Tim Linehan*

*Jesse Morenz*

*Mark Sondeen*

*James Wolff*

*Pete Gajdosik – Co-Chair*

*Kurt Zoner – Co-Chair*



# *Newsletter*

The AMC in Connecticut, our CT-AMC quarterly newsletter, reaches more than 8,000 chapter members through online distribution, direct mail and to anyone worldwide through the internet. 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 your chapter Chair, information about upcoming events, and many other stories/articles of interest to our constituents submitted by committee chairs and participating members.

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 encourage more members to volunteer, recruit, and give of their time.

Darcy Witham is co-editor of the publication. As a volunteer, she manages all aspects of production, including preparing initial content outlines/editorial calendars and providing her highly reactive, colorful design and layout skills. Co-editor Maggie Grayson provides her writing, editing and proofreading services. Darcy and Maggie also work on a number of additional CT-AMC associated promotions including but not limited to; flyers, announcements, brochures, posters and advertising.

## NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

*Darcy Witham & Maggie Grayson*



## *Northwest Camp Committee*

The Northwest Camp cabin, constructed of American chestnut continues to stand tall and serve as a popular destination on 125 acres in Salisbury, CT. This quaint little cabin that sleeps six is tucked away in an old-growth Eastern hemlock forest alongside a sparkling stream that drains to Sages Ravine. The pristine ravine is part of the very diverse Schenob brook watershed drainage basin. This rare watershed has been the target of protection for many years. The State of Massachusetts designated the basin as an “Area of Critical Environmental Concern” in hopes of long-term preservation and responsible management. According to the Berkshire Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, it is the most diverse watershed east of the Mississippi river with over forty species of rare and endangered flora and fauna.

For over sixty years, the Northwest Camp Committee (formerly called the Mt Riga Committee) has continued the tradition of properly sustaining the self-service cabin, tent platform and 125-acres, high on the northwest shoulder of Bear Mt. The proper management of this spectacular property is only made possible due to the passion and dedication of its volunteers. The Committee strives to minimize impacts on this AMC land while recognizing the path to sustainability with a goal of leaving no trace and reducing our carbon footprint.

For the first time in modern memory the cabin weekends were booked for the entire summer and most of the year. This increase in use, demanded many hours from committee members who contributed toward

maintaining this volunteer managed facility. Regular maintenance consisted of moving and stacking numerous cords of wood, cleaning and repairing woodstove and pipe, constructing and extending a new front gutter, repairing and staining picnic tables, adding and repairing wooden railings, cleaning and mouse proofing cabin, repairing stone steps and walkways, and reblazing boundaries and clearing vegetation from boundaries and trails.

Major improvements to the cabin included installing a fusible link hot air vent above the All Nighter wood-stove on the ceiling, designing and developing a drainage and erosion control area for the up gradient side of the cabin and installing a front deck that looks like it has been there for years. Special thanks to Sean Hayden who is a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control and a Connecticut Certified Soil Scientist with the Northwest Conservation District. Sean donated his time and advised the Committee with the right erosion control plan that was environmentally sound.

The reservation process was dramatically improved by adding an extension to the Chapter phone number. Now you can call Registrar, Craig Kennedy toll-free for reservations at (866) 576-6994 extension #6, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Please call only Monday thru Friday, leave a message and a callback number.

Don Klein, the new Caretaker and Craig Kennedy, the new Registrar have donated an incredible amount of time and contributed to the success of the NW Camp Committee. The Committee truly appreciates the efforts on behalf of these two outstanding individuals!

Two Hundred dollars was donated to the Ridgerunner program and communication between the Committee and Ridgerunners who monitor the cabin on-site was improved dramatically. The Committee wishes the best to Regional Trails coordinator, Matt Moore who will be leaving his position.

The NW Camp Committee continuously seeks new members with fresh ideas to help deal with the never-ending resource demands at the Camp. If interested, contact Co-chairs Rod Parlee and Tom McGrath at [nwcamp@ct-amc.org](mailto:nwcamp@ct-amc.org) or the Registrar Craig Kennedy at [nwregistrar@ct-amc.org](mailto:nwregistrar@ct-amc.org)

COMMITTEE ROSTER:

*Rod Parlee, Co-Chair \*\*\**  
*Tom McGrath, Co-Chair\*\*\**  
*Merri Fox, Secretary \**  
*Craig Kennedy, Registrar \*\*\*\*\**  
*Don Klein, Caretaker \*\*\*\*\**  
*Paul Thoma, Financial Liaison \*\**  
*Al Puches, Treasurer\**  
*Rod Parlee, Conservation Director*  
*John Hicks \*\**  
*Marge Hicks\**  
*Steve Troop*  
*Carol Langley*  
*Ron Zlotoff*  
*John Rek*

*\* equals increments of over 30 Volunteer Hours*



## *Program Committee*

The Program Committee organized the Saturday, April 28th Spring Dinner and the Saturday, November 10th 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 28th. The Grange served a fantastic dinner, as they always do. The big draw was our Guest Speaker, Paleontologist Tyler Lyson. His presentation, " How Dinosaurs Lived and Why They Died Out " was well received. The many positive comments reflected how interesting and unique this topic was. I also received a lot of positive feedback on ideas for the Annual Gathering workshops from the raffle. Thanks are due to David Bellemare for providing assistance.

The Annual Gathering this year is November 10th. We are fortunate to have well known Colorado native Pete McBride as the featured speaker, whose presentation is titled "The Colorado River - Flowing Through Conflict". After spending a decade working abroad as a photojournalist, McBride decided to focus on something closer to his home and his heart, the Colorado River, which cuts through his backyard. Taking nearly three years, McBride followed the river source to sea on a personal journey to see exactly where the river goes and what becomes of the irrigation water that flows across his family's cattle ranch in central Colorado after it returns to the creek.

This year we have one of the best line-ups of Workshops we've ever had, with David Roberts "Galapagos", Dr. Donald Rankin & Gary Noff of the Friends of Hammonasset " CT Archeology Road Show ", Brian from Rugged Sports Fitness "Training for the Rugged Outdoors, Brant McAleer " Huts & Lodgings Q&A ", Ellen Cronan, ATC " Invasive Plants on the AT ", Jesse Morenz "High Altitude Technical Mountaineering", Kasha Breau, teacher and Naturalist with the Connecticut Audubon Society "Hike with Naturalist/Birding Presentation", Hawk of Hawk Vittles "Dehydrating Food Tips for Backpacking" REI will be hosting two workshops "Outdoors Ethics – Technologies and More" and "Winter Hiking, Beyond the Basics" and last but not least Outdoor Photography with featured speaker Pete McBride, whose work has appeared in prominent publications such as National Geographic , the New York Times, the Washington Post, Outside, Men's Journal, and Sports Illustrated. His photography has been

featured by Patagonia, Mountain Hardwear, Nikon, Bose and other retailers.

Leo Kelly is running the vendor tables. Timothy Linehan is helping organize and run the silent auction. Wilda Wyse is running the registration table, while Lori Stethers is taking care of the mail in registrations and the making of the name badges. Once again a special thanks are due to David Bellemare for providing assistance and aiding in the set-up.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

*Wilda Wyse*

*Lori Stethers*

*Wendy Hayes*

*David Bellemare*

*Leo Kelly*

*Stacey G. Hoffman, 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 DEEP, and the National Park Service. Our accomplishments this year included:

- 102 individual members of the Chapter contributed 3,772 total hours to Trails activities.
- As our maintainers caught their breath following Tropical storm Irene, we were walloped again by winter storm Alfred. The heavy, unexpected snow was most damaging to the lower elevations.
- A new side trail between Undermountain Trail and Paradise Lane Group campsite was opened. The AMC Berkshire Teen Crew constructed new tent pads at the site. This was the third year the Teen Crew has worked on the AT in Connecticut.
- The Sages Ravine bridge was repaired subsequent to being damaged during Tropical Storm Irene. Repairs continued at Hatch Brook.
- Mary Kaley of Newtown and Alan Spier of Glastonbury joined the Committee. Mary agreed to serve as Secretary, and Alan assumed the responsibilities of Natural Heritage Coordinator.
- In an effort to catch up on boundary maintenance, monthly boundary workparties were scheduled and successfully implemented.
- A major trespass involving 4WD vehicles was discovered near Thayer Brook. Stone and wood barricades were constructed to prevent vehicles from crossing the Trail.
- The position of “Guide” was changed to “Trail Patroller” in an effort to modernize the title, and more accurately reflect the job responsibilities.

- For the first time, a “GreenAgers” Trail Crew from Great Barrington, MA worked on the AT in Connecticut, repairing serious erosion damage in the Lion’s Head area.
- An updated “ Memorandum of Understanding” (MOU) between several State agencies and the AT was signed by various dignitaries, including Mark Wenger of ATC, Pamela Underhill of NPS, John Judge of AMC, and Commissioner Daniel Esty of DEEP.
- During the summer ridgerunner season, 5,000 hiker contacts were made, with a few 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/NPS “Volunteer Leadership Meeting” at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepardstown, WV. This meeting, the first of its kind in nine years, familiarized attendees with the work of ATC and NPS, and also featured methods of recruiting and developing new volunteer leaders.
- Misuse and abuse of the Bulls Bridge/10 Mile River came to the forefront as the situation became uncontrollable. Following a meeting with Town, State, and Federal partners, National Park Rangers from Roosevelt NHP were deployed to Bulls Bridge for the remaining summer weekends. Long term resolutions to the situation remain under discussion.
- Matt Moore, our AMC-Southern New England Trails Supervisor, left us for a position with the Utah Youth Conservation Corps. Good luck Matt!
- A new puncheon bridge was built across Brassie Brook on the Riga plateau.

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 Cobrain  
Walt Daniels  
Mary Kaley  
Alan Spier  
Jim Liptack  
Paul Palmer  
Walt Rinehart  
Norm Sills  
Ann Sherwood*

*Hugh Broughel  
Ted Cowles  
Henry Edmonds  
Gene Grayson  
Harlan Jessup  
Elaine LaBella  
Bob Poitras  
Brian Sears  
Sue Spring  
Russ Waldie*

*Matt Moore- AMC Regional Trails Coordinator*

*Adam Brown-ATC Conservation Resource Manager*

*Dave Boone, Chairman*



# *Webmaster/Technology*

## **2012 Accomplishments**

- Maintained the website with current information for the various committees and chapter events.
- Expanded use of the chapter phone number.

## **Online Trips System**

This year, rather than enhance the existing system's functionality, AMC devoted all programming resources to the Leader Membership Verification Project (LMVP). Implemented in August, the project goal is designed to verify that activity leaders are valid AMC members while leading any AMC activity. Because both trips and memberships are time-related, testing the system has been difficult. Anomalies are resolved quickly as they are discovered.

## **Chapter-wide Messaging**

We continue to make good use of this facility which allows the chapters access to send emails to all chapter members with valid email addresses. This allows us to reach many members who are otherwise inactive within the chapter.

## **Chapter Newsletter Electronic Distribution**

Printing and mailing the chapter newsletter remains a largest single expense for our chapter. Please “Opt-in” to receive your future chapter newsletters electronically. A “how to” is on our chapter website at [www.ct-amc.org/OptIn](http://www.ct-amc.org/OptIn).

## **Chapter Phone Line**

This year we added a sixth extension to the chapter phone line (866-576-6994). The new extension forwards messages to the Northwest Camp Registrar. The phone line continues to provide easy “no computer” access to descriptions of the 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.

## **2013 Goals**

- Continue to help AMC improve the Activities Database system.
- Improve chapter communications and publicity thru more effective use of the various tools available.

- Implement a new website using 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 has had a busy year, from running pool sessions in January and February to running lake sessions in July and August. Pool sessions and lake sessions are for anyone who is looking to learn the basics of whitewater kayaking, learn the Eskimo roll, or just want to keep the rust off their paddling skills! There are volunteer instructors at every session. Instruction is generally one on one, in a very casual and friendly atmosphere. There are limited amounts of paddling gear available on a first come first serve basis. Going from the pool and lake sessions we had on the river instructionals for beginners to advanced paddlers. We also had our Christmas pool and pizza party in December and our Leaders Appreciation Day in October. We ran multiple successful river trips throughout the year and our annual trip to the Ottawa Kayak School in Canada was fun for all.

## WHITEWATER COMMITTEE :

*Mark Scheppart and Dennis Wigg, Co-Chairs*

*David Shoup, Trip Leader Coordinator*

*Paul Edwards, Secretary*

*Dana Warner*

*Chris DeGraaf*

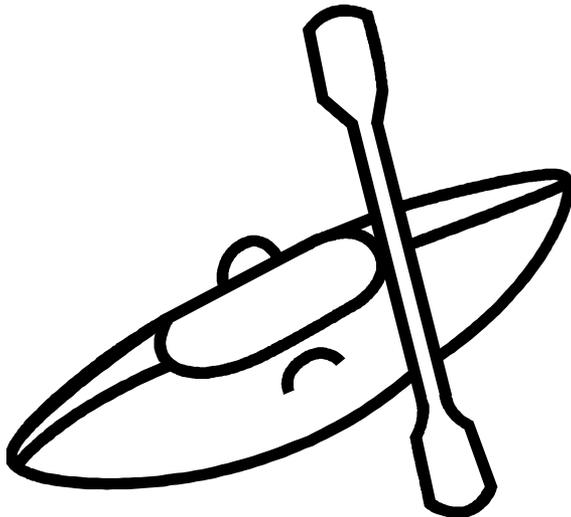
*Jeff Magee*

*Denise Dieli*

*Patti Vaughn*

*Robin Pleshaw*

*Ed Yiznitsky*



# *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 three open positions on the 2013 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.

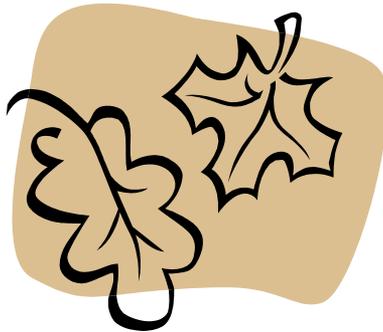
## NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

*Barbara Beckerman*

*Skip Frey*

*George Schott*

*Bruce Laroche* – Chair



# *Nominations for the 2013 Executive Committee*

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

Chapter Chair	<i>Janet Ainsworth</i>
Chapter Vice Chair	open
Secretary	<i>John Grasso</i>
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 Co-Chair	<i>John Crist</i>
Education Co-Chair	<i>Jennifer Wood</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 Chair	<i>Janet Ainsworth</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair	<i>Barry Gorfain</i>
Member at Large	<i>Tim Linehan/open</i>
Membership Chair	open
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Peter Gajdoski</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Kurt Zoner</i>
Newsletter Co-Editor	<i>Maggie Grayson</i>
Newsletter Co-Editor	<i>Darcy Witham</i>
Northwest Camp Co-Chair	<i>Tom McGrath</i>
Northwest Camp Co-Chair	<i>Rod Parlee</i>
Program Co-Chair	<i>Stacey Hoffman</i>
Program Co-Chair	<i>Mike Sinsigalli</i>
Trails Chair	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Webmaster/AMC Outdoors Liaison	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Chair	<i>Mark Lufkin</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.

*Ms. Mary Elizabeth Deming* of Cheshire, Connecticut

*Mr. Ronald Grant* of Southbury, Connecticut

