

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER



82nd Anniversary

Annual Report

November 15, 2003

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
2003 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Chapter Chair	<i>Dale Geslien</i>
Vice Chair	<i>Fred Iannotti</i>
Secretary	<i>Pat Riggs</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
AMC Outdoors Liaison	<i>Carl Rosenthal</i>
Bicycling Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Doug McKain Rick Merritt</i>
Conservation Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Frank Junga Lisa Spencer</i>
East of the River Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Ruth Griffin Barry Resnick</i>
Education Committee Chair	<i>Leo Kelly</i>
Excursions Committee Chair	<i>John Barry</i>
Fairfield County Group Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Flatwater Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Jean Trapani Diane Worden</i>
Membership Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Mary Ann Kouyoumjian Christa Lubatkin</i>
Mountaineering Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Rebecca Ford Carol Parker</i>
Program Committee Chair	<i>Fred Iannotti</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Mike House</i>
Northwest Camp Committee Chair	<i>Chuck Doll</i>
Trails Committee Chair	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Webmaster/Technology Chair	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Whitewater Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Mark Schappert Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Sue Bartley Darron Kannenberg</i>
Member-at-Large	<i>Bill Russell</i>
Regional Director	<i>Norm Sims</i>

CHAPTER CHAIR'S REPORT

My first year as Chapter Chair proved to be an extraordinary year of accomplishments for the Connecticut Chapter of the AMC. A strong Executive Committee worked together to raise the standard of leadership in Connecticut. Each activity committee worked to review and re-state their criteria for those members wishing to become leaders. Connecticut leaders are, and will continue to be, well trained as evidenced by the leadership commitment of committees who provided numerous trainings and educational opportunities throughout the year.

The Education Committee organized the annual Leadership Training School held last November at White Memorial Foundation in Litchfield, CT. CPR training was conducted once again at the annual meeting and was also available at the SOLO Wilderness First Aid class in April. A curriculum for one day "Leadership Training Sessions" was developed to provide more frequent trainings in a variety of locations across the state. "Train the trainer" workshops were created to educate experienced hike leaders to become instructors and mentors to prospective hike leaders.

Our Whitewater Committee held a SOLO Wilderness First Aid class as well as a Swiftwater Rescue training. Summer kayak instruction was conducted for the third year at Lake Lillinonah. Both the Whitewater and the Flatwater Committees held instructional pool sessions during the off season.

The Trails Committee ran a successful maintainer workshop as well as a chainsaw workshop. The chapter supported a SOLO high angle ropes training arranged by Sharon Hospital to train rescue personnel in the northwest corner of the state. Their territory includes coverage for the Appalachian Trail.

The Bicycling Committee continually emphasized cycling safety issues in a series of articles in their newsletters.

Our Mountaineering Committee offered a Beginners Day Program, Beacon Training and several members attended Level 1 and 2 Avalanche Training in the White Mountains.

This level of commitment was further evidenced by the attendance at the first annual Chapter Executive Committee retreat. All committee members and activity leaders were invited to attend. The theme was leadership and volunteerism. Guest speakers were Katherine Byers, AMC's Outdoor Leadership Coordinator, and Rick Silverberg, New Hampshire Chapter's Director of Leadership Training. As a result of much discussion and reflection, the chapter voted to implement the use

of AMC's recommended Liability Release Agreement in an effort to protect our volunteer leaders as well as our Club.

The Chapter supported many conservation related issues this year. We supported the Willimantic River Alliance in their efforts to make the Willimantic River corridor an official state Greenway. We participated in a Connecticut Trails Coalition with the National Park Service, Connecticut Forest and Park Association and other user groups. The Chapter joined the Connecticut Clean Car Alliance. The Club commented on our behalf, with our input, on the Connecticut DEP Statewide Forest Resource Plan. We also participated in a steering committee to assist the National Park Service with their Metacomet-Mattabesett National Scenic Trail Study.

Here are a few more highlights of this year's significant accomplishments. The Membership Committee revised their new member packets. The Excursions Committee developed a new email list and a process to list short notice hikes; that is, hikes which can be scheduled long after the *AMC Outdoors* deadline has passed. This program has been very successful. The Trails Committee represented the Chapter at the Appalachian Trail Conference's Biennial meeting held in Waterville, NH. A "Harry Duren Scholarship" was granted to a deserving individual who was able to participate in one of AMC's Teen Wilderness Adventures. The efficiency of our website was enhanced by moving all committee web pages to the same server. Committee email addresses were developed as well as an Executive Committee Yahoo Group List. Our newsletter is now available online and continual refinements and updates to our website are in process. The Chapter will be hosting the club wide 2004 Fall Gathering. A committee has been formed to develop a fun filled weekend and plans are underway.

I encourage you to read the following committee reports which will further detail their accomplishments this year, all the while providing us with activities to enjoy and opportunities to make a difference. We are always looking for new volunteers to help us fulfill our mission. Won't you consider becoming active in your chapter? Please contact any of the committee chairs or chapter officers and we'll do our best to match your skills and interests with a volunteer position that's right for you.

~Dale Geslien
Connecticut Chapter Chair

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING - 2002

The 82nd Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was held on November 16, 2002, at the Marriott Hotel in Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

Fred Iannotti, Program Committee Co-chair, introduced Chapter Chair, Eric Stones.

Eric thanked Fred, welcomed everyone attending to the 82nd Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Eric reported that the Chapter continued to flourish over the past year with growth in many areas, and is strong, vibrant, and has an excellent committee nominated to lead it through the next year. Eric then recapped a few highlights from the past year:

- ◆ In 2002, the chapter membership held at over 10,000 for the second year and now stands at slightly over 10,300. We are the third largest Chapter in the Club.
- ◆ The Trails Committee continued to do an excellent job and is considered the strongest trails committee in the Club. Eric thanked Ann Sherwood and her committee for the continued excellent job.
- ◆ The Tuesday and Thursday hiking groups (on both sides of the Connecticut River) continued, not only to have well attended events every week, but also in many respects it is their members who are the life and sole of the Chapter. Those who hike (and eat!) with this group can always be counted on to volunteer their time. Eric thanked them from everyone in the Chapter and commented that he didn't know how the Chapter would fare without them.
- ◆ The Chapter's web site, www.ct-amc.org, added many new features and is a treasure trove of information. Eric thanked Peg Peterson and her helpers for doing a great job.
- ◆ This year we greatly expanded our flatwater paddling and sea kayaking activities by inviting the Paddlers Network to join the Chapter to form a new Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee. Headed by Diane Worden and Jean Trapani, they brought with them many experienced leaders, much wisdom and enthusiasm, and should help the Chapter fulfill the needs of this growing sport. Eric recognized and thanked Paul Magnusen who did a fine job organizing our flatwater events for the past several years.

- ◆ The Young Members group continued to develop, adding new members, leaders, and activities. Eric thanked Darron Kannenberg, Sue Bartley, and the Young Members Committee, and expressed his pleasure that this group participated in many of the Chapter's events.
- ◆ The Chapter continued to organize and hold many hikes, bike rides, canoe and kayaking events, skiing, mountain climbing, and other activities every week of the year. Eric extended thanks to Mark Schappert, Duncan Schweitzer, Jim Linnane, Judy Kunkel, Carol Parker and their committees.
- ◆ The Program Committee produced several highly successful and well-attended events, namely: The Annual Meeting, the Spring Dinner, and New Members Day. Eric thanked Dale Geslien, Fred Iannotti, Maria Athanasiou and their Committee for doing a fabulous job.
- ◆ The New Member Day event continues to expand. Held in September, there were twenty well-attended activities during the day and 125 attended the evening event. Eric thanked Liz Egli, Christa Lubatkin and their Committee for their successful efforts throughout the year.
- ◆ Kristen Grant took over this year as Newsletter Editor and published three excellent newsletters that set the standard for the entire Club.
- ◆ The Conservation Committee held many events throughout the year and participated in many advocacy campaigns. Eric thanked Frank Junga and Lisa Spencer for their good efforts.

Eric informed everyone that his was his final year as Chapter Chair having served for three years: "It has been pleasure to work with so many fine people both from Connecticut and from Club Headquarters in Boston. I thank all that have helped me during the last three years."

Eric then said that there was one last item he'd like to cover:

"Most of you probably know the AMC's Mission Statement, but let me read it to you.

"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."

"Successful conservation... personally I think it's up to the members of this Club to make sure that we pass on to the next generations a natural world they can enjoy. I know we're all busy and can't go trooping down to Washington or over to Hartford to do that. But you can make your voice heard and that's what I'm going to ask of you tonight. Join and participate in the AMC's Conservation Action Network. The club has several thousand members, but only some 240 from Connecticut."

Eric then explained how the Conservation Action Network works and asked everyone to "complete the cards I'm going to pass around in a few minutes when Dale Geslien announces this year's award winners. We'll have a drawing at the end of the meeting for an AMC publication."

A moment of silence was observed as members stood to honor the memory of Connecticut Chapter members that passed away since the last Annual Meeting:

<i>Thomas Ackley</i>	<i>Vincent Rheinberger</i>
<i>Dick Gilman</i>	<i>William Gregg Farrar</i>
<i>Arthur Glaeser</i>	<i>Stan Kustra</i>
<i>Heinz F. Moellmann</i>	<i>Elizabeth Hackett</i>
<i>Jack Plover</i>	<i>Robert M. Merry, Sr.</i>
<i>Robert Painter</i>	<i>Edna Schmidt</i>
<i>Wilbur Stone</i>	<i>Ray Taberman</i>
<i>George Calder</i>	

Eric eulogized, "many in the Club are particularly saddened at the loss of Ray Taberman. He was a real workhorse maintaining the blue blazed trails that AMCers use so much. He was the CFPA Trail Manager for the northern end of the Metacomet Trail for many years, and then was the Trail Manager for part of the Narragansett Trail in southeastern Connecticut after he moved to Waterford. He worked on CFPA's Roving Trail Crew, and was a member of CFPA's Trails Committee. A member of the club for 42 years, he passed away last month at the age of 80."

Eric then called on Dale Geslien to read the names of the recipients of the year's Chapter Volunteer Stewardship awards.

Arthur, George	Hansen, Mark	O'Brien, Bob
Athanasίου, Maria	Hayden, Larry	Olsen, Carolyn
Barkman, Leon	Helie, Ray	Palumbo, Donna
Bartes, Luella	Hicks, John	Palumbo, Mike
Bartes, Richard	Howland, Jamie	Parker, Carol
Bartley, Sue	Jannotti, Fred	Peterson, Peg
Bellemare, Dave	Jessup, Harlan	Phelan, Carole
Boone, Dave	Junga, Frank	Poitras, Bob
Burton, Paula	Kannenberg, Darron	Puches, Al
Carilli, Al	Kelly, Leo G	Resnick, Barry
Carruthers, Tom	Kiley, Mark	Richardson, Ed
Christie, Doug	Kiley, Marsha	Rinehart, Walt
Cobrain, Hugh	Klopfer, Ken	Robinson, Betty
Cowles, Ted	Kunkel, Judy	Rosenthal, Carl
Cronin, Dave	LaBarre, Vic	Rouse, Richard
Cullen, Dave	LaBella, Elaine	Russell, Bill
Cunningham, John	Lindsey, Clare	Schappert, Mark
Daniels, Walter	Linnane, Jim	Scheef, Jim
Davis, Dot	Liptack, Jim	Schweitzer, Duncan
Dayton, Birge	Lubatkin, Christa	Shea, Jack
Decker, Salley	Giugno, Lisa	Sherwood, Ann
Dest, Bob	Gorfain, Barry	Shildneck, Don
Dickenson, Bob	Grant, Kristen	Spencer, Lisa
Doll, Chuck	Griffin, Ruth	Sprong, Bob
Don, Dick	Madsen, Eric	Stillson, Roberta
Duclos, Paul	Magnuson, Paul	Stones, Eric
Eberhart, John	Marchion, Carol	Stover, Chet
Ebersold, Tom	Maresca, Paul	Tracy, John
Edmonds, Henry	Marren, John	Trapani, Jean
Egli, Liz	Mcglynn, Dennis	Waldie, Russ
Figucia, John	McKain, Doug	Walter, Dollar Bill
Ford, Rebecca	Merritt, Rick	White, Robert
Freeman, Phyllis	Mihalek, Dave	Worden, Diane
Geslien, Dale	Mihalek, Geri	Wright, Dianne
Gill, Sonya	Novoa, Bill	

Dale then announced recipients of the Pychowska award for those with over 96 hours of service in 2002:

Dick Blake	John Cunningham	Paul Maresca
Dave Boone	Birge Dayton	Doug McKain
Tom Carruthers	Henry Edmonds	Al Puches
Doug Christie	Dale Geslien	Walt Rinehart

Dale then announced recipients of the Hart award for those with over 224 hours of service in 2002:

Dave Bellemare	Elaine La Bella	Eric Stones
Walt Daniels	Ann Sherwood	

Eric then called on Ann Sherwood to present Trails Committee awards.

Birge Dayton	2000 hours
Dave Boone	500 hours
Walt Rinehart	500 hours
Ann Cuddy	50 hours
Harry Meyer	50 hours
Louise Perkins	50 hours
Jerry Fiske	12 hours
Jane Geisler	12 hours
Ed Holowinko	12 hours
Fred Iannotti	12 hours
Shane Mac Elhiney	12 hours
Tom Morgan	12 hours
Terrance Ryan	12 hours
Al Wasserman	12 hours
Pat Wasserman	12 hours
Paula Burton	
Doug Christie	
Walt Daniels	
Henry Edmonds	
Susan Kirk	
Elaine LaBella	
Bob Poitras	
Debbie Poitras	
John Rek	
Ann Sherwood	

Eric then called on Dave Cullen who presented the Appie of the Year Award to Eric Stones.

Eric then recognized those who became fifty-year Club members in 2001:

Mr. Harry M. Johnson
Mr. Albert E. Booth, II
Mrs. Robert L. Fogg
Miss Elizabeth MacMullen

A good number of people stood when Eric asked twenty-five year members in attendance to stand.

Eric then asked Dave Cullen to say a few words about the Duren Scholarship.

Eric then called on Birge Dayton and Elaine La Bella who presented the Chapter with a special award, the Outstanding Organization Award, from the Connecticut Forest and Park Association. Eric accepted the award of behalf of the Chapter.

Elaine La Bella then urged those attending to support the All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) legislation being put forward by CFPA for the State of Connecticut.

Eric then thanked the outgoing Chapter executive Committee and asked them to stand.

At 8:00 p.m. Eric called to order the business portion of the 82nd Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Eric called for a motion to accept the Secretary's Report as presented in the 2002 Annual Report, which was received, seconded, and passed. Eric then called for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented in the 2002 Annual Report, which was received, seconded, and passed.

Eric introduced Dave Mihalek, Nominating Committee Chair, who presented the following slate of nominees for the 2003 Executive Committee:

Chapter Chair	<i>Dale Geslien</i>
Chapter Vice Chair	<i>Open</i>
Secretary	<i>Pat Riggs</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
AMC Outdoors Liaison	<i>Carl Rosenthal</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Doug McKain</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Rick Merritt</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Frank Junga</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Lisa Spencer</i>
East of the River Co-Chair	<i>Ruth Griffin</i>
East of the River Co-Chair	<i>Barry Resnick</i>
Education Chair	<i>Leo Kelly</i>
Excursions Chair	<i>John Barry</i>
Fairfield County Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddlers Co-Chair	<i>Jean Trapani</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddlers Co-Chair	<i>Diane Worden</i>
Member-at-Large	<i>Bill Russell</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>Mary Ann Kouyoumjian</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>Christa Lubatkin</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Rebecca Ford</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Carol Parker</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Kristen Grant</i>
Northwest Camp Chair	<i>Chuck Doll</i>
Program Co-Chair	<i>Maria Athanasiou</i>
Program Co-Chair	<i>Fred Iannotti</i>
Trails Chair	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Web Site Coordinator	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Whitewater	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Sue Bartley</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Darron Kannenberg</i>

The motion was offered to direct the Secretary to cast one ballot for the slate as presented, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

Eric then recounted the story of how the Chapter Chair came to wear a red hat as a way to be recognized and presented incoming Chair, Dale Geslien, with a red hat. Eric then asked all past chairs in attendance to stand and put on their red hats.

At 8:06 p.m. a motion to adjourn the business meeting was made, seconded, and passed.

Fred Iannotti then introduced the program speaker, Mike Falconeri, who presented "*Sites and Sounds of the Sea: Sea America Expedition*," a very entertaining multimedia presentation of his solo kayaking journey along the entire coastline of the contiguous United States.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug McKain, Secretary



TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001 AND 2002

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
Cash at January 1	\$44,761	\$53,701
Revenue Collected:		
Joy Street dues allocation	50,999	37,431
Program activities	20,184	15,618
Contributions	2,363	2,761
Reserve funds – sources ⁽¹⁾	8,600	3,710
Local sale of memberships	6,985	7,685
Leadership training	3,985	5,955
Subscriptions to <i>THE HIKER</i>	630	371
Merchandise sales	1,378	1,091
Interest income	<u>1,216</u>	<u>572</u>
Total revenue collected	\$96,340	\$75,194
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	\$22,761	\$23,884
Cost of merchandise	699	497
Contributions made	3,125	3,350
Reserve funds – uses ⁽¹⁾	12,857	7,308
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	2,123	1,782
Conservation	158	340
East of the River	1,871	2,529
Education	6,239	4,048
Excursions	1,072	669
Executive	9,449	7,412
Fairfield County	3,650	2,534
Membership	8,151	6,023
Mountaineering	1,137	1,215
Newsletter	9,013	10,907
Northwest Camp	822	328
Program	92	23
Trails	2,454	4,220
Whitewater	1,483	567
Young Members	<u>244</u>	<u>439</u>
Total expenditures	\$87,400	\$78,075
Cash at December 31	<u>\$53,701</u>	<u>\$50,820</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2002 AND 2003

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Cash at January 1	<u>\$53,701</u>	<u>\$50,820</u>
Revenue collected:		
Joy Street dues allocation	\$25,192	24,468
Program activities	9,872	14,454
Contributions	3	25
Reserve funds – sources ⁽¹⁾	1,662	2,175
Local sale of memberships	4,730	3,230
Leadership training	4,965	4,340
Subscriptions to <i>THE HIKER</i>	343	537
Merchandise sales	50	226
Interest income	<u>548</u>	<u>263</u>
Total revenue collected	<u>\$47,365</u>	<u>\$49,718</u>
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	\$14,064	\$14,203
Cost of merchandise	--	463
Contributions made	2,000	750
Reserve funds – uses ⁽¹⁾	7,704	2,580
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	1,434	1,714
Conservation	92	94
East of the River	1,900	1,817
Education	3,135	4,334
Excursions	566	479
Executive	3,373	7,057
Fairfield County	2,534	2,162
Membership	3,885	4,537
Mountaineering	372	741
Newsletter	7,283	7,333
Northwest Camp	216	544
Program	23	81
Trails	2,903	3,396
Whitewater	558	884
Young Members	<u>117</u>	<u>25</u>
Total expenditures	<u>\$52,159</u>	<u>\$53,194</u>
Cash at September 30	<u>\$48,907</u>	<u>\$47,344</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>12/31/01</u>	<u>12/31/02</u>	<u>9/30/03</u>
Reserve funds:			
American Ref-fuel grant	\$200	\$200	\$200
AT Handicap Accessible project	13,814	13,938	13,938
Bicycle racing fund	410	410	410
Bicycle reserve	332	332	332
Duren Memorial Scholarships	1,204	1,796	2,128
Friends of Mansfield Hollow	542	--	--
Jim Wright Memorial	264	264	264
Northwest Camp	3,594	4,825	7,281
Ridgerunner	752	752	580
Stanley grant	6,199	4,032	3,450
Stephen Meyers Memorial	1,895	1,895	1,895
Whitewater	5,271	2,435	3,235
General fund	<u>19,224</u>	<u>19,941</u>	<u>13,631</u>
Total cash	<u>\$53,701</u>	<u>\$50,820</u>	<u>\$47,344</u>

Al Puches – Treasurer



Bicycling Committee

The Bicycling Committee published its monthly *AMC Cyclist* newsletter again in 2003. This newsletter supplemented rides listed in *AMC Outdoors* from April through November.

A total of 140 rides were scheduled but inclement weather resulted in a good number of rides being cancelled. In addition, there were five weekend trips (Washington DC, Cape Cod (2), Hampton Beach, NH, and Massachusetts North Shore) and one mid-week trip (Martha's Vineyard).

The Monday Ride Program continued its success under the leadership of Don Shildneck with rides scheduled every Monday from April 7th through November 10th. Rick Merritt and Mark Hansen continued the Tuesday evening ride program offering rides for three different classes of riders during the summer months. In addition, during the month of June, Rick Merritt and Barbara Rutigliano held Thursday evening rides in Essex, CT.

The Committee qualified seven new leaders during the year: Ken Hazen, Sandy Lee, Tom and Nancy Mann, Barbara Rutigliano, Susan Wallen, and Diane Wright.

BICYCLING COMMITTEE

Gary Carlson
Larry Hayden
Judy Kunkel

Jo-Ann Carlson
Ken Hazen
Maureen Sylvestre-Craig

Deb Casey
Jeri Jaminet

Doug McKain - Co-Chair
Rick Merritt - Co-Chair



Conservation Committee

The Conservation Committee continues to bring guest speakers to monthly meetings to stimulate interest in conservation and the environment. This year's activities included:

- A hike with paleontologist Greg McHone
- Progress in fighting hemlock infestations
- The future of chestnut trees in Connecticut
- Smart design to reduce water run off in developments
- New Member Day hike with Kevin Case, National Park Service director for Metacomb-Monadnock-Mattabesett National Scenic Trail project in Connecticut.

We were increasingly involved in environmental issues at the State level. This year's activities included:

- organized individual support for the Farmland Preservation Act
- initiated Connecticut Chapter support for anti-ATV legislation
- presented the Draft Forest Plan to the AMC Connecticut Chapter Executive Committee. (This plan was also submitted to the AMC Headquarters. AMC Headquarters then submitted comments to the CT Department of Environmental Protection.)
- Frank Junga was an AMC Representative of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association Recreational Trails Coalition.

Many thanks go out to Joe Grzybowski who volunteered to keep the Conservation Committee e-mail list up-to-date and maintain its website. Thanks also to Faith Salter for her advice and encouragement.

Lisa Spencer and Frank Junga are retiring as Co-chairs of the Conservation Committee this year. "It is time for some new blood and fresh ideas." John LeShane has graciously volunteered to take the reins as Co-chair of the Conservation Committee. John has trained as a forester and more recently, founded the Meshomasic Hiking Club. He will continue to be active in state wide environmental issues. Please give him all the support he needs.

Lisa and Frank extend heartfelt thanks to all their friends for all their wonderful support along the way. See you on the trails.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Barbara Bloomberg Birge Dayton Jo-Anne Giblin
Joe Grzybowski Alexandra Thomas

Frank Junga - Co-Chair
Lisa Spencer - Co-Chair

East of the River Committee

The East of the River Committee has had a very successful year.

We have sponsored nearly 100 Tuesday and Thursday hikes. Several of our leaders have donated their time to conduct weekend hikes also. Our mid-week hikes average 22 participants. The Tuesday hikes are 5-8 miles over average terrain. The Thursday hikes have the option of being longer, more strenuous, and more distant, as determined by the hike leader.

We currently have a list of 22 leaders who have volunteered over the past year. Our Tuesday hikes are coordinated by Bob Nickels. The Thursday hikes are coordinated by Barry Resnick. Mary Ann Kouyoumjian sends updated hike info to our nearly 200 members via our e-mail list. Voicemail notices are kept current by Barry Resnick.

Betty Robinson continues to publish the "East of the River Newsletter," which is packed with items of interest. During 2003 there were three editions. The circulation of the newsletter is approximately 900 copies. Betty is the founder and past chair of ERC. In addition, Betty has been instrumental in founding "Friends of Mansfield Hollow," which supports the state park as a wonderful recreation area. The AMC is a strong supporter of "Friends of Mansfield Hollow."

Our annual spring and fall dinners are always well attended with 85-95 guests. Our speaker at the spring dinner was Leon Barkman. Leon shared slides from his Arizona hiking trip. Our fall speaker was Dana Filippini. She shared slides of Africa-its people, animals, and culture. Profits from these dinners are donated to the Harry Duren Scholarship Fund. At our spring dinner, we had the pleasure of recognizing our hike leaders with patches, pins, and gift certificates to show sincere appreciation for their efforts.

Our program committee is responsible for planning and arranging our dinners. The committee is headed by Nola Currie and Ruth Griffin with the help of Dick Don. Dot Davis is in charge of decorations. Ruth Griffin's term as Co-chair is ending and she deserves a big "thank you" for her accomplishments over the past two years. Carol Hassett will be joining Barry Resnick as Co-chair for 2004.

EAST OF THE RIVER COMMITTEE

John Cunningham Linda Cunningham Dot Davis
Ed Dresner Fay Dresner Rob Funk
Frank Junga Maryann Kouyoumjian
Pam Lewis Nancy Meitzler Carolyn Olsen
Betty Robinson

Ruth Griffin - Co-Chair
Barry Resnick - Co-Chair



Education Committee

The AMC Connecticut Chapter Education Committee was challenged with the responsibility of reviewing Hike Leader Qualifications in light of Club wide concerns with liability issues for both individuals and groups offering their services as volunteers within the Chapter. This was accomplished through the combined efforts of past and current committee members who reviewed past practices and made recommendations for change. In light of these changes, the former RAP hikes have been replaced with Leadership Training Sessions. The first session piloted August 2003 at Sleeping Giant State Park. This session was a great success. Future sessions are planned utilizing current hike leaders as instructors. In the same line, a preliminary draft was prepared listing new qualifications for Advanced Leadership Classification Requirements.

The year began with the traditional SOLO Wilderness First Aid in April at White Memorial, Litchfield CT. Again, beautiful weather and enthusiastic participants combined to ensure a positive learning experience for all. Education Chair and members took advantage of several workshop opportunities in the Field of Outdoor Leadership including staffing and participating in AMC Mountain Leadership School in June.

Committee members participated in this year's New Member Day offering two hikes on Regional Water Authority permit only trails. Also a "Leave No Trace" workshop was presented to the New England Environmental Educators Alliance in September in Woodstock, Ct.

This year's Chapter Annual Meeting will include American Heart Association CPR Training and a first time workshop entitled: Leadership Training Session: Train the-Trainer.

Also in November, the Education Committee will again conduct and staff the Leadership Training School held at White Memorial, in Litchfield, CT. This Leadership Training School has been recognized club wide and many past participants credit this training in helping them make successful, critical backcountry decisions. Work continues on reestablishing the Jr. Naturalist Program and promoting Leave No Trace Principals and Outdoor Ethics.

I would like to thank all Education Committee members and Training School Staff for their efforts and time volunteered in sharing their knowledge with the Connecticut Chapter Members this past year.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*Paula Burton
Anne Rehm*

*Dale Geslien
Bill Russell*

*Jeff Hogan
Eric Stones*

Leo Kelly - Chair



Excursions Committee

The Excursions Committee coordinates Chapter activities in the areas of day hiking, backpacking, cross-country skiing, and family activities. The Committee continues to encourage and qualify new activity leaders through a program of formal instruction, mentoring, and co-leading for new leaders in coordination with the Education Committee.

The Excursions Committee has fully implemented AMC's Outdoor Leadership Development Committee guidelines for qualifying leaders, posting approved activities, and reporting activities to AMC. Alternate means of posting activities have been implemented in approved fashion via mailing lists and website.

During the CT Chapter retreat in March 2003, many leaders were informed at length by AMC staff on current guidelines for leaders, and all leaders were subsequently personally informed of these guidelines.

A total of 417 day hikes with more than 5000 participants were offered during the September 2002 to October 2003 time period. There are 143 leaders listed as active and of these, 86 led hikes during this period.

Thanks to all of the activity leaders who contributed their time and effort, and in particular to those individuals who made exceptional contributions: thirty-two leaders led five or more trips over the course of the year. Special note should be made of the following:

<i>Dave Bellemare</i>	38 hikes
<i>Bill Novoa</i>	19 hikes
<i>Jennifer Nadeau</i>	16 hikes
<i>George Arthur</i>	16 hikes
<i>Dave Cronin</i>	16 hikes
<i>Ray Helie</i>	15 hikes
<i>David Cullen</i>	13 hikes
<i>John Cunningham</i>	12 hikes
<i>Art Jann</i>	11 hikes
<i>James Linnane</i>	11 hikes
<i>Sandy Dunn</i>	10 hikes
<i>Barry Resnick</i>	10 hikes
<i>Betty Robinson</i>	9 hikes

For each issue of *AMC Outdoors*, hikes are coordinated by a different AMC member who solicits hikes by mail and/or phone or e-mail. That member then prepares the listings that ultimately appear in *AMC Outdoors*. Their effort helps the committee to meet its goal of offering a wide variety of hikes each month to AMC members and guests throughout the state. We would like to thank these individuals for their efforts and contributions.

The Monthly Hike Coordinators for 2003 were:

<i>Tom Baker</i> – Oakdale	January/February
<i>James Linnane</i> - Barkhamsted	March
<i>Carl Rosenthal</i> – Bridgton, ME	April
<i>Mike Cunningham</i> – Danbury	May
<i>James Linnane</i> – Barkhamsted	June
<i>Charlotte Hitchcock</i> – New Haven	July/August
<i>James Linnane</i> – Barkhamsted	September
<i>Dr. Jennifer Nadeau</i> – Coventry	October
<i>Chuck Sack</i> – South Windsor	November
<i>Chip Tuthill</i> – East Haven	December

Particular acknowledgment is deserved for the indispensable jobs done by:

Dave Cronin who was responsible for the distribution of the hike Liability Release Agreement and our own activity information sheet which forms the basis for Excursions Committee record keeping.

James Linnane who coordinated distribution of hike solicitation materials to the monthly coordinators both of whom also served as moderators for posting AMC activities via mailing lists and web-site.

David Roberts, Leader Recruiter, who pursued new, flexible means of qualifying leaders in accordance with revised AMC guidelines and coordinated means of posting activities on short notice via the Fairfield County Group mailing list.

EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE

Dave Cronin *Jim Linnane* *David Roberts*

John Barry - Chair

Fairfield County Group

Over the last several years, the Fairfield County Committee has laid out many goals. While achieving many of them in the past, it appears that 2003 has been a banner year. Presently, we have an executive committee with 10 core members as well as another 35 to 40 volunteers performing various tasks from participating in our *Hiker* newsletter distribution to contributing to its content as well as cooks and kitchen help for our Wednesday social dinners held five times a year.

2003's focus has been primarily one of recruitment (new members and hence new blood to the volunteer pool). Our other push has been increasing the visibility of AMC in the western Connecticut region with a goal to get the word out and market the many opportunities the AMC affords to outdoor enthusiasts. Thirdly, and most importantly, accomplish these goals and reduce operating costs.

Here is a brief list and description of Fairfield County Group's 2003 achievements:

Hiker Newsletter:

Produced a more informative and comprehensive *Hiker* newsletter and recruited a staff of volunteer writers to improve the editorial content. Added 80 new *Hiker* paid subscribers.

Streamlined *Hiker* production by securing a new and cheaper printer and increased our volunteer distribution network to 30 distributors. Several of these volunteers fold and mail this first class distribution and process the library mailing received by our network of 30 distributors.

Membership:

Increased Fairfield County members by proactively selling 54 Memberships in a Bottle (MIB) at EMS Club Days and Westport Socials. We expect this number to increase at this October's EMS Club Days as well as our November Westport Social. We instituted a program by which we could accept credit cards on the club's behalf for MIB and have them processed by AMC Headquarters. We have also made arrangements with Fairfield County EMS stores to simply handle the sale of their stock of MIB at our AMC info table to streamline the process while still offering new members the discounted MIB rate. Upon our request, EMS has restocked their MIB for their October 24/25, 2003 Club Day event.

Westport Socials:

We decreased the operating cost of the Westport dinners by an estimated 50% beginning in November. Through the persistence of our Conservation Chair/Social Meeting Coordinator, we have secured a new location in Westport. The dinners are now relying strictly on volunteer kitchen help and a militaristic schedule to get the meals out on time and keep the meeting on track.

Westport Meeting Sponsors:

There is currently an initiative afoot to secure a corporate sponsor to partner with the Fairfield County Group to offset production of our Westport dinners and any other programs we might want to bring to the community. The Fairfield County Group has enough value to leverage a partnership and break even on operating costs. At the same time, a sponsor has the potential of adding more value to Fairfield County membership.

Meeting Minutes:

Our secretary is now producing minutes of our executive committee meetings with regularity which was rarely done in the past.

Yahoo Groups and Lists:

Our Membership Chair/ *Hiker* Editor has created and maintains three E-Lists including:

AMCTHURS - (transferred from "ctconnect" version) -280members
OUTINGS - 385 members
E-Hiker - 160 members

She has cleaned up the 4-year-old amcfairfieldcty Yahoo discussion group and implemented security measures to allow only club members to join.

Fairfield County's Future Goals include:

Changing the Fairfield County Group name to the Western CT Group or West of the River.

Break even on expenses with the help of cost cutting and sponsorship revenue.

Increase membership and volunteers to help at social dinners

Increase *Hiker* distribution

Provide better speakers at dinners

FAIRFIELD COUNTY COMMITTEE

Dave Cronin

Eleanor Sasso

Fiona Nicholson

Kate Kunze

Tim Bezler

Annie Flynn

Al Puches

Dave Roberts

Starre Varian

Tom Carruthers - Chair

Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee

A wide variety of activities were held for canoers and kayakers of all ages and skill levels beginning with the presentation at the Connecticut Chapter Annual Meeting held on November 16, 2002. A talk entitled, "The (Put) Ins and (Take) Outs of Flatwater and Coastal Paddling in Connecticut" was presented and a resource list was distributed. Maps, charts, and books were also available for examination.

Ten pool sessions were held from January through March, 2003 at the University of Bridgeport Wheeler Recreation Center in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Paddlers from Connecticut, New York and New Jersey drove as much as an hour each way for the opportunity to practice strokes and rescues. Demonstrations of paddling strokes on March 2 and rescues on March 9 were done by expert paddlers with ACA and BCU certification. A January 14 meeting held at the Rowing Club in Westport, Connecticut featured Michele Sorensen (of Kayak Adventure, LLC) distributing information on what to wear and bring to a pool session, a pool practice routine, and resources to aid in learning the Eskimo roll.

Early spring found the AMC table at Collinsville Canoe & Kayak and also at The Trading Post during their demo days. AMC leaflets were also handed out at the demo day held by The Small Boat Shop in September. Four committee members attended the Connecticut Chapter March Retreat which discussed liability issues. Jean Trapani received certification in Wilderness First Aid at the Solo Wilderness First Aid class held on May 9-10.

Trips, nine in all, were attended rain or shine in ponds, lakes and rivers all over the state from May through September. Appreciation gifts were given to five past or present leaders throughout the year. Work has continued on the website.

A paddlers practice session aimed at familiarizing paddlers with procedures for recovery after a capsize and rescue techniques was held on September 28, 2003, in partnership with the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 72, at their facility on Calf Pasture Beach in Norwalk, Connecticut. A sudden resumption of the monsoon season limited the group to the indoor vessel safety inspection, talk by an Auxiliarist on Aids to Navigation, and tales from local paddlers about kayaking around the Norwalk Islands.

We are seeking additional leaders for trips and welcome inquiries. The current co-chairs wish to thank all participants for their enthusiastic company, and especially the leaders who guided us through many happy paddles under the AMC structure. You were wonderful!

FLATWATER/COASTAL PADDLING COMMITTEE

Lisa Spencer

Robert White

Jean Trapani – Co-Chair
Diane Worden – Co-Chair



Membership Committee

As of September 1, 2003 there were 9800 members in AMC's Connecticut Chapter. This is down about 200 from last year. Since participants in an active outdoor life are supposed to be on the upswing (according to the media) we are at a loss to determine the reason for the decline in membership in the Connecticut Chapter. It would probably take quite a sophisticated research model to find an explanation. Looking back to last year's levels for the entire AMC, 6 chapters gained membership and 7 chapters lost membership. The gains totaled 794 and the losses totaled 1747. The total overall loss of AMC members ending with September 1, 2003 is 953. Based on these figures it appears the Connecticut Chapter is keeping in step with the general trend.

New Member Day was held on September 20 and was a great success. We had 135 people attend the dinner though paying guests numbered 126. A total of 20 new members enjoyed mingling with everyone. To facilitate camaraderie, we urged new members to take part in a scavenger hunt which fostered communication with current members. Everyone in attendance was encouraged to join in the "How many members in CT-AMC" Guessing Game. Prizes were later awarded to the winners of both games. Our excellent presenters, Deb and Gary McConville did a great job with a wonderful multimedia show titled *End to End on the Colorado Trail*. Work Parties, Educational Hikes, Fun Hikes, Bike Rides and Flatwater Paddle Activities were held throughout the day. One new member told Membership how excited she was to have finally participated in her first AMC hike!

Although New Member Day is our big event, the Membership Committee is busy throughout the year. Our year started with a successful effort to revise the materials we send to new members. Our revisions were approved by the Executive Committee and should prove useful to orient new members and at the same time streamline the amount of paperwork the Membership Committee tackles every year. Still, much paper work remains, e.g., providing New Member Packets to incoming members. A new promotional push has been launched in conjunction with Eastern Mountain Sports' Club Day. Some of their stores have invited us to staff tables during these bi-annual events. Our Fairfield County Group was very successful in selling "Membership in a Bottle." Much help is needed throughout the year and much help has been received from the members of our committee. We thank them and we thank the many other people who help when they are called.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Dave Cullen
Nancy Meitzler
Fiona Nicholson

Dot Davis
Betty Robinson
Dave Jenkins

Mary Ann Doucette
Carolyn Olsen
Ted Platt

Mary Ann Kouyoumjian – Co-Chair
Christa Lubatkin – Co-Chair



Mountaineering Committee

This year started off with some of the best snow we've seen in a decade. The snow allowed for multiple "skinning and skiing" outings during January and February which helped ready a number of our members for (an unofficial) trip to the Canadian Rockies for a week long stay at a lodge in the mountains near Golden in British Columbia. It was a gorgeous week of skiing topped off by a ski exit over the Continental Divide and down into Alberta. Local Mountaineering trips during the winter months included Smuggler's Notch, the White Mountains, and the Adirondacks -- all destinations for downhill and backcountry skiing, hiking, snowshoeing and ice climbing.

Rock climbing during the winter was limited to the climbing gym with our weekly Wednesday night climbs waiting until spring. Come spring, we returned outdoors to the local crags. Saturday climbs were held on a near weekly basis. An addition to our climbing activities this year was the "Tuesday Night Bouldering" group led by Al Carilli.

Throughout the summer, our members ventured out on a number of individual trips to the North Cascades, The Black Hills, and Devil's Tower. Two members did a number of aide climbs in Yosemite and are preparing a slide show for the Connecticut Chapter Annual Meeting. Also, a three man team spent a week in the Sawtooth Mountains of Idaho. The team, Al Carilli, Paul Maresca and Tim Linehan, put up a new route of an unclimbed 800 foot wall in the Hell Roaring Brook area 40 miles north of Sun Valley. The 4 pitch 5.7 r-x route was named "For the Chief and Dennis." Official trips included Memorial Day weekend in Lac Lyster, Quebec; 4th of July in the Adirondacks, and Labor Day in the White Mountains.

When not out climbing, we are engaged in a number of related activities:

Education - Our annual Introduction to Rock Climbing class was again sold out. Six of our members took a level I Avalanche course, and three of our members finished the Level II course. To increase our safety in the snowy mountains this past year, we updated our 2 "club" avalanche beacons and together with a number of privately owned beacons, held weekly Monday "beacon search" training sessions to improve proficiency in avalanche rescue skills.

Trail work/crag clean up - We attended the Ragged Mountain Foundation (RMF) Trails Day event at Ragged Mountain joining again with the local Connecticut climbing organization to improve the trail at Ragged Mountain. We also continued the now "tradition" of bringing trash bags to every climb in an attempt to leave all areas where we climb cleaner than when we found them.

Access Issues - Although there is no new or exciting news, we continue to work with the RMF addressing access and parking issues for local crags.

Gear - In an effort to "step up" our safety awareness club wide, we replaced the vast majority of our Beginner Day harnesses and belay devices, and increased our number of club owned helmets to assure that all attendees to our events have the ability to be protected even if it's their first time out and they are not fully "geared up" yet.

Leadership Guidelines Development - The Mountaineering Committee has also spent a considerable amount of time this year discussing and debating a more formalized presentation of leadership requirements for our group. For the current and likely final draft of the requirements and recommendations for their presentation to the group, we are especially indebted to "The Rev," our most senior member, Al Carilli. Al has been the inspiring force behind our leadership development and the original author of our formalized requirements.

We would also like to extend a special thanks to those who work to make our club what it is: Paul Maresca, former website manager, trip leader, and "keeper of the pig," Al Carilli, chief bouldering manager and trip leader, Ken Klopfer, slideshow presenter, and trip leaders, Chris Shovlin, Brian Keers, Angela & Jeff Giles, John Rek and Bill Walters.

We would also like to thank Matt Shrove and Chuck Boyd for their participation in educating and mentoring our beginners and lending their expertise to our club.

MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE

<i>Al Carilli</i>	<i>Ged Fay</i>	<i>John Rek</i>
<i>Paul Maresca</i>	<i>Nate Litwin</i>	<i>Angela Giles</i>
<i>Jeff Giles</i>	<i>Paul Garasimowicz</i>	<i>Matt Shrove</i>
<i>Stacy Kellogg</i>	<i>Chuck Boyd</i>	<i>Mark Sondeen</i>
<i>Brian Shovlin</i>	<i>Miriam Greenfield</i>	<i>Gary White</i>
<i>Bill (Dollar Bill) Walters</i>		

Rebecca Ford - Co-chair
Carol Parker - Co-chair

Newsletter Committee

During 2003, three issues of *The AMC In Connecticut* newsletter were distributed to approximately 7,500 Connecticut Chapter households. I would like to thank Kristen Grant, past Newsletter Editor, for her dedication in leading the newsletter production and smoothly passing the baton to me.

I'm pleased to announce that Kristin Sutherland has joined the Newsletter Committee and has already made a key contribution as a newsletter copy editor.

As we look forward to 2004 and beyond, the Newsletter Committee is committed to communicating the need for member volunteers and publishing relevant and engaging topics for our members. It is our goal to continue providing a steady flow of information and articles representing all committees. Recruitment of editorial staffers from each committee is critical to this success.

Mike House - Chair



Northwest Camp Committee

Three cords of wood were purchased for \$450. The wood is for a stove in the cabin.

There was a snowshoe weekend and a hike was led on New Member Day.

During the spring work party, we rebuilt the two footbridges on the Northwest Road.

We had a fall work party and stacked the cord wood.

The loft is still closed until the approval of the Long Range Plan. We are working on some newly developed proposals. A meeting was held on October 7 at Jim St. Amand's house to clarify some of the requirements. Our number one objective is to complete the Long Range Plan.

NORTHWEST CAMP COMMITTEE

*Dan Green
Keith Larsen
Thomas Nichols
John Rek*

*Paul Ives
Trent Link
Rod Parlee
Jim St. Amand*

*Ken Kostak
Roy G. Meadows
Al Puches*

Chuck Doll - Chair



Program Committee

The four annual events run by the Program Committee again reached attendance levels that nearly always filled available seating. Notable among these was the 2002 Annual Meeting, held at the Rocky Hill Marriott. (In 2003, the Annual Meeting shifts to the Farmington Marriott.)

Last year's Annual Meeting offered an early-morning, three-hour CPR seminar followed by a full afternoon of workshops that covered subjects as varied as how to build an ocean racing kayak and hiking in Hawaii to hearing about the challenge posed by ATVs on open space and the transition of the Farmington Canal to the East Coast Greenway. Every activity from conservation and wildlife to mountaineering and flatwater paddling was covered in a dozen workshops.

As is traditional, the Used Equipment Sale and the Book Sale both experienced heavy traffic during the four hours each was staffed that afternoon. Following an excellent dinner, a brief annual business meeting, and various awards ceremonies, former Wallingford resident Mike Falconeri (who had recently relocated to Maine), provided an insightful, humorous, and entertaining narration of his "Sites and Sounds of the Sea: Sea America Expedition," a multimedia slide show set to music. Falconeri is world-class sea kayaker who retold his adventures paddling from Washington to Maine around the entire coastline of the contiguous U.S.

The Spring Dinner held Saturday evening, April 5 at the Cheshire Grange was packed beyond full in anticipation of the slide presentation by featured after-dinner speaker Paul Nickerson, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's oft-quoted chief of the Division of Threatened and Endangered Species. He addressed the controversial proposal that the gray wolf be reintroduced into northern New England. The Q&A session was so lively that it had to be cut off at 9:30 PM so as to give attendees, as well as the speaker, who'd traveled from New Hampshire, time to drive home.

The Trail's Day Potluck Dinner held Saturday evening, June 7 ("National Trails Day"), was sponsored jointly by AMC and Connecticut Forest and Park Association (CFPA) at Northeast Utilities headquarters in Berlin. The featured after-dinner speaker selected by CFPA was DEP forester Helene Flounders, who delivered a PowerPoint show that not only spotlighted Connecticut's state forest system, but also highlighted

the "letterboxing" phenomenon sweeping the U.S. Thanks to efforts of Helene and DEP; Connecticut is the first state to establish a letterboxing network in a network of state forests. National Trails Day sponsors included AMC, the American Hiking Society, National Park Service, and many other organizations. Connecticut Trails Day was co-sponsored by CFPA and the Connecticut Chapter of AMC.

The New Member Day Spaghetti Dinner held Saturday evening, September 20, also at Northeast Utilities, was well-attended. The featured after-dinner speakers were Connecticut residents Deb and Garry McConville, who delivered a slide show titled "End to End on the Colorado Trail" about their adventures walking the 470-mile footpath in the heart of the Colorado Rockies.

Committee members again did an outstanding job coordinating these events ensuring that the projectors, screen, and PA system were available for our speakers; providing hors d'oeuvres and beverages; ordering and storing supplies and equipment; making new indoor and outdoor signage; and managing registration and logistics. Please join me in thanking them for their dedication and selflessness in ensuring that these events were a success. You'll recognize them at the 2003 Annual Meeting by their distinctive new green-and-white committee name badges.

Special thanks for exceptional service to longtime member Barbara Beckerman who is leaving the committee as well as to the continued invaluable service of Richard and Luella Bartes. A special welcome to committee member Jeri Jaminet for her work in joining with Luella to coordinate Annual Meeting mail-in registration and we welcome new chair David Bellemare.

We continue to need new people to join the Program Committee as old hands leave to pursue other interests. Please consider volunteering to help with our social events. Please consider giving back to the club. We'd love to have you join us. The new year is just around the corner and, with your help; we look ahead to another exciting year of Connecticut Chapter events.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

<i>Sheila Anderson</i>	<i>Maria Athanasiou</i>	<i>Luella Bartes</i>
<i>Richard Bartes</i>	<i>Barbara Beckerman</i>	<i>Frank DeFazio</i>
<i>Edgar Dresner</i>	<i>Fay Dresner</i>	<i>Lisa Giugno</i>
<i>Doreen Guarino</i>	<i>Jeri Jaminet</i>	<i>Ellen McGuire</i>
<i>Wilford Parker</i>	<i>Wilda Wise</i>	

Fred Iannotti - Chair

Trails Committee

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

- Workshops for monitors and maintainers were held to train new volunteers and update veteran volunteers. A chainsaw safety workshop was also offered. This training is required to use a power saw on trail lands.
- A signboard was built at the newly constructed parking lot at the Bunker Hill/Lion's Head trailhead.
- The annual "Give a Day to Trails" event was one of the best attended ever. Progress was made on four separate projects.
- Red worm composting privies were constructed at Sages Ravine and Ten Mile River campsites.
- The dangerous launch ramp was removed from the site known as "Hang Glider View" in the Housatonic State Forest.
- All open space mowing projects were completed.
- The National Park Service recognized Norm Sills and Dick Blake for 25 years of volunteer service at the ATC Biennial Meeting in Waterville Valley, NH.
- Special training in backcountry rescue for local first responders in towns adjoining the AT was co-sponsored.

Many tread way improvements were made, including work of a two-week long summer crew on the Riga Plateau and Bear Mountain.

Work parties to improve the Trail go out nearly every weekend. Please consider coming with us soon.

TRAILS COMMITTEE

<i>Dick Blake</i>	<i>Doug Christie</i>	<i>Hugh Cobrain</i>
<i>Ted Cowles</i>	<i>Walt Daniels</i>	<i>Birge Dayton</i>
<i>Henry Edmonds</i>	<i>Harlan Jessup</i>	<i>Gene Grayson</i>
<i>Elaine LaBella</i>	<i>Ian McCunn</i>	<i>Gary Nasiatka</i>
<i>Paul Palmer</i>	<i>Bob Poitras</i>	<i>Walt Rinehart</i>
<i>Brigitte Rothman</i>	<i>Ann Sherwood</i>	<i>Norm Sills</i>
<i>Sue Spring</i>		

Dave Boone – Chair

Webmaster/Technology Committee

2003 Accomplishments

1. The website was updated many, many, many times with hikes, trips, etc., as sent to *AMC Outdoors* – with certain exceptions.
2. The format of the hike lists were changed to exactly correspond with the listings sent to *AMC Outdoors*.
3. A new page was added for overnight trips. This includes all multi-day trips sponsored by the chapter including inter-chapter trips. Trip leaders can put up their own web page with more information about a trip if they wish. I add links to the destination when possible.
4. Added a page listing all chapter officers and committee chair people in one place with email addresses.
5. Consolidated the web site; moving the bicycling pages to the same server (thank you Larry).
6. Established a standard set up navigation buttons for use on all committee web pages, making site navigation easier and more consistent.
7. Setup an email list for the Executive Committee at the very beginning of the year. I believe this has improved communication within the committee.
8. Set up email lists for EOR and Flatwater. These lists are not yet in active use.
9. More committees tried to take over maintenance of their own web pages with varied success.

2003 Challenges

1. Formatting problems in the *AMC Outdoors* document resulted in "losing" several hikes in the September listings. So far this has been addressed only by asking that the Excursions Committee proofread the completed hike listings on the website. More proactive solutions are needed.
2. Our current web hosting service is minimal at best.

2004 Goals

1. Create a more interactive website that better communicates with members and the public.

2. Make website updates easier so short notice hikes can be added to the web listings. This requires purchasing new software.
3. Host a training session to help committees use email lists where appropriate.

Committee Page Maintainers

Bicycling	Larry Hayden
Trails	Peg Peterson
Flatwater	Bob White
Mountaineering	Paul Maresca
Fairfield County Group	Fiona Nicholson
Young Members	Mark Schappert
Whitewater	Mark Schappert

Other committees have recruited volunteers for specific events during the year.

Jim Scheef - Chair



Whitewater Committee

During the past year Whitewater has shown an increase in leaders and in participation of new paddlers.

We started out the year with a New Year's paddle on the Quaboag River in Massachusetts and hit many rivers throughout the year such as the Connecticut favorite "T-Ville" on the Farmington River. The Upper and Lower Millers River in Massachusetts, Fife Brook, Zoar Gap, and the Dryway on the Deerfield River were some of our other trips.

We went to the Madawaska Kanu Centre in Canada for a week long school on whitewater, and two weekends at the Dead and Kennebec Rivers in Maine.

Whitewater, in the concern for safety, has introduced a Wilderness First Aid Course for Paddlers which is taught by SOLO and a Swiftwater Rescue Course which is taught by Zoar Outdoor.

There have also been pool sessions during the winter months and kayak instructionals at Lake Lillinonah during the summer months.

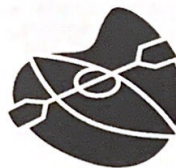
Whitewater has also been involved during the past year with helping to stop state bills mandating registration of canoes and kayaks.

Whitewater is looking to increase training for leaders and members for a safer whitewater community.

WHITEWATER COMMITTEE

<i>Ed Chase</i>	<i>Jim Kilkenny</i>	<i>Ian Scott</i>
<i>Barry Smith</i>	<i>Dana Warner</i>	<i>Jon Montelius</i>

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



Young Members Committee

The Young Members group continued to grow in 2003. Thanks to some creative leaders, our wonderful lineup of hikes was augmented by some other noteworthy events, including a mini-golf event, a couple of canoe trips and backpacking trips, and a horseback riding/hike/picnic event.

Also of note was the fourth annual Young Members Picnic. Faith Salter of Joy Street joined us for this well attended event. It was a pleasure to meet her, and to introduce her to our terrific group.

Our group of over 300 members was primarily supported by several event leaders. Top honors go to David Bellemare for leading about 2 hikes a month on average. Honorable mention goes to Jamie Howland, Jennifer Nadeau, Lisa Meunier, Eric Madsen, Mark Schappert, Dennis McGlynn, Rick Strunk, Tom Ebersold, Conrad Wells, and Brad Long for leading many different hikes and other events. We are equally grateful to all of our event leaders. For it is through the collective efforts of many that we are able to provide a wide variety of events spread over many different places. We are also grateful to our participants. They have made all the events a fun time and have helped to ensure the continued growth of the group.

We encourage and ask that more of our members become registered AMC hike leaders. A bit more leader training is required than for previous years. However, the rewards of sharing special places with others always make everything worthwhile. And the training class itself is more like recreational learning and provides good friendships and good memories. Please consider becoming an event leader for the group. You can count on the support of us and the other hike leaders to help make it possible.

Sue Bartley has decided not to continue in her role as Young Members Co-Chair on the Executive Committee. The group is currently looking for another Co-Chair to take Sue's place. A special note of thanks to our hike and event leaders, who do a terrific job of leading safe, well organized events. Also thanks to our webmaster, Mark Schappert, and to our Email list manager, Jamie Howland.

We look forward to a 2004 full of great weather, beautiful foliage and outdoor enjoyment.

YOUNG MEMBERS COMMITTEE

David Bellemare
Jennifer Nadeau

Steve Collins
Dennis McGlynn

Jamie Howland
Mark Schappert

Sue Bartley – Co-Chair
Darron Kannenberg – Co-Chair



Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee's charge is to fill any open chair positions with qualified volunteers. We get to meet many wonderful people that tend to give their time to our club over and over. We also get to "beat the bushes" looking for new talent that can give so much to the AMC. One need not be an "expert" to chair a committee. You need to be organized, have a great sense of humor, and be willing to lead. We will provide the rest. As of this report we still need a Chapter Vice Chair. Any interest? Give any of us a call.

Dave Mihalek – Chair

Nominations for the 2004 Executive Committee

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

Chapter Chair	<i>Dale Geslien</i>
Chapter Vice Chair	<i>open</i>
Secretary	<i>Jennifer Schwartzberg</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
AMC Outdoors Liaison	<i>Fred Iannotti</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Doug McKain</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Rick Merritt</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>John LeShane</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Jim O'Rourke</i>
East of the River Co-Chair	<i>Carol Hassett</i>
East of the River Co-Chair	<i>Barry Resnick</i>
Education Chair	<i>Leo Kelly</i>
Excursions Chair	<i>John Barry</i>
Fairfield County Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddlers Co-Chair	<i>Jean Trapani</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddlers Co-Chair	<i>Diane Worden</i>
Member-at-Large	<i>Bill Russell</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>Mary Ann Kouyoumjian</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>open</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Rebecca Ford</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Mark Sondeen</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Mike House</i>
Northwest Camp Chair	<i>Chuck Doll</i>
Program Chair	<i>Dave Bellemare</i>
Trails Chair	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Webmaster/Technology Chair	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>David Bellemare</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Darron Kannenberg</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 Meeting and banquet as guests of the Chapter.

Dr. Lamson Blaney of Mansfield Center, CT
Mrs. Margaret B. Christie of West Hartford, CT
Mrs. Seymour Hadaway of Tulsa, OK
Mrs. Elizabeth D. Isacson of Branford, CT
Mr. Daniel D. Kinley of Wilton, CT
Mr. Gardner W. Moulton of New Haven, CT

