



## **NW Camp Committee Annual Report for 2008**

*Submitted by Rod Parlee, Chairman and Conservation Director*

This year the NW Camp Committee elected Sue Ives as their NEW Camp Registrar. The cabin/camp registration telephone number is 203-266-6374. Sue accepts reservations and inquiries only between the hours of 9 am - 8 pm, Monday thru Friday. She promises to return calls as quick as humanly possible with the understanding that she is a volunteer and not a paid staff person.

The results of our first NW Camp questionnaire have been tabulated. The questionnaire was handed out from our tabletop exhibit before and after the Annual Meeting on December 1, 2007. Special thanks to Paul and Sue Ives and John Rek who helped man the table and interview respondents. The Conclusion in Brief - Many members have not stayed at NW Camp. Members that have stayed have had a GREAT (just short of OUTSTANDING) experience. Many respondents knew volunteers ran the Camp, agreed with current costs with the understanding they could increase but had very little knowledge of the uniqueness of the watershed area the cabin sits on top of. A majority of people responding did not know that only 0.5 percent of old growth are remaining in the eastern US and believe it is very important to hike or camp in an undisturbed [as opposed to fragmented] old growth native hemlock forest [such as NW Camp]. Surprisingly, almost everyone asked responded favorably to being familiar with LNT (Leave No Trace) ethics. When asked to list any workshops that might be of interest if held at NW Camp, a majority responded as follows: Leave No Trace (2), Trail Maintenance (2), Outdoor Cooking Weekend Workshops (2), Wildlife (2), Trail Design, Stone work (steps), SOLO Advanced First Aid, Leadership, Ridgerunner Training, Maps & Compass, GPS, Rare Species, Mycology, Bog Habitats, Birds, Trees and Winter Camping. One also suggested a New Year's Day hike up to cabin. All in all, twenty-three responded that they want to learn more, eighteen requested to be notified of Committee events and five expressed interest in Committee membership. The Committee will use this very important data to help shape future plans and policies.

The NW Camp Committee met on February 26, 2008 at the CFPA Headquarters. Five new members were added to the Committee (now 26 total) and a new Caretaker was elected. Ryan Christensen has volunteered for the two-year term and will be responsible for running workparties (along with other duties) in the spring and fall at the cabin. Two subcommittees have been established. Tom McGrath chairs the Composting Outhouse subcommittee and the NW Camp Trails subcommittee is chaired by John Hicks.

In June the Committee presented a \$100 check to the much-appreciated Ridgerunner Program and received a preliminary OK from the Torrington Health District for placement of a conceptual Mouldering Privy on the property at NW Camp.

The Committee organized an 8-mile hike as part of New Members Day on Saturday, October 13, 2008. The Fall Workparty consisted of many tasks including moving three cords of firewood, staining a picnic table, replacing old log bridge leading to cabin and a Rapid Bioassessment of wadable streams.

The Mouldering Privy will be installed by BSA Troop 162 of Columbia, CT as part of an Eagle Scout project with the help of Committee member Tom McGrath. The newly designed Privy will help reduce our human footprint on this very diverse and sensitive area. The Cabin sits on top of the Schenob Brook Watershed, which according to the Berkshire Nature Conservancy is the most diverse watershed east of the Mississippi River. Camp users are strongly encouraged to practice LNT principals while visiting NW Camp.

“We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.”

-Aldo Leopold,  
Sand County Almanac

See our updates on the Chapter's NW Camp Committee home page at:  
<http://www.ct-amc.org/nwcamp/index.shtm>

*The following events are planned at NW Camp for 2009:*

**Winter Weekend - February 27 -29, 2009**  
**Spring Workparty- Saturday, May 2, 2009**  
**Meteor Shower/Mycology Hike –Saturday, August 15, 2009**  
**New Members Day – Saturday, September 19, 2009**  
**Fall Workparty – Saturday, October 17, 2009**

