

NW Camp Committee Annual Report for 2013



Submitted by Rod Parlee, Chairman and Conservation Director

Members of the Northwest Camp committee had an outstanding year working cohesively as a team managing Northwest Camp for its 62nd year of lodging. The Committee held five, well-attended meetings throughout the year, attended two AMC Volunteer Managed Facilities meetings and attended/ tabled at two Annual meetings. Both spring and fall workparties were very productive with former Caretaker/Chairman, Roy Hoffman serving his signature gourmet breakfast sandwiches prior to a day of completing many tasks. Caretaker, Don Klein continued to take pride in organizing the workparties and managing the cabin with 125 acres, responding expediently to minor fix-it issues on a regular basis. Registrar, Craig Kennedy took the time to answer the myriad of questions associated with even just one reservation; tracked bednights efficiently and even initiated an e-mail database of camp users. Financial Liaison, Paul Thoma submitted financial reports prior to every meeting. With the report he furnished the committee detailed records of every dollar coming in and going out, projected the budget for the next year and informed the committee when grants were available. Trails Chair, John Hicks organized boundary workparties for the Committee and the National Park Service, donated loads of cordwood and attended both workparties.

The Northwest Camp committee donated \$200 to the Ridgerunner program, led an AT Day hike and organized a Winter Snowshoe weekend. The highlight of the year was when the Committee hosted its annual Perseids meteor shower weekend in August. After a delicious cookout, Felicia Ortner a Connecticut Master Wildlife Conservationist and a bear enthusiast, presented her PPT "The Bear Reality" which provided education about bears and helped dispel common misunderstandings. The Committee then presented the Canadian film "Being Caribou" about a husband and wife team Karsten Heuer [wildlife biologist] and Leanne Allison [media environmentalist] who follow a herd of 120,000 caribou on foot across 1,500 km of Arctic tundra. Both presentations were projected from the tent platform which served as a stage. Then it was off to the crystal clear and cool summit of Mount Riga where eleven stargazers saw 59 streaking meteors on Saturday night and 38 on Sunday night between midnight and 1 AM.

The cabin, constructed of American chestnut continues to stand tall on the Taconic plateau tucked away in an old-growth Eastern hemlock forest. The sparkling pristine stream adjacent to the cabin drains to Sages ravine and is part of the Schenob brook watershed drainage basin. This rare watershed has been the target of protection for many years by numerous local, state and national environmental organizations and public agencies.

The hopes remain alive that this well managed and treasured piece of property, through the committee process will encourage the cooperative support within the AMC to ensure and sustain its long-term health and viability for future generations to enjoy.

Rod Parlee, Co-Chair

Committee Roster

Tom McGrath (Co-Chair, Moldering Privy Chair) *

Rod Parlee (Co-Chair, Conservation Director) *

Merri Fox (Secretary/Volunteer Hours Coordinator)

Donald Klein (Caretaker) *

Craig Kennedy (Registrar)*

Al Puches (Treasurer)*

Paul Thoma (Financial Liaison)*

John Hicks (Past Chair/Caretaker – Trails Committee Chair)*

Carol Langley (Green Mt Club, CT Rep)

John Rek (Past Chair/Caretaker)

Steve Troop

Ron Zlotoff

Marge Hicks

* denotes 30 volunteer hours plus