



The Appalachian Mountain Club promotes the protection, enjoyment, and understanding of the mountains, forests, waters, and trails of the Appalachian region

NW Camp Committee Annual Report for 2016

Submitted by Rod Parlee, Co-Chairman and Conservation Director

The Committee had an active year managing the cabin and its surrounding 125-acres, high on the Taconic plateau. The rustic but cozy cabin is constructed of American chestnut logs, tucked away under an old-growth forest canopy in a remote and environmentally sensitive area in the very northwest corner of Connecticut. The Northwest Camp committee volunteers managing this self-service facility continue to balance the needs of its guests with a safe and environmentally responsible self-service camping experience.

The sparkling pristine stream adjacent to the cabin drains to Sages ravine and is part of the unique 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. Continuously learning and sharing what makes this fragile and vulnerable property and watershed so rare is a high priority of the NW Camp Committee.

Productive meetings took place throughout the year and the two annual workparties (first Saturday in May & November) resulted in the completion of many tasks. Some highlights included; Keith Spaar of the CT Chapter Education committee led a Leave No Trace (LNT) workshop for the committee at the Fall workparty, two new Cedar rocking chairs were assembled by Rich Michna for the front deck and a custom crafted bookcase with a painted AMC logo was installed by Trent Link at the Spring workparty.

The Perseid Meteor Shower Weekend Extravaganza was action packed with two nightly cookouts, LNT Mini-workshop, a skit performed by six Ridgerunners, a Bog Trail Bridge Plant Identification Walk led by Bill Moorhead an independent consulting field botanist, a report on the Fawn Mortality Project of Northwest CT by Ray Hardy a CT DEEP Master Wildlife Conservationist, an invigorating Owl Prowl led by special guest Donna Rose of the Audubon Society, Bog Trail Education Project Power Point (PPT) presented by Eagle Scout candidate Josh Michna and a NW Camp Potpourri PPT of volunteers in action presented by Rod Parlee. In appreciation of the importance and effectiveness of Ridge Runners, the Committee donated \$200 to the program and strongly supports more regimented monitoring and an extended season beyond Labor Day.

New committee members, Eagle Scout candidate Josh Michna (of New Hartford Troop 19) and his father, Rich were active all year planning for the completion of the Bog Trail Education Project. Josh raised funds to pay for the publication of a NW Camp Bog Trail Guide brochure with many corresponding (professionally printed and laminated) sign posts describing bog indicator species and access to the trail.

Thanks to the generosity of the CT Chapter, a new woodstove was purchased, shipped and installed, all during the month of September. The new air-tight wood stove has a cast-iron door instead of glass, thereby making it safer to use and much more efficient than the previous one. It should reduce cordwood consumption which has been on the increase. As a token of appreciation, the committee has agreed to make a plaque or emblem stating it was "Donated by the AMC CT Chapter in recognition of the role they played in building this beautiful cabin and acquiring this Forever Wild Property".

The hope remains alive that this well managed and fragile piece of property, through the committee's collaborative and information sharing process will ensure and sustain its long-term health and viability for future generations to enjoy.

Submitted by Rod Parlee

Committee Roster with Volunteers

Tom McGrath (Co-Chair, Moldering Privy Committee) *
Rod Parlee (Co-Chair, Conservation Director) *
Merri Fox (Secretary) *
Donald Klein (Caretaker) *
Craig Kennedy (Registrar) *
Al Puches (Treasurer) *
Paul Thoma (Financial Liaison) *
John Hicks (Past Chair/Caretaker – Trails Committee) *
Roy Hoffman (Past Chair/Caretaker)
Carol Langley (Cabin Monitor & Green Mt Club, CT Rep)
Trent Link (Past Chair/Caretaker) *
Art Mauger (Cabin Monitor) *
John Rek (Past Chair/Caretaker)
Eric Harvey
Marge Hicks
Chris McGrath
Josh Michna*
Rich Michna*
Tom O'Connor
Joe Parenteau
Ethan Rain*
Tim Stalling
Angel Vega

* denotes Stewardship Award with more than 30 volunteer hours