



CONNECTICUT CHAPTER
100th Anniversary

Annual Report
November 15, 2021

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 and incorporated into the
Chapter Standing Rules.



APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB CONNECTICUT CHAPTER 2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chapter Chair	<i>Jocelyn Eppich</i>
Chapter Vice-Chair	<i>open position</i>
Secretary	<i>Martha Cain</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
Appalachian Trail Chair	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Judy Borrmann *</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Susan Grant</i>
Communications Chair	<i>open position</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Andrew May</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>open position</i>
East of the River Chair	<i>Ray Phillips</i>
Education Co-Chair	<i>Keith Spaar</i>
Education Co-Chair	<i>Janet Ainsworth</i>
Excursions Co-Chair	<i>Peg Peterson</i>
Excursions Co-Chair	<i>Phil Wilsey</i>
Fairfield County Group Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Family Activities Co-Chair	<i>Corey Mott</i>
Family Activities Co-Chair	<i>Janet Ainsworth</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair	<i>Barry Gorfain</i>
Member at Large	<i>open position</i>
Member at Large	<i>open position</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>Alison Terjek</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>Barbara Beckerman *</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>John DeAngelis</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Chris Granata *</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Darcy Witham</i>
Northwest Camp Chair	<i>Rod Parlee</i>
Program Chair	<i>open position</i>
Webmaster/Technology	<i>Keith Spaar</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Ed Yisnitsky *</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Troy Schinkel *</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Corey Mott</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Alison Terjek</i>

* Elected to position during program year

CHAPTER CHAIR'S REPORT -2021

We were able to have many of our events this year, despite the Covid-19 restrictions. Our Chapter celebrated its 100-year anniversary, which was officially on June 11. Gathering restrictions were still in place at that time so we held a celebration on September 18 at Hubbard Park in Meriden with about 100 persons in attendance. The Chapter received an Official Statement from Susan Bysiewicz, Connecticut's Lieutenant Governor, who sent regrets for not attending. Hubbard Park was chosen because of the proximity to West Peak where the first meeting was held to discuss forming our chapter on June 11, 1921, with a hike leaving Hubbard Park to West Peak on that day.

Our Centennial Committee worked very hard for two years to capture 25 years of chapter history from 1996 to present. Previous publications from 1938, 1957, 1981 and 1996 were also incorporated into the book "A Century Outdoors, The AMC in Connecticut Story: 1921-2021". This is a wonderful book and I think everyone who is a member would like to have a copy. This book is of professional quality with photographs and stories from members. We are lucky to have a wonderful group of volunteers that were able and willing to dedicate their time to document our history. One interesting fact I learned from a long-time member was back in the early years of AMC, to become a member you had to have two current members of AMC write a letter on your behalf. This could be a difficult task, because finding members during the club's infancy could be difficult. So sometimes you would ask people you met on the trail if they were AMC members so you could ask for a letter of recommendation. Times certainly have changed.

Our chapter has contributed to several funds for conservation efforts and education programs. As in years past we contributed \$10,000 to the Education Outdoors, formally Youth Opportunity Program, which provides gear and subsidized trips to children in low-income households in the New Haven area. We gave \$2000

to the AMC Waters and Rivers Protection Fund. One of their projects is to clear blowdowns that restrict paddling on area rivers. We approved \$5000 in funds for the Climbing Resources Protection Fund to preserve key climbing resources that are for sale. We also maintain a Teen Wilderness Fund that is used to send two children to a summer outdoors experience. This year we received a generous donation to this fund from member June Powell to honor our Chapter's East of the River hike leaders.

Even with Covid restrictions in place during the first half of the year, we were able to recreate more safely as more people were vaccinated and active cases were down in Connecticut. Our committees were just as active this year as in past years. We opted for outside activities, which is easy for our hardy group since we are mainly outside. You can read about all the wonderful activities our committees offered within this Annual Report. There are also committees that serve more than just the participants, for example, our Conservation and Appalachian Trails committees. I recommend reading their enclosed reports if you are not familiar with the work they do with our local and state agencies.

As I was reflecting on one of our recent events, I realize how many volunteers are needed for a successful event. We must have had 20 volunteers to successfully carry out our recent AT Day. We could not have this event without the continued work of our volunteers, and we can always use more.

Whether you can assist in a small way, once a year, or in a more active role, we can always use your help. We are one of the strongest AMC chapters and it is because of our wonderful volunteers and members. I cannot thank everyone enough for all the time and effort you contributed to make the Connecticut Chapter the best.

Jocelyn Eppich, CT Chapter Chair-2021

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING - 2020

The 99th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was held on November 15, 2020. It was held as an on-line ZOOM meeting due to restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic, and was attended by 60 members.

Chapter Chair John Grasso called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm, introducing himself as meeting narrator, and thanking Hannah Hergenrather of club Volunteer Relations for her technical assistance in running this virtual event. Next he reviewed the outline for the meeting, and encouraged attendees to read the 2020 Annual Report that has been posted to the CT Chapter website, as a useful overview of this year's chapter activities. (See pp. 3-5 of the 2020 Annual Report for more detail of John's comments.)

He acknowledged that normal chapter activities were halted starting in March this year due to Covid, and even when restrictions were loosened somewhat in June, many did not feel comfortable leading or even participating within the club-recommended guidelines. Though some activities have taken place, participation has been much reduced from prior years. Even so, our chapter morale remains high, and we can be proud of AMC's leadership role in securing permanent and full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a historic milestone in the quest to preserve and protect wildlands and waters. AMC member ties are strong, and when Covid troubles have passed, our chapter will rebound, as our common love of the outdoors remains strong.

John commended the Appalachian Trail Committee's response to the unique challenges of this year, which included marked increase in trail use, Covid restrictions on volunteer trail maintenance, and windstorms knocking down hundreds of trees.

Deceased Chapter Members

John had participants take a moment to remember those members who have died in the year since our last Annual Gathering: Harold Bloomer, Anthony Choma, J. Hugh Cobrain*, Ted Cowles, Alvah Cramer, Ian Cuun, David Cullen, Leroy Foote, Emerson Harrison, Richard Hooper, John Kotchian, Bruce Lepage, Layne Lescault, Daniel Marquis, David T. Nelson, Edward Richardson*, David Roberts, Richard Stubbs, and Luella Bartes. (* denotes 50-year members)

Volunteer Stewardship Awardees

John then read the extensive list of Volunteer Stewardship Award recipients (other than the AT Committee). The complete list will appear in an upcoming CT Chapter Newsletter. Your efforts are so much appreciated!

Appalachian Trail Committee Awardees

David Boone of the AT Committee next recognized members who have made noteworthy contributions. (See pp. 13-15 of the 2020 Annual Report for more detail of committee activities and Dave's comments). The committee was very active this year, despite the shutdown between St. Patrick's Day and mid-June, and Covid restrictions placed on them. There were fewer participants this year because of this: 71 volunteers contributed 3,183 hours in the field, and 813 hours of administrative work, which included viewing informational videos addressing Covid issues. In all, it was a successful season.

Dave recognized two individuals who gave exceptional service to the committee this year:

- Bill Schaffer, who lives in OH, but travels to CT to work 10-12 hr. days for the committee for a week, then returns home, and
- Jim Liptack, who has 508 hrs. of committee work this year alone.

Dave then recognized those individuals who have accumulated career hours as follows:

12 hours:

Ray Jarozewski	Chris Fricke	Mark Delude
Gregg Nolting	Denis Cronin	Craig Kennedy
Doug Goodale	Sarah Lippman	Craig Weber

50 hours:

Ray Jarozewski (youngest awardee)	Mark Delude	Oliver Geiss
Matt Sharp	Daria Cummings	Christoph Geiss

100 hours:

Ray Jarozewski	Sue Kirk	Leo Kelly
David McCunn	Shirley McCunn	Christoph Geiss

250 hours:

Ray Jarozewski	Gary Guenther
----------------	---------------

As well, several CT AT Committee volunteers qualify for the AMC Club-Wide Stewardship award for the 2020 Season

PYCHOWSKA AWARD - 96 HOURS

Ray Bracone	Chip Ward	Ray Jarozewski
Paul Reder	Bernadette Ellegard	Rich Cady
Henry Edmonds	Walter Daniels	

HART AWARD - 224 HOURS

Bill Channing	Russ Waldie	Dave Boone
	Jim Liptack	

Thank you for all you do, and here's hoping that next year will be a healthier, and even better year!

Appie of the Year Award, and Lifetime Service Award

John then introduced Dave Boone, Peg Peterson, and Janet Ainsworth as the Awards Committee which selects and presents the two highest annual awards the Chapter gives to select members.

Peg presented the 2020 Appie of the Year award to Barry Resnick. (See p. 33 of the 2020 Annual Report for more detail of Peg's comments.) Some of Barry's notable contributions:

- Over 20 yrs. service to the EOR Committee, including stints as vice-chair and chair, and monthly hike coordinator
- Manager of hiking phone list
- Hike leader, including urban hikes to NYC and Boston, and hike for the annual December cookie swap.

Congratulations and much appreciation to Barry, our 2020 Appie of the Year. Barry expressed thanks for the honor.

Janet presented the 2020 Lifetime Service Award to Dale Geslien. (See pp. 35-36 of the 2020 Annual Report for more detail of Janet's comments.) Some of Dale's notable contributions since the mid-90's:

- Active contributor to several Chapter committees, as member and/or chair: Membership, Programs, Education, Fairfield County Group, AT
- Chapter Vice-Chair, then Chair
- Chapter and Club Educator
- Hike and Adventure Travel Trip Leader
- Regional Director
- Club Distinguished Service Award Recipient
- Chapter Facebook Account Administrator
- Club Board of Advisors

Congratulations Dale, our 2020 Lifetime Service Award recipient! Dale expressed thanks for the honor. She noted the AMC has been a huge part of her life over the past 25 years and it has been very rewarding. She's been enjoying the memories stirred by her work on the chapter's Centennial History. The friendships and memories developed over the years have been so meaningful, and her contributions are a true labor of love.

Commemorative plaques will be sent to Barry and Dale.

25 and 50-year Members

John then recognized the new 25-year members, reading the list of 47 names. He also read the list of new 50-year members, of which there are 8. (See p. 38 of the 2020 Annual Report for names.) John has sent the appropriate 25-year, and 50-year pins to these members.

AMC Professional Staff Speaker

John next introduced Jennifer Norris, the club's Chief Development Officer since 2017.

Jennifer thanked the chapter for our continued engagement in this very challenging year, and referenced a link that outlines club efforts in several areas. She also offered these remarks:

Her role is to lead a team that raises charitable funds to fuel AMC's mission, and now also leads the Membership Team. She enjoys being part of an organization where she can combine her passion of mission-driven fundraising with her personal love of the outdoors and her belief that the healing, grounding, and connecting power of nature should be available to all people. We can feel good about how AMC has responded to the Covid pandemic, which has forced us to approach our mission in new ways. The pandemic has posed great challenges for an organization that has often been about communal experiences. We have built upon our strong tradition and reputation for safety consciousness. This spring, a Covid Task Force was established to foster a team approach to inform real time decision-making and communicate across club units. She thanked all who assisted in developing guidelines and rubrics for deciding how and when we could re-open. This includes the Board of Directors (with our own Cindy Butts), the Outdoor Leadership Development Committee, and the committees of the CT Chapter. Tough decisions, like closing high mountain huts and volunteer-led camps and cabins for the 1st time in our history, have had huge financial consequences. She commended volunteers at Northwest Camp, who cared for the cabin during the extended closure, looking forward to when reservations can again be accepted. She also thanked the CT AT Committee for their continual monitoring and maintenance in spite of heavy trail use and work restrictions.

Other measures have required new training and procedures for volunteers, who are commended for being flexible and adaptable, while remaining Covid-conscious in order that some activities could re-open. Across the organization, AMC moved to on-line platforms, and converted many programs to on-line formats. Training, educational programs, social events, and meetings have moved on-line, and response has been positive, with higher than expected attendance. Continuing with this going forward will help us to reach new audiences, even when we are able to meet again in person. We have advocated from our own homes for clean air and water, climate action, and land protection with good results. This year's challenges have also opened up opportunities, as more people than ever are turning to the outdoors. Chapters can serve a vital role as a resource in the community for those discovering the outdoors for the first time. She encouraged us to build upon our strengths and welcome these new outdoor people into the AMC.

Jennifer next spoke about financial consequences of the pandemic to the club:

Significant revenue comes from lodging and programs, and this revenue supports a good portion of the rest of the organization, including our conservation and education work. This year, about 1/3 of our total revenue isn't available, which has forced some tough choices:

- Suspended discretionary and non-essential capital spending
- Permanent closure of some satellite offices
- Reduced organization staff by ¼ through layoffs, hiring freezes, and furloughs
- Reduced salaries for most highly compensated staff, including CEO, and the Leadership Team.

We have applied for and received a \$3.3 million Cares Act loan through the PPP, and we have pursued and won Emergency Relief Funds on special grants; we are hoping that similar relief packages will soon be available at the federal level. Membership dues and the Annual Fund have played an essential role in getting us through this year. They support every part of what we do, particularly those areas that don't generate their own revenue, including ongoing research and advocacy, and training and

supporting our volunteers. As of today, we are $\frac{3}{4}$ towards our goal for the 2020 Annual Fund. We are facing our 1st unbalanced budget in 30 years, and by year-end we may be facing a deficit of between \$.5 million and \$1.5 million. In 2021, the pandemic will likely continue to impede programming and lodging. Based on this assumption, our 1st pass at a budget shows us facing a deficit of over \$3 million. This will again force some difficult choices, and the club will need chapter volunteer and member energy, engagement and help more than ever. We will weather the storm. The organization may look different on the other side, though still driven by our mission, and we hope to be even stronger and better.

Business Portion of Meeting

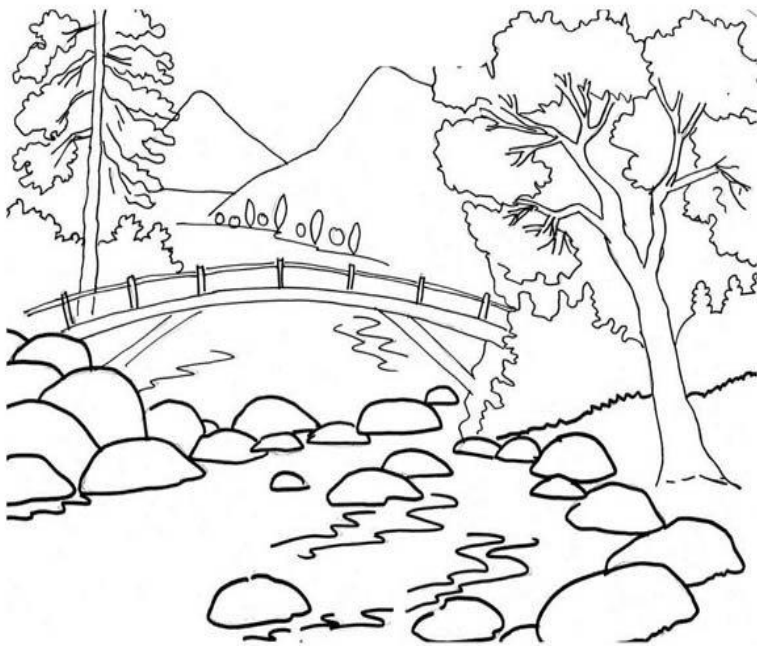
At 4:49 pm John began the business portion of the meeting wherein the Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting and Treasurer's Report were approved with no further discussion.

Bruce Laroche, Chair of the Nominating Committee, read the Slate of Nominees for the 2021 Executive Committee. The Slate was approved and installed with no further discussion. The complete slate appears on p. 37 of the 2020 Annual Report. Note that openings still exist for Chapter Vice-Chair, Bicycling Co-Chair, Communications Chair, Conservation Co-Chair, and Member At Large. If anyone is interested, contact John Grasso or Jocelyn Eppich, who can brief you on what the responsibilities of the positions are, and how you might fit in.

John explained the tradition of the Red Hat: Since 1951, beginning with Chair John Herr, Chairs and Past Chairs wear red hats at the Annual Meeting, so members know who they are. When a new Chair is voted in, the last Chair gives a red hat to the new Chair; John gave Jocelyn Eppich her red hat this year! John asked the Past Chairs in attendance to don their red hats and be recognized: Judy Besancon, Dale Geslien, Janet Ainsworth, Ledge Clayton, Leo Kelly, Sue Hardy, Ann Bailey, Cindy Butts, and now, Jocelyn Eppich.

With no further business, the 99th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Martha Cain, CT Chapter Secretary-2020



**TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019 AND 2020**

	2019	2020
Cash at January 1	\$150,862	\$136,843
Revenue Collected:		
Boston dues allocation	24,414	22,379
Program activities	20,778	4,898
Contributions	1,620	100
Reserve funds - sources (1)	1,445	10,506
Share of initial memberships	1,740	480
Leadership Training	14,194	159
Merchandise sales	29	0
Interest and investment income	<u>6,153</u>	<u>7,236</u>
Total revenue collected	\$70,373	\$45,758
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	21,691	3,621
Youth Opportunities Program - New Haven	10,000	10,000
Reserve funds - uses (1)	3,812	71
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	1,173	594
Conservation	990	130
Education	15,345	2,138
Excursions	135	22
Executive	11,933	8,817
Membership	322	206
Mountaineering	2,275	273
CT AT	14,789	11,368
Whitewater	1,927	0
Total expenditures	\$84,392	\$37,240
Cash at December 31	\$136,843	\$145,361

**TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 AND 2021**

	9/30/20	9/30/21
Cash at January 1, 2020	\$136,843	\$145,361
Revenue Collected:		
Boston dues allocation	15,162	15,114
Program activities	4,898	2,158
Reserve funds - sources (1)	10,055	3,164
Share of initial memberships	270	730
Leadership training	0	2,221
Contributions	0	2,750
Interest and investment income	<u>(3,843)</u>	<u>27,207</u>
Total revenue collected	\$26,542	\$53,344
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	3,622	402
Youth Opportunities Program - New Haven	10,000	10,000
Reserve funds - uses (1)	71	0
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	294	0
Conservation	130	500
Education	1,950	3,734
Excursions	22	6
Executive	5,401	5,647
Mountaineering	273	947
CT AT	2,836	3,632
Total expenditures	\$24,599	\$24,868
Cash at September 30, 2020	\$138,786	\$173,837

TREASURER'S REPORT RESERVE FUNDS (1)

Reserve funds represent 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:

	12/31/19	12/31/20	9/30/21
Reserve funds:			
AT Handicap Accessible Project	5,176	5,176	5,176
Eversource Donation	-	10,000	10,000
Other CT-AT Committee Memorials/Grants	4,442	4,371	4,371
Connecticut Teen Wilderness Fund **	1,166	1,672	4,836
Whitewater Committee reserve	6,305	7,722	10,922
General fund:	119,754	116,420	138,532
Total cash:	\$136,843	\$124,767	\$173,837

Al Puches, CT Chapter Treasurer-2021

**A generous donation to the CT Teen Wilderness Fund was made in 2021 by Chapter member June Powell, in honor of our Chapter's East of the River hike leaders.



Appalachian Trail Committee

The Chapter Appalachian Trail (AT) Committee is responsible for the maintenance and management of the Appalachian Trail and its side trails in Connecticut, including the adjoining public lands, in partnership with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the Connecticut DEEP, and the National Park Service.

- AMC-CT AT volunteers contributed 3,525 field hours, and an additional 588 hours of non-field based work. Although our field hours increased by 340 hours, our total hours of 4,113 is nearly identical to last season.
- The Ned Anderson bridge repairs were completed by Town and County Bridge and Rail. The decking was replaced, faulty steel was repaired or replaced, and the north abutment was stabilized. The project was completed without any unforeseen issues, and the bridge looks like new!
- AT shelters remained closed Trail-wide per NPS Covid precautions.
- Two new section maintainers were appointed. Greg Nolting of New Milford was designated to be co-maintainer of the Hoyt Rd.-10 Mile Shelter section and Christoph Geiss of Wethersfield was designated to be co-maintainer of the West Cornwall Rd.- Mt. Eastern section.
- At the request of ATC, we provided an “AT Ed-venture” program which is intended to have each Trail State present on a nature topic targeted to school aged viewers. We were extremely fortunate that two colleagues of Jim Liptack’s at Wilton High School, Matt Hoyt and Jim Hunter created a presentation on “Birds of Prey along the AT”.
- NPS created a well water operations and maintenance manual for water supplies on the AT. These regulations must be complied with to continue to provide water from groundwater sources. The requirements are extensive, and

do not come with any funding to support implementation. In light of this, the Committee determined that it was impossible for us to comply, and we dismantled the well pumps at Ten Mile shelter and Silver Hill. ATC agreed to handle the communications necessary to inform Trail users. They also created signs we posted at road crossings nearest to the affected sites indicating alternative water sources. The well closure went into effect the end of March. The handles were removed from the pumps in June.

- ATC hired a new Southern New England Regional Manager replacing Adam Brown. Tracy Lind began work in April.
- The Committee submitted all documentation required by the updated Volunteer Service Agreement with the ATC and NPS. The agreement specifies what we are required to comply with in order for our volunteers to be protected under the NPS “Volunteers In Parks” program.
- The Committee participated in the “CT TrailFinder” project developed by the CT Trail Census at UConn. The project seeks to be the 1-source for trail information for Connecticut. In contrast with other trail location programs, this one is controlled by the trail managing entities rather than an application developer or user uploads.
- A successful Trail Patroller training was held on May 2 in the Stony Brook area. Four participants were trained, and all four agreed to volunteer as Trail Patrollers. They will be a welcome addition to augment our summer Ridgerunner program. AMC Ridgerunner Coordinator David Kurtz was also a participant.
- Our partner the Salisbury Land Trust will hire a contractor to clear the view at Billy’s View. We also hope to construct the Raccoon Hill relocation in conjunction with the Land Trust on Connecticut Trails Day.

- Corridor monitors discovered extensive ATV use on ATC property in Cornwall, which continues on to DEEP land. Boundary Coordinator Chip Ward documented the incursion, confronted the abusers, and referred the matter to NPS. DEEP and NPS issued a “cease and desist” order to the violator. Our corridor managers also have been interacting with Eversource regarding their vegetation management efforts in the Ten Mile River area. Our concerns center on the presence of RTE (rare, threatened, or endangered) plants in the area to be cleared, and the extent of clearing Eversource intends to do.
- The Bulls Bridge Task Force was reactivated this season, with the condition of support by a regular NPS law enforcement presence deployed from the Roosevelt Historical Park in Hyde Park, NY. For various reasons, NPS was not in a position to provide law enforcement to the extent desired by the Committee. Activity at Bulls Bridge was manageable this past season, but mainly as a result of rainy weather and dangerously high water at the “beach areas”.
- The long-awaited Limestone Springs Trail relocation is still awaited. Although a professional AMC trail crew was to begin this work in August, the AMC crew did not have the manpower to do the work.
- Botanical surveys were conducted by ATC as part of the compliance review for the Brassie and Riga shelter replacements. The review included not only the shelter locations, but also material loading and drop zones. Additionally, expanded footprints for the Riga shelter in particular were considered, due to the fact that the new construction must be ADA compliant.
- Following discussion with the MA AT Committee and the MA DCR, it was decided that the bridge crossing into Sages Ravine Campsite is irreparable. The bridge was dismantled and

removed by the MA and CT AT Committees in September. Fording downstream is recommended until a more permanent solution is developed, approved, and constructed. At this time, both the CT and MA AT Committees are strongly considering a stepping stone crossing.

- The long anticipated Schaghticoke Mt. Trail relocation was opened for business. In only four workparties, the new route was cleared, blazed, and the old route painted out and brushed in. Signage was installed, and a new blue-blazed side trail to the Schaghticoke campsite was built. The new section was officially opened (and the old section officially closed) on 9/4/21. The new piece of Trail is 1.4 mi. long (0.2 longer than the old route) and takes the AT off the Schaghticoke Reservation, which constituted the last unprotected parcel the Trail crossed in Connecticut.
- A successful effort of historical importance this past season was “renaming” the Cesar Brook campsite. We responded to a request from the Upper Housatonic Natural Heritage Area concerning the name of our Caesar Brook campsite. Students at the Salisbury School have been researching the Caesar family of Sharon, a black family with extensive landholdings in the 18th century. The students had discovered that in spite of the location known as Caesar Brook (for which the campsite was named) and various other misspellings in records and gravestones, the student researchers and their advisor, as well as descendants of the Cesar family, hoped to change the name to what is the correct spelling--Cesar. The Committee gained approval for the name change, and posted correct signage. The response from the students and their teacher was heart-warming. We will continue to correct maps and guidebooks over time.
- We discovered following hurricane Ida that the Macedonia Brook Bridge had been washed off the gabions and the

stringers were extremely rotted. The deck was tilted in a manner that made crossing hazardous. An emergency workparty was organized, and was able to level the deck, but could not move the stringers back into place because they were so spongy.

The Committee is grateful to our dedicated Section Maintainers, Boundary Monitors, Trail Patrollers, Natural Heritage Monitors, and all Chapter members who participate in our workparties and other efforts. Projects to improve the Trail go out nearly every weekend. Please consider coming with us soon.

Ray Bracone	Jeff Glans	Jim Liptack
Bob Poitras	Rich Cady	Joan Tegtmeier
Gene Grayson	Paul Reder	Ann Sherwood
Walt Daniels	Leo Kelly	Adam Lippman
Russ Waldie	Henry Edmonds	Elaine LaBella
Sue Spring	Chip Ward	Bernadette Ellegard

Tracy Lind, ATC Southern New England Regional Manager
Dave Boone, CT Chapter Chair, AT Committee - 2021



2021 SEASON A.T. COMMITTEE AWARDS

12 CUMULATIVE HOURS

Elijah Boulanger

Ken Johnson

Kevin Johnson

Aurelia Umholtz

Alex Sowinski

Alex Mosenthal

Martha Schmitt

Abel Ngai

Laura O'Rourke

Joel Jones

Olivia Zeiner-Morrish

50 CUMULATIVE HOURS

Gregg Nolting

Craig Kennedy

100 CUMULATIVE HOURS

Bob Crowther

Gene Grayson

250 CUMULATIVE HOURS

Pete Myers

2000 CUMULATIVE HOURS

John Hicks



AMC CLUB-WIDE STEWARDSHIP AWARDS

PYCHOWSKA AWARD - 96 SEASON HOURS ANNUAL 2021

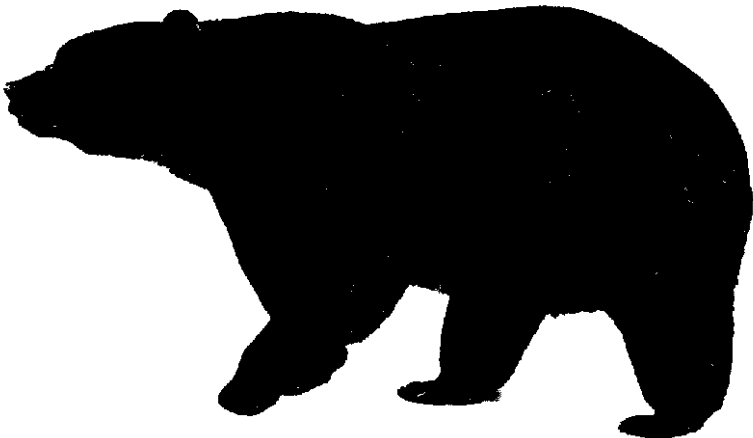
Ray Bracone	John Hicks	Walter Daniels
Bill Schaffer	Rich Cady	Daria Cummings
Don Klein	Ken Schmitt	

HART AWARD - 224 SEASON HOURS ANNUAL 2021

Bill Channing	Henry Edmonds	Paul Reder
Russ Waldie	Dave Boone	Chip Ward
Jim Liptack	Christoph Geiss	Mark Delude

NPS PRESIDENTIAL LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD

Henry Edmonds 9871 hours
Walter Daniels 8098 hours
Russ Waldie 7282 hours
Dave Boone 6898 hours
Jim Liptack 5518 hours



Bicycling Committee

Bike Rides:

A total of 14 posted bike rides took place between mid-October 2020 and mid-March 2021. Once we returned to Daylight Savings in March 2021, the number of bike rides increased significantly with a total of 90 rides posted March through mid-October 2021. Recurring Tuesday Night Rides from South Windsor or Manchester were led by Judy Borrmann, co-led by David Waldburger and Steve Borrmann as available. Road Bike Rides took place weekly from March through October 2021; as with tradition, they extend from the beginning of Daylight Savings Time in March to the last week before Daylight Savings Time ends in November. Occasional Thursday Night Rides from Essex were led by Susan Grant, Neal Fisher and Mariann Gleba. Essex rides took place if not every week then every other week or so based on ride leader availability from mid-May through mid-August.

Special Rides:

Ride leaders were creative this year with rides that took us to so many scenic places in CT, MA and NY and included special theme rides. Highlights include the following: 93 mile Tour of Quabbin Reservoir with a stop at Rice Fruit Market led by Judy Borrmann over Labor Day weekend; Main Lighthouse Weekend Bike Trip led by Leo Pon in September; Litchfield via Norfolk Cornwall led by Neal Fisher and Susan Lowery in June; Kent as West as it Gets going into Dutchess County in NY led by Susan Grant and Neal Fisher in May.

Ride Posting:

Mark Kiley, Judy Borrmann and Susan Grant served as Bike Ride Coordinators.

'Ride with GPS':

Our chapter extended its subscription to 'Ride with GPS' software. This allows members a shared database for rides, easy route download to cell phones and other electronic devices, plus audible cues for safer riding.

Bicycling Facebook Page:

A new CT AMC Bicycling Facebook page was created this year to increase our communication and focus primarily on Bicycling events.

New Bicycling Co-Chair:

Judy Borrmann filled the open position and was voted in as Bicycling Co-Chair in March 2021 replacing Mariann Gleba who stepped down. Judy has been leading CT AMC Bike Rides for the past 14 years.

New Leaders:

In May new ride leaders Barbara Beckerman and Joseph Snyder led their first ride in Madison with trainer Susan Grant. While two more leaders expressed interest in leading rides, they didn't follow through after we reached out to them.

Bike Safety:

Bike helmet mirrors that were previously purchased at a discount, were distributed to Ride Leaders to hand out on AMC rides in a continued effort to raise awareness of the safety benefits of using a mirror while riding a bike.

Susan Grant & Judy Borrmann, CT Chapter Co-Chairs
Bicycling Committee-2021



Communications Committee

The AMC Activities Database (ActDB) continues to be the hub of communications for our chapter events. Each committee posts their own events into the ActDB, with help from the Excursions Committee when needed. Despite Covid in 2021, outdoor activities were allowed and in great demand. For the 12-month period ending in October 2021, the chapter posted over 600 activities including hikes, trails runs, bike rides, trail work, mountaineering and indoor climbing, and paddle events. The chapter also promotes our events using an opt-in email list on Constant Contact, which contains almost 4800 addresses. The Weekly, now compiled and sent by Jocelyn Eppich, advertises all upcoming chapter activities through the following two weekends.

2021 CT-AMC Meetup Group

The AMC-CT-Chapter Meetup group now has nearly 3400 members and 35 people on the Leadership Team including organizers and event organizers. Over 170 of our events in the past year have been posted on Meetup.

Submitted by: Peg Peterson, on behalf of
Communications Committee-2021

2021 CT-AMC Facebook Report as of 10/17/2021

CT-AMC Facebook Page

- 2,534 likes, an increase of 277
- 2,786 followers, an increase of 326
- 5,962 Facebook Page Reach

This year's record-breaking post was the 2/6/21 sharing of the Club's outdoors.org post "5 Ways Mt. Washington Observatory Staff Cope with Isolation" with the commentary, "Staff at the Mount Washington Observatory work shifts that require spending a week or more holed up on the summit of the highest mountain in the Northeast. Here are a few of their proven methods that may help the rest of us cope with isolation while we are staying

home.” The post reached 2,059 with 111 engagements, 5 reactions and 4 shares.

The three next most popular posts were:

9/18/2021 “A great day was had by all who attended the Connecticut Chapter Centennial Celebration at Hubbard Park today! The post reached 1152, with 227 engagements, 19 reactions and 3 shares.

3/2/2021 “January - March is coyote mating season in Connecticut. Coyotes are out and about during the day and can be more harmful and aggressive at this time. Keep your pets safe. See this DEEP website for more information.

<https://portal.ct.gov/.../Nuisance.../Living-with-Coyotes...>”. The post reached 1214, with 68 engagements, 6 reactions and 16 shares.

6/12/2021 “Happy Anniversary to us! The Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club marked 100 years yesterday with a re-enactment of the first Chapter gathering, June 11, 1921 on West Peak, 1,024 feet, of the Hanging Hills, above the city of Meriden. Centennial History Committee Chair and Past Chapter Chair John Grasso read the original minutes of the first organizational meeting. In attendance were Dave Boone, Steve Braciak, Ledge Clayton, Dave Cronin, Frank Curtis, Bob Dickenson, Janet DiMattia, Dale Geslien, John Grasso, Leo Kelly, Sue Kirk, Maggie McCoil, Kathleen Miller, Bob Nichols, Peg Peterson, Ray Phillips, June Powell, Norm Schoeler, Mike Schumann, Keith Spaar, and Phil Wilsey. The Chapter is planning an official celebration later this year at which time our centennial book will be published and available for sale. Stay tuned!” The post reached 1056, with 234 engagements, 46 reactions, 6 comments and 1 share.

Members are encouraged to post to the Chapter Facebook page. Visitor posts can be viewed by clicking on the Community section of the Chapter Facebook page.

CT-AMC Facebook Groups

- The Conservation Committee Facebook Group has 121 members, an increase of 10

- The Family and Young Members Facebook Group has 173, an increase of 45
- The Whitewater Committee Facebook Group has 445 members, an increase of 27
- The Mountaineering Committee Facebook Group has 404 members, an increase of 21

CT Chapter AMC Facebook Page Administrator, Dale Geslien

2021 CT-AMC Twitter Report as of 10/18/2021

The Twitter account went live in 2017. It now has 325 followers and in the 28 days preceding this report, it had 1,777 impressions, which means that is how often people saw its tweets. Our followers include the commissioner of DEEP, the president of AMC, AMC board members, environmental/conservation groups, land trusts, legislators, a mayor, journalists and lots of regular people. The thrust is conservation, although I post special chapter events, similar to the policy followed by the main chapter Facebook page. I also frequently retweet tweets from the main club account.

CT Chapter AMC Twitter Account Administrator, Janet Ainsworth



Conservation Committee

The Conservation Committee was busy this past year. Under the leadership of committee member Bob Andrews, and in honor and celebration of what public lands have given us during the pandemic, the committee provided funds and labor to "Friends of American Legion State Park" to help build a bridge. Visit <https://friendsctstateparks.org/american-legion/>

Several committee members advocated in favor of the Transportation Climate Initiative, which can best be described as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative for the transportation sector. Although it did not pass this year, proponents promise to bring it up again next session.

Visit (<https://www.transportationandclimate.org/>)

The committee submitted testimony on behalf of legislation to "allow" (but not mandate) municipalities to pass a conveyance fee (surcharge on certain local property transactions) to fund open space and low income housing.

The committee also filed testimony in opposition to a bill that would have reduced funding to state parks.

Andrew May, CT Chapter Chair, Conservation Committee-2021

Janet Ainsworth

Robert Andrews

Jamie Lee

Russ Charest



East of the River Committee

During the Covid pandemic many informal (i.e. not AMC-sanctioned hikes) were completed. When formal AMC hikes were allowed again, we had Tuesday and Thursday hikes throughout the state.

Bob Nickels stepped down from his position as hike coordinator for Tuesday regular hikes and Patty Zemsta took over the position. Our other hike coordinators are Barry Resnick and Leigh Knuttel. We are looking for someone to be our hike coordinator for Tuesday alternate hikes.

Ray Phillips, CT Chapter Chair, EOR Committee-2021



Education Committee

The Covid health emergency continued into 2021, limiting the number of people that the committee was able to train. The CT Chapter pioneered outdoor training during this period, continuing to provide in-person training despite the pandemic. Scenario-only training was offered to people who took the online substantive training offered by AMC staff and volunteers. Individuals who had no other training were provided a full day of training with substantive topics in the morning, and scenarios in the afternoon. Both types were held outside at state parks.

At the time of this writing, the committee was getting ready for a Leadership Training School session at Hammonasset Beach State Park and a two-day SOLO Wilderness First Aid training session at the White Memorial Conservation Center in Litchfield. White Memorial was not taking reservations for much of the time since our last training in 2019. A session was held at Zbierski House in New London in April 2021, a new location for the committee. A Train the Trainer session was also on the calendar for November 12-14 at Prindle Pond Conference Center in Charlton, MA. This is offered by club staff and members of the Outdoor Leadership Development Committee. In the past, both co-chairs have attended these sessions.

Keith Spaar & Janet Ainsworth, CT Chapter Co-Chairs
Education Committee-2021



Excursions Committee

The Excursions Committee is responsible for all AMC hiking, backpacking and skiing events offered by Connecticut leaders. It was a special year for all CT-AMC committees since we celebrated our 100th anniversary as an AMC chapter. Both Excursions Co-Chairs (Peg and Phil) dressed in their finest approximation of 1920's hiking clothing and joined other long-time Appies on June 11 for the official 100th anniversary meeting on West Peak in Hubbard Park, Meriden, the site of the chapter's inception.

This was definitely another challenging year for organized hiking with the global Covid pandemic, especially in the first half of our reporting period (10/'20-9/'21). In spite of Covid restrictions and concerns, a total of 378 hikes were offered by 43 CT Chapter leaders in the 12 month time period thru September 2021 with 170 occurring on weekends and 208 occurring mid-week. These included several weekend and other multi-day trips. Many of the Covid restrictions were eliminated mid-June and the impact on our postings reflects that change in policy. The number of mid-week posted hikes went from an average of about 14 per month to 21 per month. The number of hike-related emails issued by the Excursions Committee went up from an average of about 1 per month in the first half of the period to over 4 per month for the last 5 months, mostly for "short notice" hikes. In addition to many local CT day hikes, we offered many other "special" events this past year including several snowshoe hikes, cross-country ski trips, winter backpacking trips, and several out-of-state trips. Though hike postings were still reduced relative to pre-Covid levels (about 60/month), we are all fortunate to have so many AMC friends we have met over the years, so people were keeping up their healthy hiking in small trusted groups, even though the hikes were not posted to the AMC website.

This year, 36 of our leaders qualified for our chapter Volunteer Stewardship Award, which honors those who have led 5 or more events or contributed 30 or more volunteer hours. All of our leaders deserve much appreciation for their efforts!

Sponsoring groups contributed to our hike totals, including East of the River, the Thursday Western CT Hiking Group, Young Members, and Family Activities. Sponsoring groups are integral to the success of our hiking program and Excursions values highly the work not only of the leaders who offer these events, but also the work that has been done by the group coordinators: Dave Cronin, Barry Resnick, Leigh Knuttel, and Patty Wehrli. We thank Bob Nickels for having served many years as a coordinator and happy 90th birthday!

Several Hike Leaders led ski trips or backpack trips both within and beyond the state, and Adventure Travel trips. For National Trails Day, run by the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association, our hike leaders offered 8 of the over 170 hikes for the weekend. AT Day, our CT Chapter's largest outdoor event each year celebrating our 52 miles of Appalachian Trail in CT, was held on October 16. The predicted wet and cloudy weather stayed away until late in the day and instead provide blue skies and sunshine for all events and the after-event Grand BBQ at Macedonia Brook State Park. We had over 140 hikers, bikers, climbers, and trail workers plus about 110 at the BBQ.

Once again, the Excursions Committee sponsored and planned AMC's 139th Fall Hiking Week (FHW), as well as supported and worked to provide leaders for August Camp. Both of those events were held with restrictions this year. FHW was based at Town & Country Inn in Gorham, NH from 9/24-10/1. The FHW Committee worked hard this past year with AMC Headquarters, primarily with Aaron Gorban, to determine how Covid guidelines released in early June would impact the FHW planning. As a result of those activities, AMC agreed to allow a waiver for FHW to permit asking for attendee's vaccination status. All attendees were asked to either provide proof of Covid vaccination or submit a negative Covid test result taken within 72 hours prior to their attendance. The information from over 100 attendees was submitted to the Registrar, who forwarded it to Aaron to maintain privacy of the data within the AMC guidelines. FHW complied with all AMC, State of New Hampshire, and local regulations related to Covid

that were in place during the week of the event. Participants observed all suggested or required Covid-safe practices throughout their stay at Town & Country Inn and while hiking. We had several last minute cancellations and were initially reluctant to add many people from the wait list. When registration was opened 9/13 for prior FHW attendees, we filled the quota of 125 attendees within 24 hours and had a wait list of up to 25 people shortly thereafter. Due to Covid concerns, we did not have a full attendance of 125 this year, but after moving those on the wait list that still wanted to attend FHW, we had a total of 104 attendees over the week. Both the attendees and the hotel were glad we were able to hold FHW this year. We have received many compliments on their experiences this year and they look forward to attending FHW next year. We have reserved the week of 9/19-23 at the Eagle Mountain House in Jackson, NH for the 2022 FHW.

Special thanks to Keith Spaar and the Education Committee, composed of mainly hike leaders, for organizing a limited “live” Leadership Training session in mid-November followed by similar limited sessions in April and June. Those training sessions are critical to providing high quality training to candidate leaders. Special thanks also to Jocelyn Eppich, our Chapter Chair, for coordinating and emailing The Weekly, our chapter email for advertising hikes and all our chapter events.

Behind the scenes, our Excursions Committee members spend countless hours maintaining our lists, adding hikes to the AMC database, approving hikes, distributing emails, and responding to many emails from hike leaders, hikers and potential hikers. Their contributions are invaluable and very much appreciated.

Peg Peterson & Phil Wilsey, CT Chapter Co-Chairs
Excursions Committee 2021

Carol Hassett

Dave Cronin

Jocelyn Eppich



Family Activities Committee

In October 2020, the Family Activities Facebook group combined with the Young Members (20's & 30's) Facebook Group to help increase the number of people being reached through Social Media. Covid had a significant impact on planning events during lockdown as our group sizes were limited to 10 making it only possible for 2-3 families to attend events. Once restrictions were lifted, we started to have some hiking events again with small turnouts. One popular event was exploring the caves at Ames Open Space in Old Lyme. We were also able to partner with the Western Mass Chapter to do a hike to Heublein Tower. Another successful hike happened when we partnered with an elementary school in Groton and led a hike to Groton's Sheep Farm property. We also participated in the AT Vista 2021 celebrating the 100th anniversary of Benton MacKaye's 1921 article, "[An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning.](#)" This article led to the development of the A.T. Trail! Our Committee led a short hike to Lions Head. We are looking forward to having more events, making new partnerships, and expanding our group in the coming year!

Janet Ainsworth & Corey Mott, CT Chapter Co-Chairs
Family Activities Committee-2021



Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee

We sure do live in interesting times! We got through drought which gave us low water levels. Then tropical storms and remnants of hurricanes gave us high water levels and bacterial contaminations. All of which had us modifying our plans or outright cancelling them!

We actually put together 18 kayak trips with 128 participants through a wide variety of waters. Bill Ruel roamed from the far north of Quebec, down to Selden Island on the Connecticut River. Tom Ebersold voyaged from Squantz Pond to Mansfield Hollow. Debbie Tedford and Barry Gorfain visited the Lieutenant River for Trails Day, an old favorite, along with the Mill River in New Haven, a blast from the past. They also witnessed the tree swallow murmuration on the Connecticut River and ran a Fun With Kayaks instructional session.

Rebounding from last year's meager 5 trips due to the Covid situation, we managed 18. We hope to do many more in the coming season.

Barry Gorfain, CT Chapter Chair

Flatwater & Coastal Paddling Committee-2021

Tom Ebersold Corey Mott

Bill Ruel

Debbie Tedford



Membership Committee

As of August 31, 2021 there are 7955 AMC Connecticut Chapter registered members. That is an increase of 552 members from 2020. It appears that a large percentage of new members were identified as belonging to various MeetUp hiking groups throughout Connecticut and then joined the Connecticut Chapter.

One New Member Hike was offered this year. This distinctive hike provided new and prospective members with an opportunity to learn about the history and mission of the Appalachian Mountain Club. In addition, it informed trip participants about the benefits of an AMC membership such as numerous outdoor activities opportunities, staying in beautiful AMC-owned facilities and learning how AMC supports outdoor conservation across the Northeast.

To complement New Member Hikes, several Introduction to Hiking day trips were posted online for the beginner hiker. Such topics discussed on the trail were gear information, hiking etiquette and trip planning. We thank the volunteer hike leaders for their time and effort in offering introductory hikes throughout CT.

It is our intention to continue quarterly New Member and Beginner hikes to engage new members into our outdoor club, answer questions about the chapter/organization and enjoy the outdoors with new friends.

Barbara Beckerman, CT Chapter Chair
Membership Committee 2021



Mountaineering Committee

After a slow 2020 season where our chapter was only able to host a small percentage of the events we regularly schedule, our members and leaders were eager to get back together. During the pandemic we shifted all of our in-person meetings over to zoom, resulting in a larger more diverse meeting attendance. Early this year our winter program had a few setbacks due to Covid restrictions, all our alpine style classes and events had to be cancelled. Our most popular class "Introduction to Ice Climbing" had been held in North Conway NH for years, but with a travel ban in place for upper New England we had to search for an alternate venue. We found the Adirondacks of NY to be a perfect training ground for climbers new to the sport.

Twice a year our committee organizes "Try-A-Climb" events, one in central and one in western Connecticut. Our Earth Day event is one of the clubs most busy days, but due to group limitation size requirements at the time, we had to cancel. The October event was able to run and we had 12 people stop by to give rock climbing a try. In previous years we have had up to 42 attendees, the day would typically end with a group of volunteers collectively picking up trash around the cliff and entrance trail. This season a small group of dedicated young members took it upon themselves to arrange several clean-up days resulting in over 40 full bags of trash being removed from local climbing areas.

Our summer climbing skill and development program had 23 members participate in one or more of our 5 programs and made for a full turnout. This year all of our classes were taught by a SPI certified AMC member or one of our experienced committee leaders. These programs are designed to help members develop more advanced skills and techniques for climbing rock.

Our Thursday evening top rope climbs that are held throughout the state were limited to 10 people at the start of spring, and a mandatory online registration process began. As summer continued, we had full attendance at several climbs and had 3 new members join our club. Towards the end of our season the weather did not cooperate with us week after week and we had

to cancel a record number of climbs due to rain. Our indoor climbing schedule continued with events being held at Central Rock Gym on the first and last week of every month, the club also utilizes this location for our monthly committee meetings. Every December our committee holds a holiday party in Middletown, hosted by one of our members. With an average attendance of 30 people, the night is filled with a slideshow highlighting the clubs climbing activities, a raffle, and a pot luck dinner. We also use this gathering as an opportunity to thank our most active committee members by handing out appreciation awards, and discussing ideas for the following year.

John DeAngelis & Chris Granata, CT Chapter Co-Chairs
Mountaineering Committee-2021



Newsletter Committee

The AMC in Connecticut, our CT-AMC newsletter, reaches more than 8,000-chapter members through online distribution and to anyone worldwide through our website. The newsletter showcases an update from your chapter chair, classified volunteer opportunities, upcoming events, access to registration and activity leaders, and stories/articles of interest to our membership submitted by committee chairs, participating members, and the AMC. The AMC in Connecticut Newsletter is also distributed to numerous advocates and supporters. To view the most recent newsletter, visit: <https://ct-amc.org/news/>.

Each newsletter is always a group effort. Committee leaders and members are encouraged to submit and promote their activities, events, and experiences. This publication informs members, introduces new activities, and inspires members to participate, recruit, and give their time.

Big thanks to all committee chairs for your ongoing supply of intriguing stories, event listings, and information regarding the ever-changing environmental landscape and its management relevant to the AMC community.

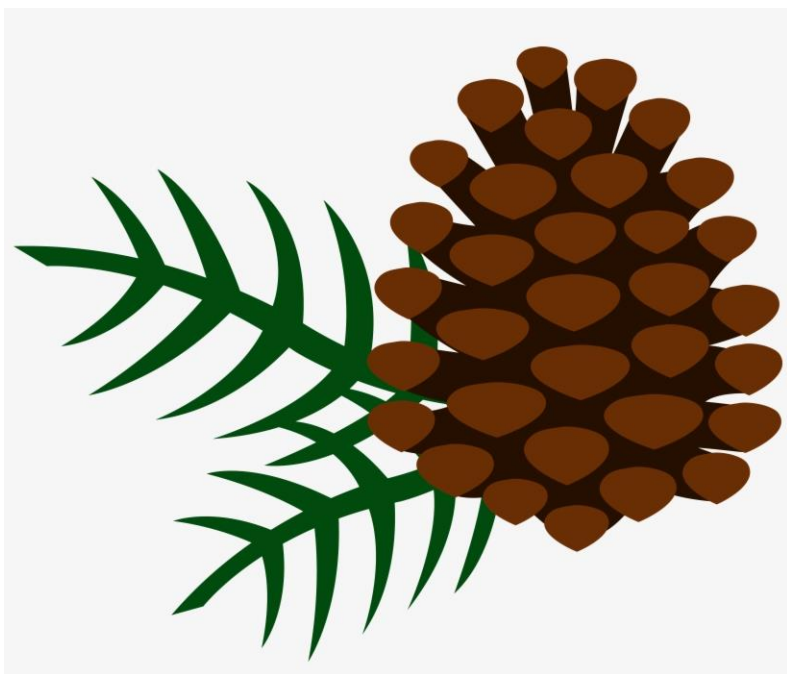
I, Darcy Witham, am the editor and producer of the publication. As a volunteer, I manage all aspects of production, including preparation of initial content/outlines, editorial calendars, writing, editing, and providing my highly reactive, colorful design and layout skills. I am also available to put together several additional CT-AMC associated promotions including but not limited to flyers, announcements, brochures, posters, and advertising. Eric Stones is on board, volunteering his time and expertise as a copy-editor. Thank you always, Eric!

These past 20 months of our Covid existence have presented a significant challenge to keep the newsletter going in a positive, constructive, uniting, and informative way. Despite the circumstances, a lot was going on within restrictive guidelines,

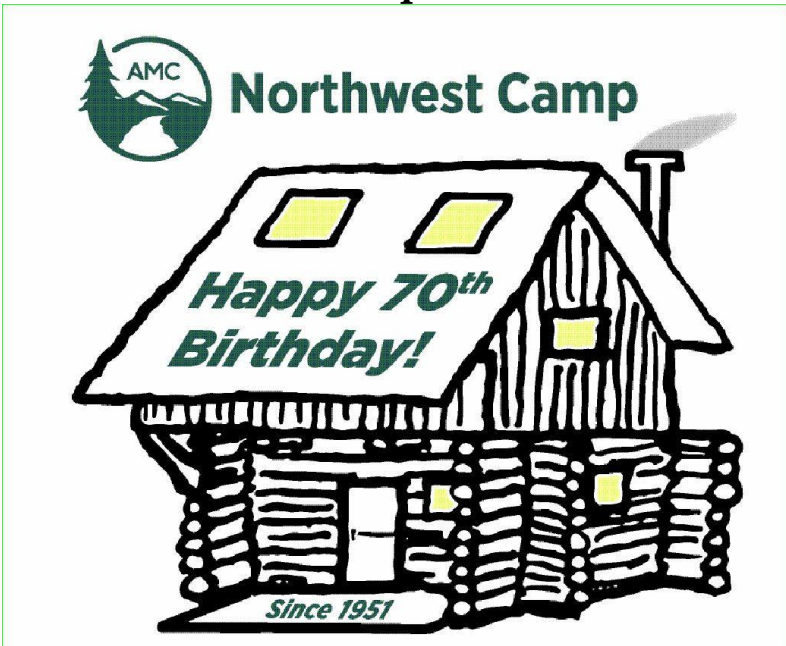
and contributors were very generous. I do wish to acknowledge ALL that do contribute and make this effort a big success.

Publishing and distribution of the 3 annual letters for 2021 went very well. In some ways better than usual. Thank you, everyone.

Darcy Witham, Editor
CT Chapter AMC Newsletter-2021



Northwest Camp Committee



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

The sparkling pristine stream adjacent to the cabin drains to Sage's ravine and is part of the very unique Schenob Brook watershed drainage basin. This rare watershed has been the target of protection for many years by numerous local, state, national environmental organizations, and public agencies. In support of recognizing this protection, the Committee continues to seek professionals that will volunteer their services by conducting an inventory or study of avi-fauna,

botany, entomology, fish science, forest ecology, geology, herpetology, hydrology, invasive plants, lichenology, impacts from climate change, mycology, natural history, old-growth preservation, stormwater run-off, vernal pools, wildlife, etc. Continuously understanding what makes this fragile and vulnerable property and watershed so rare is a high priority of the NW Camp Committee. The results of these inventories will help us manage the property sustainably and heighten the awareness of guests. Helping encourage this awareness, guests will have the continued ability to ID many flora and fauna on their own thanks to the donation of twenty-seven books (mostly field guides) to the cabin library given by Brenda Cataldo of Bolton, CT.

After closing and locking the cabin for eight months on March 17th, 2020 due to Covid, the cabin reopened to 50% capacity on December 4, 2020, and opened to full capacity on May 19, 2021. Fourteen months of challenging changes to our reservation protocol was a long time. Special thanks to VCC Director and Covid Compliance Director, Jess Wilson of the AMC and Northwest Camp Registrar, Craig Kennedy who helped us weather the storm. Even with all the time spent dealing with reopening restrictions, the Committee was able to celebrate its 70th anniversary as part of the Perseids cookout thanks to organizers Paul Thoma and Carol Langely. A tasty cake was custom baked for the occasion with the “Happy 70th Birthday” cabin logo on top.

Big-time kudos to the Committee as well, who met throughout the year with six productive virtual meetings, two annual workparties, mini-workparties, and annual events such as the Ridgerunner Orientation session, Perseids Meteor Shower Extravaganza (70th Anniversary) and CT AT Day. Members also attended CT Chapter Meetings, VCC meetings and submitted a PPT for the AMC Annual Summit. In August, the cabin roof was replaced by Aardvark Roofing but involved a frustrating two-week delay. The Caretaker Don Klein and John Hicks made twelve trips to the cabin during the construction process. Overall, considering how

difficult it was to find a contractor during the pandemic it all worked out well.

Everyone was quite impressed with the results of the revegetation area project planned by botanist/lichenologist Steve Messier. Steve volunteered his services to the Committee by conducting a botanical inventory of the impacted areas around the cabin. The Committee purchased locust posts and constructed a perimeter fence targeted around select plants. In one year's time it seemed the native plants knew they were protected! They expanded right to the edge of the perimeter with a luxuriant growth of flora. More revegetation areas are planned around the cabin.

On July 19th Committee members met with two Executive Board members of the neighboring property owners MT Riga Corporation at NW Camp. The meeting (and tour of the camp) was related to the exploitation of trails on private property due to crowd-source data such as OpenStreetMaps.org that link to several cell phone apps. It was agreed that the internet has no business managing the location of trails. Both parties agreed to designate representatives from each group and other outdoor stakeholders and meet with US Congressional Leaders.

The highlight of the year was the new book published by the CT Chapter's Centennial History Committee, "A Century Outdoors, The AMC in Connecticut Story: 1921-2021". Included in the book is a section with a great collection of events and memories of the NW Camp since 1996. Special thanks to the Committee, especially Darcy Witham who worked on design and production.

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.

2021 NWC Committee Roster with Volunteers

Executive Board

Rod Parlee-Chair *

Art Mauger-Secretary *

Craig Kennedy-Registrar *

Donald Klein-Caretaker *

Paul Thoma-Treasurer *

Tom McGrath-Former Co-Chair *

Al Puches-Chapter Treasurer

Members

John Hicks-Past Chair/Caretaker/Registrar *

Carol Langley-Cabin Monitor *

Joel Blumert-Cabin Monitor

Roy Hoffman-Past Chair/Caretaker/Registrar

John Rek-Past Chair/Caretaker/Registrar

Trent Link-Past Chair/Caretaker/Registrar

Volunteers

Joe Parenteau Ethan Rain Eric Harvey Tom O'Connor

*Denotes AMC CT Stewardship Award recipient who gave more than 30 volunteer hours to the Committee



Whitewater Committee

The CT AMC Whitewater Committee in 2021 was rebuilding after Covid but we have seen some growth in our membership and active participation numbers.

Our very long time Co-Chair Dennis Wigg decided to step down this year after close to 25 years of leadership. He really helped expand our committees' events and activities. He started our annual Ottawa kayak school week long trips where hundreds of our participants received world class instruction and has taught many, many people to enjoy the rivers safely. Dennis's leadership will be missed! He will continue to help run events in the future with us.

Dennis has been succeeded by 2 new Co-Chairs. (1 person was simply not enough to take Dennis's place!) Troy Schinkel and Ed Yznitsky have come on board as co-Chairs alongside Mark Schappert. Bringing in a lot of new ideas and enthusiasm to growing our committees' offerings.

We were not able to run our Bristol pool sessions due to Covid but we have already booked our 2022 winter sessions

This summer our Lake Beseck Instructionals and Satan's Kingdom Instructionals both had very strong attendance, with 15-25 participants on average per session.

Our river trip attendance has also been very strong.

We were not able to run our annual trip to the Ottawa Kayak School due to Covid. We hope to run it this year if border restrictions ease

This October we held our annual leaders appreciation picnic and presented the Stephen Forster Award, recognizing excellence in whitewater kayaking and leadership To Dennis Wigg. Coming up in December we have our annual pool and pizza party.

We are maintaining our fleet of 15+ kayaks and all related gear.

Whitewater Committee Co-Chairs;
Mark Schappert, Ed Yiznitsky, Troy Schinkel

Whitewater Committee Members for 2021

Dennis Wigg*	Dana Warner*- Trip coordinator
Chris DeGraaf*	Patti Vaughn JoAnne Durdock*
Jeff Magee*	Denise Deili*

*Denotes AMC CT Stewardship Award recipient who ran 5 or more trips or gave more than 30 volunteer hours to the Committee.



Young Members Committee

In October 2020, the Young Members (20's & 30's) Facebook group combined with the Family Activities Facebook Group to help increase the number of people being reached through Social Media. Covid restrictions interrupted some of our goals during the past year. We were able to recruit a couple of new leaders during the past year despite the restrictions! During lockdown, we were able to host a virtual game night and some virtual meetings. We were even able to lead some hikes! Some of our hikes for the NET Hiking Series had to be modified to be out and back or loop hikes since car shuttling was not permitted for quite a while. We completed the CT portion of the NET during the summer and are looking forward to the MA portion in the coming months. We also participated in AT Vista 2021 celebrating the 100th anniversary of Benton MacKaye's 1921 article, "[An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning](#)." This article led to the development of the Appalachian Trail. Our Committee partnered with the Western Mass 20's & 30's Group to lead a 13 mi. hike from Rte 341 to Rte 4 in the Cornwall Bridge area. We are looking forward to bringing back some of our old traditional events and creating new traditions in the coming year!

Corey Mott & Alison Terjek, CT Chapter Co-Chairs
Young Members Committee-2021



No Reports Submitted This Year

Fairfield County Group
Programs Committee



2021 Chapter Volunteer Stewardship Awards

Presented to those who ran 5 or more trips or gave more than 30 volunteer hours to the Chapter.

Janet Ainsworth	John Hicks	Ray Phillips
Bob Andrews	David Homer	Jeff Pipech
Barbara Beckerman	Ken Johnson	Leo Pon
David Berggren	Kevin Johnson	June Powell
Dave Boone	Joel Jones	Al Puches
Judy Borrmann	Tom Kaelin	Paul Reder
Steve Borrmann	Craig Kennedy	Barry Resnick
Elijah Boulanger	Patrick Kennedy	Richard Rouse
Steve Braciak	Don Klein	Bill Ruel
Ray Bracone	Leigh Knuttel	Claire Rusowicz
Rich Cady	Phil LaBell	Roy Sabo
Martha Cain	Elaine LaBella	Zellene Sandler
Tom Carruthers	Mike LaChapelle	Eleanor Sasso
Bill Channing	Carol Langley	Bill Schaffer
Nicholas Cocco	Bruce Laroche	Mark Schappert
Andrea Crawford	Darryl Lehmann	Troy Schinkel
Dave Cronin	Adam Lippman	Martha Schmitt
Bob Crowther	Jim Liptack	Ken Schmitt
Daria Cummings	Jeff Magee	Peter Scinto
Walter Daniels	Jeff Mantie	John (Jack) Scott
Lori Davison	Bobby Mathoda	Matt Sharp
John DeAngelis	Art Mauger	Joseph Snyder
Chris DeGraaf	Andrew May	Alex Sowinski
Mark Delude	Tom McGrath	Keith Spaar
Denise Dieli	Pete Meyers	Monica Swanson
Jo-Ann Durdock	Eugenia Mezhirova	Debbie Tedford
Tom Ebersold	Kathleen Miller	Alison Terjek
Henry Edmonds	Arthur Morenz	Paul Thoma
Bernadette Elligard	Dennis Morse	Aurelia Umholtz
Jocelyn Eppich	Alex Mosenthal	Dave Waldburger
W. Neal Fisher	Corey Mott	Russ Waldie
Christoff Geiss	Abel Ngai	Chip Ward
Jeff Glans	Fiona Nicholson	Dana Warner
Maryann Gleba	Bob Nickels	Pam Weaver
Barry Gorfain	Gregg Nolting	Dennis Wigg
Chris Granata	Amanda Noyes	Phil Wilsey
Sue Grant	Laura O'Rourke	Darcy Witham
John Grasso	Rod Parlee	Ed Yisnitsky
Gene Grayson	Louis Perkins	Olivia Zeiner-Morrish
Gary Guenther	Eugenia Mezhirova	Patty Zemsta
Carol Hassett	Peg Peterson	Margaret Zorn
	Jeffrey Phelon	

Annual CT Chapter Awards

Janet Ainsworth, Dave Boone, Peg Peterson - Awards Committee

2021 APPIES OF THE YEAR –

Corey Mott and John Grasso

This award is presented to chapter members who have made a significant contribution to the chapter.

Corey Mott:

Almost since he joined the Connecticut Chapter after moving here from Rhode Island, Corey has been a most valuable Connecticut Chapter member. He took on the co-chair role in both the Family Activities and Young Members committees, where he has been an energetic trip leader and innovator in the use of social media. Family Activities has been a struggling committee for years, as kids seemed to be busy doing other things. Somehow, Corey has figured out how to reach young families, holding well attended activities like trips to rock climbing gyms or joint activities with other chapters. He has also taken on other projects like a database of activity locations as part of the Centennial Celebration and special events like AT Vista. He has recruited a sizable number of people interested in family programming. His next project is helping us to improve our use of social media. As we watched him reinvigorate the two committees he co-chairs and do these many other things for the chapter, it occurred to us that Corey would make an excellent Appie of the Year.

Congratulations, Corey, and thanks for all you do!

Appie of the Year – *Corey Mott, with companion Daisy*



John Grasso:

John Grasso has been a steady presence in chapter leadership for the past nine years and an active volunteer for years before that. As secretary, vice chair and then chair, he was calm, organized and a good mediator at the Executive Committee meetings. At our last in-person Annual gathering in 2019, John circulated a memorandum which set forth his planning toward the goal of publishing a chapter history in the chapter's 100th anniversary year of 2021. The small Centennial History Committee of six persons, consisting of John and two other Executive Committee members, two former chapter chairs and our chapter newsletter editor, rallied to bring together "A Century Outdoors - The AMC in Connecticut Story: 1921-2021", a comprehensive, professionally published 339-page chapter history, which includes "Reminiscences and Reflections" of many of today's members. This was a challenging task. The history revealed in the book is a wonderful resource that members can turn to when conducting research.

Hats off to you, John!

Appie of the Year – *John Grasso*



2020 LIFETIME SERVICE – Jim Liptack

This award is presented to a chapter member who has made a significant lifetime contribution to the chapter. Recipients have 10+ years of significant service to the chapter.

In 1977, a somewhat weird teenager joined the Appalachian Trail Conference. Luckily for us, along with his application and membership payment, he asked how he could become involved in trail maintenance. He was referred to Neil Clark, who was the AMC-CT Trails Chairman at that time. Neil took this young man under his wing, and so began Jim Liptack's nearly fifty-year trail stewardship relationship.

Much has been written of the stone steps installed by the AMC Pro Crew at St John's Ledges between 1978 and 1981. What is less well known is that young eighteen-year old Jim was in that first workshop at the Ledges learning the finer points of rock work. Since that time, Jim has become known as the "go-to guy" for his skill and expertise in the fine art of moving and placing stone. As those who have worked with Jim on various stone construction projects will attest, no rock is too big for Jim. Most rocks are way too small.

Jim is also a skilled sawyer, and one of only three current fellers on the AT Committee. This means he is certified to cut standing trees, and in addition to felling trees for construction projects he also removes trees which present a hazard to our campsites, parking areas, vistas, and such, often with his dog Mindy watching from a safe distance.

Jim has been an essential member of the CT AT Committee for many years. He was one of the team who created our 1991 AT Local Management Plan, a document which took over two years of monthly meetings to complete. He has been the long-time maintainer of the Pine Knob Loop Trail and the AT between RT 4 and Cesar Brook. In 2009 Jim received the NPS Silver Award for twenty-five years of volunteer service. In 2011, he became our Overseer of Trails, responsible for all things treadway for the AT in Connecticut.

Jim thru hiked the entire AT in 1980. He has also been a regular volunteer hike leader at AMC Cold River Camp.

Jim's continuing dedication to the AT in Connecticut is remarkable. His enthusiasm for trail work has not diminished over the decades. His commitment to ensuring that Connecticut is the best maintained piece of trail on the entire AT is gospel.

Jim, congratulations on receiving the CT Chapter Lifetime Service Award.

Lifetime Service Award – *Jim Liptack*



Nominations for the 2022 Executive Committee

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

Chapter Chair	<i>Jocelyn Eppich</i>
Chapter Vice Chair	<i>open</i>
Secretary	<i>Martha Cain</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
Appalachian Trail Chair	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Susan Grant</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Judy Borrmann</i>
Communications Co-Chair	<i>Peg Peterson</i>
Communications Co-Chair	<i>open</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Andrew May</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>open</i>
East of the River Chair	<i>Ray Phillips</i>
Education Co-Chair	<i>Keith Spaar</i>
Education Co-Chair	<i>Janet Ainsworth</i>
Excursions Co-Chair	<i>Peg Peterson</i>
Excursions Co-Chair	<i>Phil Wilsey</i>
Fairfield County Group Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Family Activities Co-Chair	<i>Corey Mott</i>
Family Activities Co-Chair	<i>open</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair	<i>Barry Gorfain</i>
Member at Large	<i>Janet Ainsworth</i>
Member at Large	<i>open</i>
Member at Large	<i>open</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>Barbara Beckerman</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>open</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Chris Granata</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Jeffrey Pipech</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Darcy Witham</i>
Northwest Camp (by AMC appointment)	<i>Rod Parlee</i>
Program Chair	<i>open</i>
Webmaster/Technology	<i>Keith Spaar</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Ed Yisnitsky</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Troy Schinkel</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Corey Mott</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>open</i>

50 Year Members

Congratulations and best wishes to the following Connecticut Chapter members who we honor for their remarkable 50 years of membership in the Appalachian Mountain Club!

Sue Andrews of West Hartford, Connecticut

Katherine Dinep of New Britain, Connecticut

Martin Dinep of New Britain, Connecticut

Bruce Kay of Willimantic, Connecticut

Kenneth Marti of Manchester, Connecticut

Timothy Sheehan of Farmington, Connecticut

Marilyn Wilsey of Newington, Connecticut

Phil Wilsey of Newington, Connecticut

William Winship of Darien, Connecticut

