



CONNECTICUT CHAPTER
101st Anniversary

Annual Report
November 13, 2022

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
2022 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>Peg Peterson</i>
Conservation Chair	<i>Andrew May</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 Co-Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chair	<i>Eleanor Sasso *</i>
Family Activities Chair	<i>Corey Mott</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair	<i>Barry Gorfain</i>
Member at Large	<i>Janet Ainsworth</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>Barbara Beckerman</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>Claire Rusowicz *</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Jeff Pipech</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 Yiznitsky</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Troy Schinkel</i>
Young Members Chair	<i>Corey Mott</i>

* Elected to position during program year

CHAPTER CHAIR'S REPORT -2022

It seems like only yesterday we were practicing social distancing, but after more than a year and a half of Covid-19 restrictions, we can have normal activities again. We are very excited to be able to have our Annual Meeting back at Saint Clements Castle this year. We have shortened the gathering this year so participants can enjoy an activity outside before our luncheon, be able to socialize and to meet new people.

I mentioned last year the great work our Centennial Committee did to capture 100 years of the history of our chapter in the book entitled, "A Century Outdoors, The AMC in Connecticut Story: 1921-2021". You can still purchase a copy which also can make a nice gift. As part of our centennial celebration, a suggestion was brought to our Executive Committee by Past Chapter Chair and Regional Director, Dale Geslien, to commemorate the spot where our founders met on West Peak in Meriden and voted to form our chapter on June 11, 1921. Dale first submitted a proposal for a stone monument but after receiving a very expensive estimate, a committee member suggested a survey marker, like the ones used to mark mountain summits. Dale researched the installation of a survey marker and worked with the City of Meriden Director of Parks and Recreation to obtain approval to install the marker on West Peak. Dale, with AT Committee members Bob Andrew and Dave Boone, installed the survey marker on West Peak in August. You can see our marker by hiking or driving from Hubbard Park in Meriden to West Peak.

Our chapter has continued to donate to Educators Outdoors, which provides gear and subsidized trips to children in low-income households in the New Haven area. This year we contributed \$9000 which brings our total contribution to \$69,000. We also donated \$1000 of the \$7500 needed to have permanent access to Primary Source's "HistoryThon". Primary Source is a resource for people to learn a more complete history of the African American experience from past to present. This resource will help advance our diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiative by providing a listing of places to visit with maps and

audio guides and will enable us to learn more about African American history.

Our Executive Committee had many discussions regarding communications and the best way to reach our members and non-members. This year we changed our main Facebook Page to a Facebook Group which allows our users to comment and post photos of their activities. Our “Weekly” Constant Contact email, which is emailed Tuesday nights, seems to be our most popular form of communication. If you haven’t signed up to receive this valuable resource of our chapter’s activities, you can go to our website, <https://ct-amc.org> and sign up for our email list.

In July we held a Volunteer Appreciation event for active volunteers and those who were interested in learning more about volunteering. We had about 50 participants join us with several people interested in learning more about what they can do to help the chapter. We hope to make this a yearly event.

We had two key Executive Committee Chairs step down this year. Susan Grant was our bicycling Chair and Co-Chair since 2012. She helped organize local and out of state rides. Darcy Witham was our Newsletter Chair and Co-Chair since 2013. Darcy also was key to the design of our centennial book. Susan and Darcy will be leaving a void in our committee and will be missed.

I have served as Chapter Chair for two years and my term is ending, but I will continue to serve as Past Chair. I want to thank all the Executive Committee members for the help they have provided and accomplished these past two years. Also, three former Connecticut Chapter Chairs; Dale Geslien, Janet Ainsworth, and John Grasso for their help and advice these past two years. John, being Past Chair, was especially helpful during my term by spending the time to write thoughtful lengthy emails regarding the history of the chapter and being a sounding board for my ideas. I know the chapter will continue to do wonderful things because we have a great group of volunteers and participants. Hike on.

Jocelyn Eppich, Connecticut Chapter Chair-2022

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING - 2021

The 100th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was held on November 14, 2021. It was conducted as an on-line ZOOM meeting due to restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic, and was attended by 40 members.

Chapter Chair Jocelyn Eppich introduced herself and called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm. She reviewed the outline of the meeting as such: The first part would be to recognize those who have volunteered their time and services throughout the year in support of the chapter activities. The second part would consist of chapter business, wherein the Executive Committee slate for the coming year 2022 will be announced and voted on. She noted there are still openings for the positions of Vice-Chair, and 2 Members-at Large.

Jocelyn noted that while mindful of 2021 Covid-19 restrictions, the chapter remained active, and was able to celebrate its 100th anniversary at a gathering at Hubbard Park in Meriden, with about 100 attendees. This park was chosen because of its proximity to West Peak, where the first meeting and discussion of chapter formation was held on June 11, 1921. Over the past two years, our chapter's Centennial Committee gathered and researched information and stories documenting club history in the past 25 years since a prior book was published in 1996. Their efforts culminated in publishing the book A Century Outdoors- The AMC in Connecticut Story 1921-2021, which includes former historical publications from 1938, 1957, 1981, and 1996. She thanked the Centennial Committee for their dedication and successful publication:

John Grasso (Chair) Judy Besancon Dave Boone
Dale Geslien Phil Wilsey Darcy Witham

The CT Chapter also contributed this year to four very worthy programs. As in several years past, we again contributed \$10,000 to "Educators Outdoors" (formerly Youth Opportunity Program – YOP), which provides gear and subsidizes outdoor experiences for

children in low-income households of the New Haven area. We contributed \$2,000 to the interchapter AMC Water and Rivers Protection Fund to help maintain paddler access to area rivers. We contributed \$5,000 to the interchapter Climbing Resources Protection Fund to help preserve key climbing resources that are up for sale. We also maintain the Teen Wilderness Fund which supports sending two teens per year to a summer outdoor experience. This year we received a generous donation to this Fund from Chapter member June Powell, in honor of our East of the River hike leaders.

As Covid-19 cases decreased this year, our committees have continued to offer outdoor activities for our members. See the Committee Reports section of our online 2021 Annual Report, to see what everyone is up to. Jocelyn sincerely thanked all of our volunteers for their continued support of our chapter activities and events, and their contributions to making the CT Chapter so strong.

Deceased Chapter Members

Jocelyn had participants take a moment to remember these members who have died in the year since our last Annual Gathering: Thomas Aikenhead, Maynard Bartram, Edna Hansen, Christopher Hodges, James Howlett, Grace LeRoy, Elaine Luckey, Pauline Onyx, Henry Owen, Martha Perry, Lynn Reid, and David Snow.

Volunteer Stewardship Awards – are presented to those who ran 5 or more trips or gave more than 30 volunteer hours to the Chapter.

Jocelyn then read the extensive list of Volunteer Stewardship Awardees (other than the AT Committee). Your efforts are so much appreciated! The complete list of 124 appears on p. 49 of our online 2021 Annual Report.

Appalachian Trail Committee Awards

David Boone, Chair of the AT Committee reported there were extensive committee activities this year, and urged attendees to read pp. 16-20 of the online 2021 Annual Report for details of

these activities. Several of his volunteers are students from Trinity College, whose efforts are well received. The committee keeps track of volunteer hours on a lifetime and an annual basis. Please see p. 21 of the online 2021 Annual Report which recognizes those individuals who have accumulated 12, 50, 100, and 250 career hours.

As well, several CT AT Committee volunteers qualify for the AMC Club-Wide Stewardship Awards for the 2021 Season. Please see p. 22 of the online 2021 Annual Report which recognizes those individuals who have earned the “Pychowska” (96 hours for the season) and the “Hart” (224 hours for the season) awards.

This year is the first time volunteers are also being recognized with a National Park Service Presidential Service Award, for a minimum lifetime service of 5,000 hrs. See these five awardees, also noted on p. 22 of the online 2021 Annual Report.

It was a spectacular season! Thank you to everyone for their service and support of the trails!

Appie of the Year Award, and Lifetime Service Award

Jocelyn then introduced Janet Ainsworth, Peg Peterson, and Dave Boone as the Awards Committee which selects and presents the two highest annual awards the Chapter gives to select members. “Appie of the Year” is awarded to members who have made a significant ‘above and beyond’ contribution to the chapter. “Lifetime Service” is awarded to a member who has 10+ years of sustained, significant lifetime contributions to the chapter.

Dave presented the 2021 Lifetime Service Award to Jim Liptack.

Some of Jim’s notable contributions include:

- Continual AT stewardship since 1977
- Skilled at rock-work on the trail (go-to-rock-guy!)
- Skilled sawyer and feller
- Helped create the 1991 AT Local Management Plan
- Pine Knob Trail maintainer

- Received 2009 NPS Silver Award for 25 years of volunteer service
- Became AT CT Overseer of Trails

See pp. 54-55 of the online 2021 Annual Report for more detail of Dave's comments.

Congratulations Jim, our 2021 Lifetime Service Award recipient!

Peg noted there are two Appie of the Year awards this year. She presented one 2021 Appie of the Year award to John Grasso.

Some of John's notable contributions include:

- 9 years of chapter leadership, preceded by
- Years of active chapter volunteering
- Spear-headed the efforts of the Chapter Centennial Committee, culminating in the publishing of a 339-page chapter history A Century Outdoors-The AMC in Connecticut Story 1920-2021

See pp. 52-53 of the online 2021 Annual Report for more detail of Peg's comments.

Congratulations John, our hats off to you!

Janet presented the second 2021 Appie of the Year award to Corey Mott. Some of Corey's notable contributions include:

- Co-Chair of the Family Activities Committee and the Young Members Committee
- Reinvigorated these committees, offering well –attended activities
- Innovator in the use of social media in reaching and recruiting new people into his activities
- Created a database of activity locations for our website

See pp. 50-51 of the online 2021 Annual Report for more detail of Peg's comments.

Congratulations Corey, and thanks for all you do!

Commemorative plaques will be sent to Jim, John and Corey.

25 and 50-year Members

Jocelyn then read the list of new 50-year members, of which there are 9. See p. 57 of the online 2021 Annual Report for names. Jocelyn then recognized the new 25-year members,

reading the list of 52 names. John Grasso has sent the appropriate 25-year, and 50-year pins to these members.

AMC Professional Staff Speaker

Jocelyn next introduced Chuck Johnston, who joined the AMC in 2011, and has served as the club's Chief Financial Officer since 2016. She reviewed highlights of his education, outdoor experiences and career which led him to be in his current position, and his initiatives and projects while part of the club.

Chuck noted he is always amazed at the amount of work that volunteers contribute to carry out our club mission, especially during Covid-19. He congratulated us on our 100-yr. anniversary, and commended and thanked the CT Chapter on a great job keeping members safely engaged in activities during these times when people have such a pronounced need to keep connected with the outdoors. The CT Chapter has been a leader in this regard, and he also thanked us for our patience and perseverance in the challenges of navigating our increasingly electronic world to reach out to prospective, new, and long-term members. The club appreciates the CT Chapter for our generous contributions to the Educators Outdoors program, the Waters and Rivers Protection Fund, and the Climbing Resources Protection Fund. The CT Chapter is one of the most active conservations groups within the club in terms of funding and volunteer time and energy.

Chuck encouraged everyone to view the update video on club 2021 accomplishments, with specific reference to AMC's Maine Woods designation as the first international Dark Sky Park in New England. The club has purchased 75,000 of these wooded acres, and is on the verge of adding 27,000 acres more to this unique environment.

He also referenced the addition of two new visitor centers in New York's Harriman State Park which will bring us greater visibility to a new set of the public, and enhance our presence in the park and the region. As well, efforts are underway for funding and developing a new outdoor program center on Sebago Lake. Chuck

also mentioned the completion of a crew bridge at Cardigan Lodge, built in memory of Andrew Norkin, the past AMC Director of Trails.

In the spring of 2022, AMC will solidify its commitment to net zero emissions with release of its strategy to meet that commitment. This will guide our efforts to do our part in conservation and work to mitigate climate change.

He noted that 2022 lodging reservations are running ahead of our 2021 pace, and advised to reserve early if considering a stay. Our 2022 Annual Summit will be virtual again next year, allowing others to attend.

Business Portion of Meeting

At 4:51 pm Jocelyn began the business portion of the meeting wherein the Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting and Treasurer's Report were approved with no further discussion.

Janet Ainsworth, acting on behalf of Bruce Laroche (Chair of the Nominating Committee) read the Slate of Nominees for the 2022 Executive Committee. The Slate was approved and installed with no further discussion. The complete slate appears on p. 56 of the online 2021 Annual Report. Note that openings still exist for Chapter Vice-Chair, Communications Co-Chair, Conservation Co-Chair, Family Activities Co-Chair, Members At Large, Membership Co-Chair, Program Chair, and Young Members Co-Chair. If anyone is interested, contact Jocelyn Eppich, who can brief you on what the responsibilities of the positions are, and how you might fit in.

With no further business, the 100th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was adjourned at 5:00 pm.



Jocelyn then explained the tradition of the Red Hat wherein 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. Jocelyn asked the Past Chairs in attendance to don their red hats and be recognized.
Martha Cain, Secretary



TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND 2021

	2020	2021
Cash at January 1	\$136,843	\$145,361
Revenue Collected:		
Boston dues allocation	22,379	22,856
Program activities	4,898	3,946
Contributions	100	2,750
Reserve funds - sources (1)	10,506	3,214
Share of initial memberships	480	1,010
Leadership Training	159	6,481
Centennial Book Sales	0	3,696
Interest and investment income	<u>7,236</u>	<u>27,208</u>
Total revenue collected	\$45,758	\$71,161
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	3,621	3,487
Youth Opportunities Program - New Haven	10,000	10,000
Centennial Book Costs	0	7,471
Reserve funds - uses (1)	71	0
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	594	334
Conservation	130	500
Education	2,138	5,878
Excursions	22	6
Executive	8,817	14,073
Membership	206	274
Mountaineering	273	2,047
CT AT	11,368	10,639
Whitewater	0	721
Total expenditures	\$37,240	\$55,430
Cash at December 31	\$145,361	\$161,092

TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 AND 2022

	2021	2022
Cash at January 1	\$145,361	\$161,092
Revenue Collected:		
Boston dues allocation	15,114	15,155
Program activities	2,158	2,975
Reserve funds - sources	3,164	400
Share of initial memberships	730	420
Leadership training	2,221	6,464
Centennial Book Sales	0	753
Contributions	2,750	300
Interest and investment income	<u>27,207</u>	<u>2,486</u>
Total revenue collected	\$53,344	\$28,953
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	402	3,160
Donations	10,000	10,000
Reserve funds - uses	0	1,281
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	0	250
Conservation	500	125
Education	3,734	12,746
Excursions	6	0
Executive	5,647	4,952
Membership	0	930
Mountaineering	947	1,130
CT AT	3,362	4,643
Total expenditures	\$24,868	\$39,217
Cash at September 30	\$173,837	\$150,828

TREASURER'S REPORT
RESERVE FUNDS

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:

	12/31/20	12/31/21	9/30/22
Reserve funds:			
AT Handicap Accessible Project	5,176	5,176	5,176
Eversource Donation	10,000	10,000	8,762
Other CT-AT Committee Memorials/Grants	4,371	4,371	4,328
Connecticut Teen Wilderness Fund	1,672	4,886	5,286
Whitewater Committee reserve	7,722	8,886	10,056
General fund:	116,420	127,773	117,220
Total cash:	\$145,361	\$161,092	\$150,828

Al Puches, CT Chapter Treasurer-2022



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 4,985 field hours, and an additional 1,059 hours of non-field based work. Compared to the previous season our field hours increased nearly 1,500 hours, our admin hours increased by nearly 500.
- In a combined workparty of the Mass and CT AT Committees, a stepping stone crossing was constructed at the brook crossing to the Sages Ravine Campsite. It is likely this will remain the means to access the campsite.
- We congratulated Jim Liptack, who received the Chapter Lifetime Service Award in November 2021.
- Two new section maintainers were appointed. Patrick James of Danbury was designated to be maintainer of the St. Johns Ledges to Swifts Bridge section and Zvi Goldman of Trumbull was designated to be co-maintainer of the Skiff Mt. Rd. - Rte. 341 section.
- Julia Lumens of Gainesville FL (and New Milford, CT) was appointed to serve as Work Party Coordinator. Rich Cady of Simsbury, CT, formerly our Work Party Coordinator and Secretary, stepped up to fill the role of Overseer of Camps and Shelters, the position formerly held by Russ Waldie for many years. Jeff Glans of Trumbull, CT agreed to take on the Secretary role, and continue in his position of Maintainer Coordinator as well.
- A relocation was constructed on Raccoon Hill (trail north of the Giant's Thumb) in a combined work party with the

Salisbury Land Trust. This successful event not only got the job done with great efficiency, but also generated much good will between the AT Committee and the Trust.

- The Committee has begun the initial steps of developing a Visitor Use Management (VUM) planning process for the Trail in Connecticut. This first step will define current natural, social, and management conditions for all segments of our Trail, and also identify desired conditions for those segments. ATC will then create a map of the various zones to assist in future additional management planning activities.
- Committee members visited Woodlot Builders in Adirondack, NY, the company that is creating our new shelters, to see firsthand how our shelters are built. Many questions were answered, and a greater comfort level was gained regarding our ability to construct.
- We received notification from NPS that our proposal to connect a side trail on the Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy Eastman parcel and the AT in Sherman near Ten Mile Hill has been denied. The reason for the denial included the recognition that the Herrick Trail on Conservancy property is only 0.3 mile from the terminus of the Eastman Trail proposal, and that was no benefit to the AT per se.
- We began the shelter replacement work at Brassie and Riga shelters. The first step was to cut an access over land owned by the Mt. Riga Corp. It was an adventure finding our way through incredibly thick mountain laurel growth. At Brassie the shelter has been removed and the site prepared for delivery of the building materials. At this time only the flooring remains of the old shelter at Riga, and the site has been prepared to accept materials. The materials for the new Brassie shelter were delivered to our staging area. We conducted a safety training with the contractor Maine Helicopters. We created a roster of volunteers with specific

jobs for the air operation delivery day. In an eleventh hour decision, NPS found it necessary to scrub the air operation, as a project air safety operation plan had not been filed and approved by NPS. As a result, the shelter construction at Brassie and delivery and construction of the Riga shelter is postponed until spring or early summer of 2023.

- AMC professional crew arrived May 2 and worked for two weeks on the Limestone Springs Trail relocation. 12 stone steps were installed, and approximately 200 linear feet of trail was constructed. Unfortunately, this is only about a third of the necessary work. Additionally, AMC pro crew leadership expressed concerns regarding the viability of the new relocation, the amount of work required, and important crew safety concerns involving work at the site. As a result, the Committee and ATC are reevaluating options for the relo, and may look to have a pro crew make improvements to the existing route rather than the flagged relocation route. We will seek NPS funding to have the crew return for 6-8 weeks in 2025 or 2026.



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 Tegtmeyer
Gene Grayson	Paul Reder	Ann Sherwood
Walt Daniels	Leo Kelly	Adam Lippman
Russ Waldie	Henry Edmonds	Elaine LaBella
Christoph Geiss	Chip Ward	Julia Lumens
	Bernadette Ellegard	

Tracy Lind, ATC Southern New England Regional Manager
Dave Boone, CT Chapter Chair, AT Committee-2022



2022 SEASON A.T. COMMITTEE AWARDS

12 CUMULATIVE HOURS

Hallie Bachman	Corrine Bolding	Ella Campopiano
Joceyn Eppich	David Flower	Lucas Geiss
Zvi Goldman	Joshua Jacoues	Felicia Jones
Philip Khoury	Caroline Killian	Beth King
Tia Wurzrainer	Adam Minahan	Ken Murphy
Natalie Oloughlin	Oceana Ragot	Stephanie Shoot
Molly Simons	Dimosthenis Sampatakos	Star Tower
Quin Woods	Quingfen Yang	YiCheny Zhu

50 CUMULATIVE HOURS

Bruce Carpenter	Patrick James	Joel Jones
Laura O'Rourke	Craig Weber	Steve Williams

100 CUMULATIVE HOURS

Oliver Geiss	Gregg Nolting	Matt Sharp	Phil Wilsey
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250 CUMULATIVE HOURS

Bruce Laroche

500 CUMULATIVE HOURS

Christof Geiss

1000 CUMULATIVE HOURS

Rich Cady	Jeff Glans	Don Klein	Julia Lumens
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2000 CUMULATIVE HOURS

Phil Labell	Paul Reder	Chip Ward
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2190 CUMULATIVE HOURS

John Hicks	Paul Reder	Chip Ward
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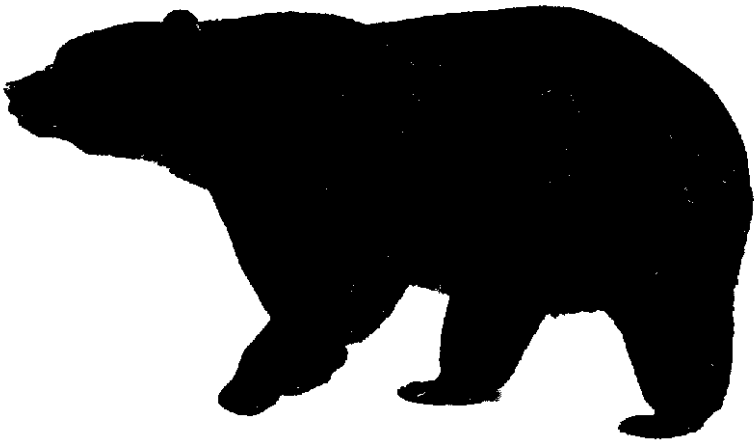
AWARDS AMC CLUB-WIDE STEWARDSHIP

PYCHOWSKA AWARD - 96 SEASON HOURS ANNUAL 2022

Ray Bracone	Mark Delude	Jeff Glans
Bill Schaffer	Phil Labell	John Hicks
Don Klein	Gregg Nolting	Bill Schaffer
	Russ Waldie	

HART AWARD - 224 SEASON HOURS ANNUAL 2022

Bill Channing	Rich Cady	Paul Reder
Dave Boone	Chip Ward	Jim Liptack
Christoff Geiss	Julia Lumens	Walt Daniels



Bicycling Committee

Bike Rides:

With Covid-19 mostly behind us, 100 posted rides took place over the last year and one cycling weekend to Hampton Beach, NH over Memorial Day weekend. The leaders, in order of frequent rides led, were Judy Borrmann, Leo Pon, Tom Ebersold, Finlay & Mary Ferguson, Neal Fisher, Susan Grant, Barbara Beckerman, Joseph Snyder, Steve Borrmann, Dave Waldburger, Anna Proczek, and Timothy Linehan. Judy Borrmann was the sole organizer of evening rides in South Windsor. She was assisted by Steve Borrmann and Dave Waldburger. Mary Ann Gleba, Neal Fisher and Susan Grant led the cycling weekend.

Ride Posting:

Judy Borrmann, Leo Pon, Tom Ebersold, Susan Grant, and Barbara Beckerman did service to post and approve rides.

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

New Ride Leaders:

In September, new bike leader Dave Homer joined our group. We hope to see Dave become an active leader over the next year.

Bicycling Committee:

Judy Borrmann stepped down as Co-Chair in March of 2022. Susan Grant, after serving as Co-Chair for 10 years is also stepping down.

Susan Grant, CT Chapter Chair
Bicycling Committee-2022



Communications Committee

The Communications Committee works closely with other chapter committees to get the word out about special events, for example, special AT Committee work parties such as Give-A-Day to the Trail; Education Committee classes, including Leadership Training and Wilderness First Aid; Northwest Camp Committee work parties and events; Fairfield County Group dinners and presentations; our annual Appalachian Trail Day events and Grand BBQ; Executive Committee events such as our Annual Gathering and chapter awards.

The AMC Activities Database (ActDB) continues to be the repository for our chapter events. Each committee posts their own events into the ActDB, with help from the Communications and/or Excursions Committees when needed. For the 12-month period ending at the end of September 2022, our chapter posted over 750 events including hikes, bike rides, work parties, mountaineering and indoor climbing, paddle events, multi-day events, and social events. We also promote our chapter events using an opt-in email list on Constant Contact, which contains nearly 4800 addresses, with close to a 50% open rate. The Weekly is sent every Tuesday and advertises all upcoming chapter activities through the following two weekends.

2022 CT-AMC Meetup Group

The CT-AMC Chapter Meetup group now has over 3600 members and 41 people on the Leadership Team including organizers and event organizers. Leaders can post events, manage attendees, and add photos after the event.

Peg Peterson, CT Chapter Chair
Communications Committee-2022

2022 CT-AMC Facebook Report as of 10/13/2022

CT-AMC Facebook Page

- 2,800 likes, an increase of 266
- 3,091 followers, an increase of 305

This year's record-breaking post was the 1/22/2022 announcement of Janet Kipphut Ainsworth as a recipient of AMC's Distinguished Service Award. The post reached 3,751 with 171 engagements, 84 reactions, 70 comments and 5 shares.

The three next most popular posts were:

5/12/2022 – The sharing of NBC Connecticut's post "West Hartford Woman Breaks Own Record with 10th Everest Climb." The post reached 2,584 with 109 reactions, 14 comments and 5 shares.

8/6/2022 – The installation of a commemorative survey marker on West Peak where it was voted to establish the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club on June 11, 1921. The post reached 1,578 with 109 reactions, 18 comments and 6 shares.

3/20/2022 - A "Happy Spring" post sharing the CT State Parks 2022 "Sky's The Limit" Hiking Challenge. The post reached 1,370 with 34 reactions and 6 shares.

Responses were delivered to a variety of inbox inquires, ranging from questions on hiking or camping on the Connecticut section of the Appalachian Trail to Membership.

To encourage more member interaction, a new Chapter Facebook group was created and linked to the Chapter Facebook Page. It has 623 members and Corey Mott is the administrator of the group.

CT Chapter AMC Facebook Page Administrator, Dale Geslien



East of the River Committee

Our hike coordinators have kept the schedule full every week. Most weeks we had two regular hikes and two alternate hikes every Tuesday and Thursday. The hikes we had this year include, Hatch Lot Reserve, East Haddam; Mashamoquet Brook State Park, Pomfret; Bigelow Hollow State Park, Union; New Tri-Town Trail, Preston; Pomfret Center Airline Trail; Air Line Trail, Hebron; West Hartford Reservoir; Talcott Mountain, Simsbury; Mattabesett Trail/Mt. Higby, Middletown; Great Pond SF, Simsbury; West Thompson Lake, Thompson; Farmington River Rail Trail, Collinsville; MDC Reservoir No. 6/Revolutionary War Campsite; Jewett Preserve, Lyme; Topsmead State Forest, Litchfield; Natchaug State Forest, Chaplin; Sessions Woods WMA, Burlington; Fenton-Ruby Park, Willington; Chapal Farm Preserve, East Haddam; Lake Hammonassett, Killingworth; and River Highlands State Park, Cromwell. We also had several informal gatherings at Hops on the Hill brewery in South Glastonbury.

Ray Phillips, CT Chapter Chair, EOR Committee-2022



Education Committee

Last year, a lot of ingenuity was necessary to continue offering training during operational changes necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic. State parks allowed the committee to hold training sessions outdoors. In 2022, we were able to get back to a more normal schedule with Wilderness First Aid and Leadership Training School or map and compass training sharing the training facilities at the White Memorial Conservation Center in Litchfield. As we have done for several years, a Wilderness First Aid course was held at a location more accessible to people who live on the eastern side of the state. Zbierski House in Groton gives us this opportunity. One training session was held at Hammonasset Beach State Park, which was a mainstay during Covid-19. The committee was not involved in any training with club staff. Two train the trainer sessions were offered, but one was in Boston and the other, although in a more convenient location, conflicted with a chapter event. Eventually, it was canceled. At the time of this writing (late October), WFA and LTS training at White Memorial was sold out, closing out the training year.

Keith Spaar & Janet Ainsworth, CT Chapter Co-Chairs
Education Committee-2022



Excursions Committee.

The Excursions Committee is responsible for all AMC hiking, backpacking and skiing events offered by Connecticut leaders.

This year our organized hiking events got back more to “normal” after the global Covid-19 pandemic affected the events for the previous 2 years. During this reporting period, a total of 489 hikes were offered by 68 CT Chapter leaders in the 12 month time period thru the end of September 2022, with 169 occurring on weekends and 320 occurring mid-week. The total number of events was up from 378 events last year, mostly due to an increase in the number of mid-week hikes. The total number of weekend hikes was essentially unchanged from last year. These included several weekend and other multi-day trips. The number of hike-related emails issued by the Excursions Committee went up from an average of about 4 per month last year to about 12 per month for this year, 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.

This year, 45 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. Six “super-leaders” led more than 20 hikes each. All 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: Bill McCarthy, Barry Resnick, Leigh Knuttel, Shirley McCunn, and Patty Wehrli.

Several Hike Leaders led ski trips or backpack trips both within and beyond the state. For National Trails Day, run by the

Connecticut Forest and Parks Association, our hike leaders offered 7 of the over 200 hikes for the June weekend. Appalachian Trail Day, the CT Chapter's largest outdoor event each year celebrating our 53 miles of Appalachian Trail in CT, was held on October 15 with blue skies and sunshine. Over 100 hikers, climbers, and trail workers participated in 11 hikes, a trails work party, and rock climbing at St. John's Ledges. Many thanks to the 19 leaders who volunteered to lead these events. Also thanks to our AT Day All Star BBQ Team who fed over 80 people at the after-event Grand BBQ at Macedonia Brook State Park.

Once again, the Excursions Committee sponsored and planned AMC's 140th Fall Hiking Week (FHW), as well as supported and worked to provide leaders for August Camp. This year FHW was based at the Eagle Mountain House in Jackson, NH from 9/16-9/23. When registration opened on 5/15 for prior FHW attendees, we filled the 125-person quota within 2 hours and had a wait list of up to 25 people shortly thereafter. We had a total of 125 attendees over the week with the maximum night attendance of 100 guests on Monday night. This year we experienced wet conditions for most of the week resulting in many hikes being rescheduled every morning, especially the A-Hikes. We offered 4 A-Hikes, 13 B-Hikes, and 13 C-Hikes. We had 10 of our own CT-AMC Hike Leaders lead hikes for FHW. We have reserved the week of 9/29-10/23 at the Town & Country Inn in Gorham, NH for the 2023 FHW.

Special thanks to Keith Spaar and the Education Committee, composed of mainly hike leaders including Excursions Co-Chair Phil Wilsey, for organizing Leadership Training sessions in November, April and May. Those training sessions are critical to providing high quality training to candidate leaders.

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. Last November, Bill McCarthy joined the Excursions Committee to replace Dave Cronin who moved to Cape Cod. Many thanks to

Dave for the all the years he served on the committee; and thanks for volunteering, Bill! Our Excursions Co-Chair, Peg Peterson, coordinates and sends The Weekly, our chapter email for advertising hikes and all our chapter events. She also coordinates the annual White Mountain permits available to any CT-AMC leaders who lead there. All these contributions are invaluable and very much appreciated.

Peg Peterson & Phil Wilsey, CT Chapter Co-Chairs
Excursions Committee 2022
Carol Hassett Bill McCarthy



Fairfield County Group

Westport

After 20 successful years of Speaker Meetings in Westport, Covid forced us to cancel all in-person meetings from May 2020 through May 2022.

In September, October, November 2021, 3 successful Zoom Speaker Meetings were held. I acquired speakers Dave Pressler, who presented 'Eyes Wide Open' and Olaf Soot who gave exciting narration on his journeys to Patagonia (2). We had 80+ in attendance with lively Q&A.

In December, Tom Carruthers was to run a program, but it never happened. The plan was to continue having Zooms monthly until in-person Speaker Meetings could be safely resumed at Saugatuck Congregational Church, Westport. I had speakers lined up for January. One week before presentation, Tom Carruthers cancelled, as he was too busy to continue handling the tech end of presentations. No other tech help was available so the series was discontinued.

On September 13, 2022, Daryl Hawk presented on his 6 journeys to Cuba at Saugatuck Congregational Church, Westport. Several of our main crew of helpers were away on adventures, but with notices for help, 10 new volunteers stepped forward. Pete Soffman offered extraordinary support. All of David Roberts equipment was transferred to me and with help from 2 great tech helpers, we had a flawless presentation.

An introductory fee of \$10 for members and non-members was offered. We had a total of 40 in attendance, way down from our average of 70+, but to be expected with a first return.

Appetizers, wine, soft drinks were served, followed by a Pasta and Salad dinner and desserts. Presentation and Q&A.

On November 8, Bill Barnett will be presenting "Nine Short Stories" in a unique show featuring narration, special effects and music. Same dinner menu.

Entry fee will be back to \$10 members; \$15 non-members. We hope for a larger audience which is dependent on much publicity on the AMC Weekly, FCG mailing list, Meetup, AMC FB page, local newspaper advertising, 06880 blog and personal mailing lists.

We will continue with our Speaker Presentations on second Tuesdays in January, March, and May 2023. I hope to be attending Explorers Club Presentations to make contact with potential future speakers.

While FCG's main aim is to promote the AMC in southwestern Connecticut, FCG has also worked to do this in a cost-effective way. All speakers present for no fee, and we try our best to control other costs.

FCG Westport enjoys the support of many volunteers, including presenters, who are always willing to help in many ways. I wish to thank all of them for their contribution to FCG's success.

Eleanor Sasso, CT Chapter Co-Chair
Fairfield County Group-Westport 2022



Family Activities Committee

The Family Activities Committee welcomed some new leaders who are working on becoming regular leaders. There has been more of an effort to work at the inter-chapter level to help each group grow through collaboration and sharing ideas.

The highlight of the year was bringing back the Family Rock Climbing with our Mountaineering Committee. We had three different events on AT Day as well (besides other hikes throughout the year). To help build our group (and the Chapter), the combined Family Activities and Young Members Committees were opened up to all Committees and has grown to over 600 members.

Corey Mott, CT Chapter Chair
Family Activities Committee-2022



Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee

This was a difficult season for Flatwater paddling, with high bacteria counts in waters and invasive species outbreaks. The weather gave us a drought, which meant low water levels in many places, followed by short bursts of heavy rains, which brought flash flooding: difficult conditions to navigate in. On top of all that, we did not see Eddie and Edith, the resident bald eagles on the Lieutenant River on our Trails Day paddle. Our leaders did not offer many trips this season and I have been hampered by physical issues. We did not offer our Fun With Kayaks skills day, but due to popular demand, we will offer it next season. On the trips that did happen, attendance was down. I'm not sure why, but I am open to people's suggestions for next year. Once I put my body back together again, I am looking forward to next season. I am tired of paddling with a limp.

On the positive side, we did help with a program at Wethersfield Cove with the Compass Youth Collaborative and the Connecticut River Conservancy. We met with a group of inner city youth from Hartford, taught them basic paddling skills and led them around the Cove and then out into the Connecticut River. Their smiles were huge and we left with good feelings too. We look forward to continuing with them next year.

Barry Gorfain, CT Chapter Chair

Flatwater & Coastal Paddling Committee-2022

Tom Ebersold Corey Mott Bill Ruel Debbie Tedford



Membership Committee

As of August 31, 2022 there are 7,781 AMC Connecticut Chapter registered members; of these, 1,269 are new and rejoined members. This represents a decrease in total members of 170 from August 31, 2021. This year the chapter committee will distribute 39 twenty-five- year membership pins and 8 fifty-year membership pins.

New Member hikes were led this year by the Membership co-chairs, each in a different area of the state and of different skill levels. These hikes provided new and prospective members with an opportunity to learn about the history and mission of the Four Appalachian Mountain Club. In addition, they informed trip participants about the benefits of an AMC membership, such as numerous outdoor activities opportunities, staying in AMC-owned facilities and learning how AMC supports outdoor conservation across the Northeast. Attendance averaged 10 per hike. It is our intention to continue with quarterly New Member hikes and to engage new members into our outdoor club, answer questions about the chapter/organization and enjoy the outdoors with new friends.

New this year, in February and March the Membership committee maintained AMC information tables at the CT 2022 Banff Mountain Film Festival in New Haven, Hartford, and New London. Also, the Committee organized a Volunteer Appreciation picnic in July, held at Chatfield Hollow State Park in Killingworth. The day acknowledged and celebrated the contributions of CT chapter volunteers, and provided information to prospective volunteers on volunteer opportunities on CT chapter committees.

Barbara Beckerman and Claire Rusowicz, CT Chapter Co-Chairs
Membership Committee 2022



Mountaineering Committee

We start our 2022 Annual Report by backing up a few weeks into December 2021 to make mention of our annual holiday party. Our 2021 party was held at the William J. Pitkin Community Center in Wethersfield, CT. We elected to expand our invitation list to organizations and individuals that are instrumental to the Connecticut climbing community. New invitees included the Ragged Mountain Foundation board of directors, management from Central Rock Gym, Prime Climb (Rock Spot) and Rock Climb Fairfield. Additional special guests included Connecticut climbing legends Chuck Boyd, Bob Clark, Anne Parmenter and Matt Shove. The event was an extreme success with attendance in excess of sixty people, pot luck dinner, raffle, slide show featuring 2021 climbing highlights and fun by all.

January 2022, we hit the ground running with the return of our annual Ice Weekend in North Conway, NH. The Ice Weekend includes our most popular winter class, Introduction to Ice Climbing, where often times seasoned rock climbers get a taste of what is referred to as the “Dark Arts”, ice climbing. The biggest draw of the weekend is our committee members coming together and climbing ice at various locations within the White Mountains. This year required a particularly resilient group of individuals as the morning start temperatures for both Saturday and Sunday hovered around -17 degrees Fahrenheit. This winter also saw the return of our Introduction to Mountaineering class lead by long time instructor/leader Steve Wall. After months of planning and prep work Steve and co-leader Mike Calter had to cancel the class due to unfavorable weather on Mt. Washington.

As winter fades into warmer weather it’s Spring Skills Classes time. Our five classes to Trad Lead Climbing. All classes are taught by the Climbing/Mountaineering traditionally start off with Introduction to Top Rope Set Up followed by Basic Self Rescue, Anchor Building for Trad Climbing, Introduction to Trad Seconding and Intro committee’s certified AMGA SPI instructors and experienced lead members. Due to popular demand, we added

an additional Introduction to Top Rope Set Up class making for six classes total, seven for the year when including our one successful winter class. Total attendance for both winter and spring skills classes totaled thirty five participants that completed training in their respective classes of choice.

May through September always consists of the Climbing/Mountaineering committee's weekly Thursday night climbs. Various Climbing/Mountaineering committee leaders host members of the climbing community at a different crag each week. This year we were very happy to see numerous new faces and a minimal amount of cancellations due to poor weather conditions. Our always consummate committee member and Co-Chair, Chris Granata, attended every Thursday night climb this year and covered for any scheduled leader or co-leader without hesitation.

2022 also saw the return of our monthly in person committee meetings and weekly indoor climb at Central Rock Gym in Glastonbury. A huge debt of gratitude is extended to them for offering an ideal environment for us to sustain our momentum throughout the year by meeting in person and without charge.

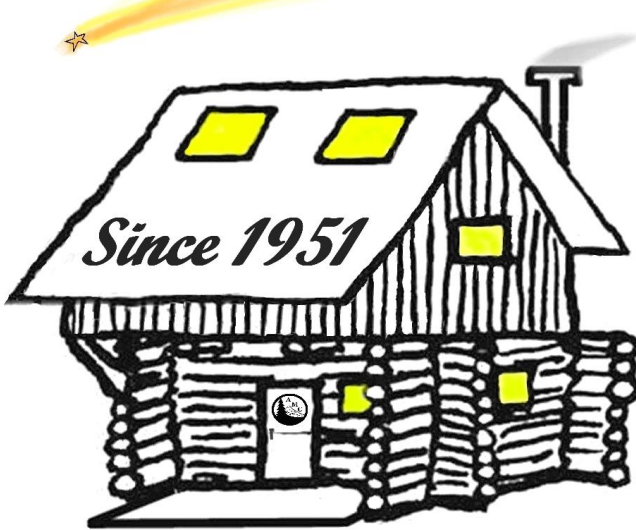
The formalities of wrapping up 2022 are in the works as this year's holiday party is being planned while writing the Annual Report.

In short, 2022 was a good year for the Climbing/Mountaineering committee. Many new friends were made, skills learned, pizzas eaten and good times shared.

Be safe & have fun,

Jeff Pipech & Chris Granata, CT Chapter Co-Chairs
Climbing/Mountaineering Committee-2022

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.

As dry as the summer was, the stream next to the cabin continued to flow and supply the much-needed water resource for campers to access. The amazing Ridgerunners kept a close eye on campfires and monitored the cabin on a regular basis. Due to the newly covered sky-light (since the new roof was added directly over the stairs leading to the loft limiting any natural light), we added another octagon window on the east side of the cabin. Washed gravel was delivered in anticipation of the new box staircase planned to be installed at our November 5th workparty with the help of

members of the AT Trails Committee. The Committee continued to sell Cabin illustrated t-shirts and the book “A Century Outdoors” by the Centennial History Committee that has a lengthy section written by the Chair covering NW Camp and the Committee from 1949-2021.

The Perseids Meteor Shower Extravaganza was a success even though the Full Sturgeon moon washed out many meteors from viewing. Eleven were counted in a one-hour period and three were very long, colorful and bright with vapor trails. The weather was stifling hot and dry preceding the event, but thankfully temperatures dropped to the refreshing fifties each night. On Friday evening, our very special guest Dr. Susan Masino, Professor of Applied Science at Trinity College and County Director of the Old Growth Forest Network presented her PPT on “The Importance of Preserving Old-Growth Forests for People and the Planet”. Her presentation emphasized the significance of permanently preserving the health of the old-growth forest all around NW Camp.

A free cookout with a tasty decorated cake was provided by members of the NW Camp Committee both nights. Ridgerunner Coordinator of Southern New England Tyler Andreacchio led a morning bird walk along the Bog Bridge Trail, and AMC Ridgerunners presented a Leave-No-Trace mini-workshop. On Saturday night, special recognition presentations were made to the AMC Ridgerunners and the very helpful Mt. Riga Ranger, Dan Barzee. Singer-guitarist Joel Blumert performed in the evening, and then our additional special guest Felicia Ortner, a Connecticut Master Wildlife Conservationist presented her “Bear Reality” PPT. All photos were her own, dispelling many myths while promoting the reduction of conflicts with our wild bear neighbors. Special thanks to NW Camp Committee members Paul Thoma and Carol Langley, who planned the cookouts!

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.

2022 NWC Committee Roster with Volunteers

Executive Board

Rod Parlee-Chair *
Art Mauger-Secretary *
Craig Kennedy-Registrar *
Donald Klein-Caretaker *
Paul Thoma-Treasurer *
Tom McGrath-Outgoing Co-Chair *
Tom Potter-Outreach Coordinator *
Mark Navarro *
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
*Denotes AMC CT Stewardship Award recipient who gave more than 30 volunteer hours to the Committee

Volunteers

Joe Parenteau Ethan Rain Eric Harvey Tom O'Connor



Whitewater Committee

The Connecticut AMC Whitewater Chapter had a busy season. We ran 50 outings including Pool sessions in Bristol during February and March (Covid-19 pre-empted January's schedule). We had weekly river trips from May to August geared toward experienced and new paddlers. There were multi-day trips and lake sessions in Middlefield for newbies. Covid-19 precautions were observed and we successfully navigated our health challenges for the year. Our season's soft ending was at our annual Trip leaders appreciation Picnic in October.

This year we welcomed 2 new trip leaders Paul Danielewicz and Jim Hagadorn. We also had a donation of several boats and gear from Charlie Flynn.

We are hopeful the coming year will be just as busy and exciting.

Mark Schappert, Troy Schinkel, Ed Yiznitsky, CT Chapter Co-Chairs
Whitewater Committee 2022



Young Members Committee

The Young Members Committee with the help of Bob, Jack, and Corey have led a variety of hiking opportunities across the state and surrounding area. The New England Trail Hiking Series has left the state crossing over to the Massachusetts portion of the trail. There were a couple of new leaders who have expressed interest in leading events and have been working on coming on board as regular leaders. To help build the group (and the Chapter), the combined Family Activities and Young Members Committees were opened up to all Committees and has grown to over 600 members.

Corey Mott, CT Chapter Chair
Young Members Committee-2022



No Reports Submitted This Year

Conservation Committee
Fairfield County Group – Bethel
Newsletter
Programs Committee



2022 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	Mary Anne Hardy	Tom Potter
Bob Andrews	Carol Hassett	June Powell
Barbara Beckerman	John Hicks	Al Puches
David Berggren	David Homer	Paul Reder
Barry Black	Patrick James	John Rek
Dave Boone	Margaret Johansson	Barry Resnick
Judy Borrmann	Joel Jones	Robert Reynolds
Steve Borrmann	Tom Kaelin	Richard Rouse
Steve Braciak	Craig Kennedy	Bill Ruel
Rosie Brancato	Patrick Kennedy	Claire Rusowicz
Ray Bracone	Don Klein	Zellene Sandler
Polly Buckley	Leigh Knuttel	Eleanor Sasso
Rich Cady	Phil LaBell	Mark Schappert
Martha Cain	Mike LaChapelle	Troy Schinkel
Tom Carruthers	Carol Langley	Ken Schmitt
Bill Channing	Daryl Lehmann	Peter Scinto
Andrea Crawford	Meeyong Lepore	Conio Sessa
Daria Cummings	Adam Lippman	Bill Shaffer
Walt Daniels	Darryl Lehmann	Joe Snyder
John DeAngelis	Angela Liptack	Pete Sofman
Chris Degraaf	Jim Liptack	Keith Spaar
Mark Delude	Julia Lumens	Jack Spear
Tom Ebersold	Jeff Mantie	Debbie Tedford
Henry Edmunds	Bobby Mathoda	Paul Thoma
Bernadette Elligard	Art Mauger	Dave Wahlburger
Jocelyn Eppich	Andrew May	Russ Waldie
Ken Evitts	Bill McCarthy	Tyna Waller
Elizabeth Fiorillo	Anna McClellan	Chip Ward
W. Neal Fisher	Shirley McCunn	Pam Weaver
John Fitzpatrick	Tom McGrath	Steve Williams
Finlay Ferguson	Kathleen Miller	Phil Wilsey
Mary Ferguson	Kathy Miville	Darcy Whitman
Christoph Geiss	Dennis Morse	Ed Yiznitsky
Lucas Geiss	Corey Mott	Patty Zemsta
Charles Gereg	Pete Myers	Margaret Zorn
Dale Geslien	Mark Navarro	
Jeff Glans	Gregg Nolting	
Maryann Gleba	Amanda Noyes	
Zvi Goldman	Laura O'Rourke	
Barry Gorfain	Rod Parlee	
Chris Granata	Peg Peterson	
Sue Grant	Jeffrey Phelon	
John Grasso	Ray Phillips	
Gene Grayson	Jeff Pipech	
Dorothy Grimm	Leo Pon	

Annual CT Chapter Awards

Janet Ainsworth, Dave Boone, Peg Peterson - Awards Committee

2022 APPIE OF THE YEAR

Chris Granata

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

The legend has it that Chris became inspired as he watched the documentary "Valley Uprising", a film about the evolution of climbing in the Yosemite Valley. He soon began visiting a local indoor climbing gym and quickly became hooked on the sport. He sought out guidance through association with members of the AMC-CT Climbing/Mountaineering Committee, and joined the Committee in 2017. Soon thereafter he had taken every skills class the Committee had to offer, and within a few short years was teaching one of the most popular classes himself.

As Chris's skills and confidence blossomed, he put his congeniality and networking ability to work by recruiting nearly every one of his friends, acquaintances, and even his mother into the world of climbing and the CT-AMC. He has rarely ever missed a Tuesday indoor climb, is often the leader on Thursday outdoor climbs, teaches the "Intro to Outdoor Top Roping Anchor" classes, and two years ago became the Climbing/Mountaineering Committee Co-chair. Incidentally, he has yet to miss a single monthly Mountaineering Committee meeting. As an indication of his dedication, in 2022 alone, Chris led, attended, and/or was engaged in seventy seven Climbing/Mountaineering Committee events.

Quite clearly, Chris has shown exemplary dedication and hard work, but is also recognized for his welcoming personality and

excellent mentorship of new participants and new members. Over the past six years, he has become the face of the AMC-CT Climbing/Mountaineering Committee. On behalf of the AMC Connecticut Chapter, I am thrilled to announce Chris Granata as our 2022 "Appie of the Year".

Appie of the Year – *Chris Granata*



...With recruit Kathy (mom)...



...and doing that thing he does...



2022 LIFETIME SERVICE
Darcy Witham

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.

Darcy Witham, who earns her living as a publishing professional, began providing design services to the chapter as a volunteer in 2003! (I worked on the side with Mike House). Her contribution as the Chapter Newsletter Editor since 2007 has been significant; we will miss her with her recently announced retirement.

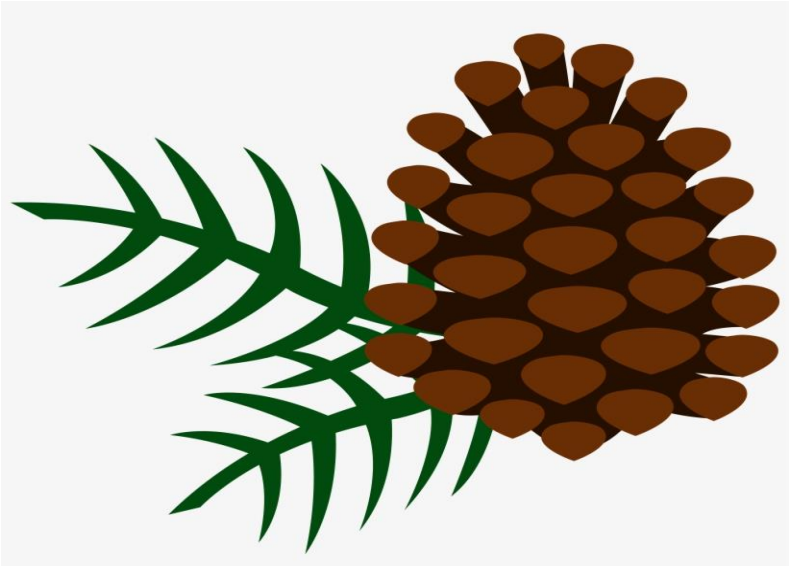
Over the years, Darcy has been a very active participant in chapter communications. She has provided significant design work to the chapter and the well-received newsletter she produces. This newsletter is widely admired. She also was a regular contributor to events like AT Day, the Annual Gathering, and the Spring Dinner, with her delivery of informational and promotional materials.

In the 2021 annual report, Darcy described her involvement with all aspects of newsletter production, including initial content/outlines, editorial and media calendars, and writing, with her trusted consult and content editor Eric Stones. Her highly reactive, colorful design and layout skills played an essential role.

Darcy was a vital part of the group that made our book “A Century Outdoors: The AMC in Connecticut Story 1921-2021” happen. Darcy provided her graphic design and production services at a significantly reduced rate, thus allowing project participants to produce an affordable book of high quality. Former Chapter Chair John Grasso, the father of this project, said the quality and affordability of the book would not have been possible if the chapter were to pay the market rate for these services.

Congratulations Darcy, and thanks for all you’ve done!

Lifetime Service Award – Darcy Witham



Nominations for the 2023 Executive Committee

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

Chapter Chair	<i>open</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 Chair	<i>open</i>
Communications Co-Chair	<i>Peg Peterson</i>
Communications Co-Chair	<i>Jeff Bass</i>
Conservation Chair	<i>Andrew May</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 Co-Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chair	<i>Eleanor Sasso</i>
Family Activities Chair	<i>Corey Mott</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair	<i>Barry Gorfain</i>
Member at Large	<i>John Grasso</i>
Member at Large	<i>Jeannine Loughlin</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>Barbara Beckerman</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>Claire Rusowicz</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Chris Granata</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Jeffrey Pipech</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>open</i>
Program Chair	<i>open</i>
Webmaster/Technology	<i>Keith Spaar</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Ed Yiznitsky</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Troy Schinkel</i>
Young Members Chair	<i>Corey Mott</i>
Northwest Camp (by AMC appointment)	<i>Rod Parlee</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!

Arthur Carlson of East Lyme, Connecticut

Sue Hardy of Manchester, Connecticut

Peter Herbst of Goshen, Connecticut

Karl Hueglin of Wilton, Connecticut

Barbara Malin of Stamford, Connecticut

Helen Molloy of Cheshire, Connecticut

Michael Sheehan of Wallingford, Connecticut

Martin Sornborger of Bloomfield, Connecticut

