



**CONNECTICUT CHAPTER**  
103rd Anniversary

**Annual Report**  
November 10, 2024

**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  
2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chapter Chair	<i>Altina Waller</i>
Chapter Vice-Chair	<i>Jeannine Loughlin</i>
Secretary	<i>Mary Anne Hardy</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
Immediate Past Chair	<i>Jocelyn Eppich</i>
Appalachian Trail Chair	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Bicycling Chair	<i>Leo Pon</i>
Communications Chair	<i>Corey Mott</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Janet Ainsworth</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Andrew May</i>
East of the River Chair	<i>open position</i>
Education Chair	<i>Keith Spaar</i>
Excursions Co-Chair	<i>Phil Wilsey</i>
Excursions Co-Chair	<i>Peg Peterson</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chair	<i>Fiona Nicholson</i>
Family Activities Chair	<i>Peg Peterson</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair	<i>Barry Gorfain</i>
Member at Large	<i>Barbara Beckerman</i>
Member at Large	<i>John Grasso</i>
Member at Large	<i>Martha Cain</i>
Membership Chair	<i>Jeff Bass</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Chris Granata</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Levi Shmulsky</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>open position</i>
Nominating Committee Chair	<i>Bruce Laroche</i>
Northwest Camp Chair	<i>Rod Parlee</i>
Program Chair	<i>David Wemett</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>

## CHAPTER CHAIR'S REPORT - 2024

This year has been one of growth or, more accurately, re-growth as we continue to recover and revitalize following the pall cast by the pandemic. Return to pre-pandemic levels of activity offerings has been slow but persistent and this year came close to pre-pandemic numbers. A related problem has been finding volunteers willing to serve on the Chapter's Executive Committee. At the end of 2022 there was no one to take on the chair's position after Jocelyn's term ended. Also vacant were the positions of Vice-Chair, Program Chair, EOR chair and Newsletter Chair. However, thanks to the persistent recruiting efforts of Dale Geslien, a longtime member of the chapter and past Chair, the Chair and Vice-Chair positions were filled by myself and Jeannine Loughlin respectively. This insured that the leadership would continue at least four years into the future. These two positions are crucial because they serve as the liaison between the parent organization and the Chapter.

A particularly successful revitalization initiative was a Planning Retreat held in February of 2024 that resulted in laying out Chapter priorities and making plans to achieve them. One priority was to increase the Chapter's presence on communication platforms like Facebook, Instagram and email outreach. We hoped this would aid in the other goals of recruiting more volunteers, especially for essential roles like Vice-Chair and Program Chair, as well as publicizing our activity offerings and attracting new activity leaders. These efforts proved very successful on all fronts. Advertising resulted in recruiting a Vice-Chair and Program Chair who will be on board next year. In addition, our Facebook group, now with 2,800 members, has been wildly successful in publicizing our activities in hiking, cycling, paddling and trail maintenance. Many participants and leaders regularly post photos and express their enthusiasm for these experiences. This really helps in attracting new participants and new members to our Chapter. Much credit goes to our Communications Chair, Corey Mott, for all the effort he's put into making the communication platforms work so well. Another program inspired by the retreat was led by Member at Large, Barbara Beckerman, who organized a series of four social gatherings in different parts of the state to recognize the contributions of our activity leaders. These volunteer leaders are really the heart of our organization, and we need to convey how much they are appreciated. These accomplishments demonstrate that we can, as we did this year, set an agenda and carry it through.

However, in celebrating new accomplishments we should not overlook the continuing hard work and achievements of our ongoing programs. The Fairfield Group led by Tom Carruthers and Fiona Nicholson has continued offering lectures and dinner events that attract participants to the organization, and they have done so under budgetary restrictions that make things difficult. Our Conservation Committee led by Janet Ainsworth and Andrew May monitors legislative matters concerning the environment and climate change as well as partnering with a local college and publicizing AMC by tabling at various events. The Education Committee led by Keith Spaar offers training sessions for the activity leaders so essential to our ability to increase the number of activities we offer. Our Committee Chairs who plan hiking, bicycling, paddling and mountaineering events continue to make those activities wonderful experiences for members and non-members alike. Finally, we are proud of the work done by our Appalachian Trail Committee. Dave Boone's volunteers do an incredible job in maintaining and improving Connecticut's 52 mile portion of the AT. We can all be proud of these ongoing activities and the volunteers who make them possible.

A summary of this year would not be complete without mentioning the frustration and difficulties coming from our parent organization's plans to re-organize and restructure AMC. While a lot of this is still in flux so we don't yet know all the ramifications, some aspects are clear. For example, AMC has changed the way the chapters manage their budgets which has led, in our chapter, to the removal of our reserve funds and budget cuts. As always, cutting is painful but I think our chapter has managed with as little disruption as possible due to the heroic efforts of our Treasurer, Al Puches. In addition, AMC is moving toward more centralization of everything we do - leadership classification, activity definitions, training leaders, budgeting. Finally, AMC is committed to improving the technology we all use to make activities available and for participants to engage in them. This new database, the Outdoor Connector, will be rolled out in the next few months. We look forward to the efficiency and flexibility it will bring despite the time and effort required to learn it. In the short term, frustration and anxiety always accompany such major changes but we hope in the long term they will benefit us all.

Despite the challenges to come, I believe our Chapter possesses the dedication and energy to handle them as we continue to provide our more than 7,000 members with a range of events and activities that enrich their lives and encourage them to care about protecting our environment. A recent Facebook comment from a hiking participant sums it up: "I joined the AMC....and my life has been transformed into great hiking opportunities and mucho friendships. The people and the leadership and the hundreds of trails are there for our enjoyment."

***Tyna Waller, Chair-2024***



## CONNECTICUT CHAPTER ANNUAL 2023 MEETING MINUTES

The 102nd Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was held on November 12, 2023 at Saint Clements Castle in Portland, CT.

Chapter Vice-Chair Jeannine Loughlin spoke on behalf of Tyna Waller, who was unable to attend due to illness, welcoming all to the Annual Gathering. She thanked past chairs and members of the chapter Executive Committee for supporting them in their new roles as chair and vice-chair of the Committee. She listed many activities our chapter offered, and our members have enjoyed during the year, with thanks to our selfless and dedicated leaders. She anticipates a future of chapter growth in support of AMC's mission of Conservation, Education, and Recreation.

John Grasso took a quick opportunity to encourage members to pick up a copy of the chapter's centennial history book "A Century Outdoors" which was made available at the gathering.

Deceased Chapter Members. Jeannine next read the names of members who had passed away within the year since our last Annual Gathering, dedicating a moment of silence in their honor:  
Carol Woolkin      Jane Cudworth      Penelope Glassmeier      Joan Hicks

Volunteer Stewardship Awards. She next sincerely thanked the 127 members who are in receipt of Stewardship Awards this year, asking them to stand and be recognized. Stewardship Awards are given to those members who ran 5 or more events or gave more than 30 volunteer hours to the chapter between 9/30/22 and 10/1/23. (Awardees are listed on pp. 43-44 of the online 2023 Annual Report, so are not repeated here.)

Appalachian Trail Committee Awards. She next introduced AT Committee Chair Dave Boone, who remarked on the extensive activities on the Appalachian Trail this year. They had 140 volunteers contribute 4,678 field hours, plus 1,110 planning hours, plus 2,194 transportation hours!

One of their greatest accomplishments was completion of the construction project at Brassie Shelter and Riga Shelter, which turned out to be a years-long project. He encouraged all to go take a look, and enjoy the "new wood" smell of these places.

On the flip side of the accomplishments, the AT was hit hard by the same July rain storms that hit the VT Long Trail, damaging the Macedonia Brook Bridge. As a result, they were able to temporarily re-route the AT through Kent School and nearby properties. As well, the Hatch Brook crossing eroded away, which will take some time to resolve. Another brook crossing north of rte. 41 in Salisbury washed away, and the little log bridge that crossed the brook at the Mt. Algo Shelter is gone, too. That will all keep us busy in 2024.

Several AT Committee members continue to contribute their time and efforts to the trails this year, and Dave recognized 2 that were at today's gathering: Phil Wilsey has reached 750 individual lifetime hours of work, and Christoph Geiss has reached 1,000 individual lifetime hours (and his son Lucas, who is the youngest hard worker at age 19).

Appie of the Year, and Lifetime Service Awards. Jeannine 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.

The “Appie of the Year” is awarded to a member who has 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 2023 Appie of the Year Award to Rich Cady. Rich began volunteering with the AT Committee in 2010 as a Section Maintainer, and by 2015 he was the Committee Secretary and Work Party Coordinator. By 2022 he stepped up as the Overseer of Camps and Shelters just in time to manage the reconstruction project of the Brassie and Riga Shelters, which had been in serious decline over their 40 years of existence.

In a nutshell: Though begun in 2018, the project faced many time-consuming reviews and challenges in consideration of budget, environmental, archeological, and wildlife impacts. The logistics of necessarily air lifting old deconstructed and new construction materials from and to the sites also had to be factored in, as did safety and covid concerns, and materials storage needs.

See pp. 45-48 of the online 2023 Annual Report for more detail of Dave’s comments. Rich’s outstanding patience, perseverance, commitment, technical skills, and professionalism are so appreciated by the AT Committee and the CT Chapter!

Peg presented a 2023 Lifetime Service Award to John DeAngelis. Some of John’s notable contributions include:

- John joined the AMC in 2002, gravitating to mountaineering activities, and becoming a leader in 2008, coordinating the Thursday night climbs and trips.
- In 2017, he became co-chair of the Climbing/Mountaineering Committee, updating protocol for events by standardizing best practices of the American Mountain Guide Association, creating a safer, more enjoyable experience and reduced liability.
- He also became the committee’s first Certified American Mountain Guide Single Pitch Instructor as a volunteer, so the committee wouldn’t have to hire guides to instruct skills classes.
- After passing the torch to new Committee chairs, he continues to volunteer as our #1 go-to skills instructor, mentoring climbers, and is a best friend to all Climbing/Mountaineering Committee members.

See pp. 51-52 of the online 2023 Annual Report for more detail of Peg’s comments. Congratulations John, one of our 2023 Lifetime Service Award winners, and thank you!

Janet presented a 2nd 2023 Lifetime Service Award to Peg Peterson. Some of Peg’s noteworthy contributions include:

- Peg joined the AMC in 1996 and became a hike leader early on.
- She created the original design of the nascent CT-AMC website and maintained it for several years, becoming the 1st “Website Coordinator” of the chapter Executive Committee.

- Peg has become the heart of the Excursions Committee, a very big job, with many moving parts!

See pp. 49-50 of the online 2023 Annual Report for more detail of Janet's comments. Congratulations Peg, one of our 2023 Lifetime Service Award winners, and thank you!

25 and 50-Year Members Jeannine then read the list of 50-year members, of which there are 8, who have already been sent their recognition pins. See p. 54 of the online 2023 Annual Report for names.

AMC Professional Staff Speaker Jeannine next introduced Faith Salter, VP of Learning and Volunteer Community of the AMC organization, to speak to the gathering. Faith began working for the AMC in 2001 as Conservation Volunteer Coordinator, and has worked closely with our chapter on communication and collaboration in support of AMC's staff/volunteer partnership. More recently, she has taken a leadership role in the AMC Center for Outdoor Learning and Leadership, bringing together the staff teams that offer programs and training.

Faith introduced Justin Bailey, Volunteer Relations Manager; and Eileen Yin, Regional Director of the Mid-Atlantic Region (which includes CT). She thanked us for a job done well, as the club presence in CT. She recognized Janet Ainsworth, who is stepping down from the club-wide Conservation Committee after serving on it for several years, as our "go-to" conservation contact in CT. She thanked those who do the chapter administrative work, who often don't get recognized. She noted that our activities comeback from covid is looking very good, with good volume and variety. She singled out our Whitewater Committee as being a powerhouse in instructionals and events, being the most active Whitewater Committee in the club.

On a higher organizational level, she noted the club is purchasing 29,000 more acres of land, adding to the 100,000 acres we already own in the Moosehead Lake area of Maine. It has been closed to recreation for many years, but we will open it for such. It protects two watersheds, including habitats for endangered Atlantic salmon.

This is also key in our carbon sequestration role which is part of our climate action initiative. It is demonstrating that AMC's conservation, recreation, education, economic sustainability, and climate action can coexist. The club conservation efforts are also active in the 35/30 initiative, which is international, to protect 35% of forests by 2030.

A one-mile out and back 'All-Persons' trail has been completed near Cardigan Lodge, with wheelchair access and rest area. Another one will be built near Noble View. Trail work is being done on the Franconia Ridge, which is a high use trail on a very sensitive area, so the project is complex, and we are receiving federal money for it. The trail crews are hard at work in many White Mt. places, due to the heavy rains and washouts this year.

Faith recommended that members visit the Corman Harriman Outdoors Center. It is becoming so popular, the AMC is taking over another camp in Harriman State Park. When it opens, it will be AMC's largest facility, right on a lake, with beautiful cabins, not too far from NYC.

Outdoor Learning and Leadership training is something the CT Chapter does very well. It's very important to have consistent skills and leadership training across the organization, and to recognize that it does mean something to be an AMC leader. The activities data base shows that to date this year, there have been an incredible 400 instructional training programs across the



organization just this year! The club is looking into creating some online training courses as well. We continue to use the Educators Outdoors program, to train people how to be comfortable with kids outdoors. Training in CT this year enabled 22 Site Directors, 175 CIT's, and got over 600 kids outdoors.

DEI efforts have made the AMC look a bit different across the organization. Gender-inclusive bathrooms have been created at Greenleaf hut, and will be replicated in the other huts to increase people's comfort during their stays. She again mentioned the 'All-Persons' trail at Cardigan, and there were some "affinity" training spaces, like womens training, bi- training, and LGBTQ training. Through training, we are teaching how to be more inclusive and welcoming into the club. There was a DEI speaker series in 2023, which will continue in 2024, with some in-person and online events.

In 2024, the Activities DataBase will transition to the Outdoor Connector software. Staff will be in place to support the transition. We hope some of you will volunteer to do some testing before rollout.

Adventure Travel trips are those 500 or more miles outside of the AMC's chapter boundaries. They tend to be one to two weeks. They came to a halt during covid, but now are coming back strong with over 50 approved trips in 2024. She encouraged members to sign up for these trips.

Annual Summit in January 2024 is back to full in-person mode, able to accommodate about 500 people. Registration is now open.

#### Business Portion of Meeting

Jeannine began the business portion of the meeting wherein the Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting and Treasurer's Report were approved with no further discussion. She recognized Martha Cain's five years of service as chapter secretary, as she steps down from the job. Bruce Laroche, Chair of the Nominating Committee, read the Slate of Nominees for the 2024 Executive Committee. The slate was approved and installed with no further discussion. The complete slate appears on p. 53 of the online 2023 Annual Report. Note that openings still exist for Secretary, East of the River Chair, Membership co-Chair, Newsletter Editor, and Program Chair. If anyone is interested, contact Tyna Waller, who can brief you on what the responsibilities of the positions are, and how you might fit in.

With no further business, the 102nd Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was adjourned.

Jeannine then explained the tradition of the Red Hat where 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. Jeannine asked the Past Chairs in attendance to don their red hats and be recognized.

***Martha Cain, CT Chapter Secretary - 2023***

*Annual  
Committee  
Reports  
2024*

**TREASURER'S REPORT  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2023**

	2022	2023
Cash at January 1	\$161,092	\$142,903
Revenue Collected:		
Boston dues allocation	22,452	21,477
Program activities	6,844	11,878
Contributions	550	300
Reserve funds - sources (1)	400	50
Share of initial memberships	540	270
Leadership training	12,646	7,902
Centennial book sales	861	444
Interest and investment income	<u>(299)</u>	<u>6,621</u>
Total revenue collected	\$43,994	\$48,942
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	10,676	15,132
Donations	10,000	10,000
Reserve funds - uses (1)	1,281	4,000
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	250	1,568
Conservation	317	198
Education	13,236	8,324
Executive	11,262	11,545
Membership	1,258	1,117
Mountaineering	2,073	1,983
CT AT Committee	11,247	16,478
Whitewater	583	282
Total expenditures	<u>\$62,183</u>	<u>\$70,627</u>
Cash at December 31	\$142,903	\$121,218

**TREASURER'S REPORT  
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2023, AND 2024**

	2023	2024
Cash at January 1	\$142,903	\$121,218
Revenue Collected:		
Boston dues allocation	14,356	13,880
Program activities	6,924	4,820
Reserve funds - sources (1)	50	775
Share of initial memberships	270	0
Leadership training	3,191	474
Centennial book sales	168	0
Contributions	100	0
<u>Interest and investment income</u>	<u>8,170</u>	<u>6,377</u>
Total revenue collected	\$33,247	\$26,326
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	6,320	5,123
Donations	10,000	0
Reserve funds - uses (1)	4,000	1,609
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	800	1,050
Conservation	198	312
Education	6,479	542
Executive	4,349	1,684
Membership	584	1,684
Mountaineering	1,280	175
CT AT Committee	7,080	4,095
<u>Whitewater</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>0</u>
Total expenditures	41,270	16,233
Cash Transferred to Boston	0	64,750
Cash at September 30	\$150,828	\$134,880

## TREASURER'S REPORT RESERVE FUNDS

	12/31/22	12/31/23	9/30/24
Reserve funds (1)			
AT Handicap Accessible Project	\$5,176	\$5,176	\$5,176
Eversource Donation	8,762	8,762	7,152
Other CT-AT Committee Memorials/Grants	4,328	4,328	4,328
Connecticut Teen Wilderness Fund	5,286	1,336	2,111 (2)
Whitewater Committee reserve	7,673	6,750	6,752
General fund:	<u>111,678</u>	<u>94,866</u>	<u>41,042</u>
Total cash:	<u>\$142,903</u>	<u>\$121,218</u>	<u>\$66,561</u>

- (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.
- (2) Includes a donation in memory of Bill Beyerly, of Marlborough, by his brothers of the Troop 39 Alumni Association and donations in memory of Greg Simons by members of his family.

**Al Puches, CT Chapter Treasurer-2024**

## *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 (ATC) , the Connecticut DEEP, and the National Park Service (NPS).

- 103 individual AMC-CT AT volunteers contributed 4,349 field hours, and an additional 601 hours of non-field-based work. Travel constituted an additional 1,765 hours.
- As a result of the bridge washing away during last July's storms, a relocation around the Macedonia Brook has been installed and signed. The new detour heading NOBO involves heading east at the AT crossing of RT 341 in Kent, and up the former Numeral Rock Trail (old AT route btw) to Numeral Rock, then continues several hundred feet to rejoin the AT. It is blazed with white plastic blazes. This will be the official route until the Macedonia Brook bridge can be replaced. Most of the relocation is on land owned by the Kent School.
- We currently have filled all vacancies for our section assignments! We welcome Nicole Murphy of Meriden and the Saccone Family of Trumbull to the Bulls Bridge Road to NY/CT border section, Michael Altopp to the NY/CT border to Thayer Brook section, and Chris Gunderson of Salisbury to the RT 44 to Rands View section.
- As a result of the heavy rain events last July, several of the accesses to our open space managed areas have been severely eroded and damaged to the point that vehicular access is no longer possible. This means we cannot bring mowing equipment to the North Stanley Tract, Silver Hill, or Ten Mile campsites and shelter. We are currently working with NPS to find a course to have these accesses repaired. This most likely will necessitate the use of a professional road construction firm.
- The puncheon bridge at the stream at Mt Algo shelter was replaced at the end of April.
- The '24 Volunteer Round-Up was a smashing success, despite horrific weather conditions. Our hosts, Club Getaway in Kent provided us with a wonderful meeting location. Recognitions and updates for the coming season were provided to the forty attendees. The ever-popular door raffle provided a parting gift for all attendees! Because of the heavy and freezing rain, we decided not to go to the field, or have our raucous rendezvous at the end of the afternoon.
- The Committee voted to establish a Vice Chair position. This position is hoped to enable an interested person to become familiar with the management of the AT and the various partners, to eventually fill the role of the chair. Adam Lippman of Norwalk was elected by the Committee to fulfil this role. Adam is very excited about his new responsibilities, and the Committee very much appreciates his enthusiasm and dedication.
- We were very excited to learn that President Biden's FY 2025 budget includes \$15 million exclusively for deferred maintenance needs on the AT in the New England states. For Connecticut, we expect we will use this funding for repairing or rebuilding the Limestone Springs shelter, replacing missing boundary monuments and surveys, well system abandonment, access

to maintained landscapes, and major trail improvements. We are currently considering major improvements to the Limestone Springs Trail and the AT on the north side of Bear Mountain.

- A homeless person established residence at the Breadloaf hiker parking at RT 4/7. He had been there for several weeks. We worked with DEEP, CT State Police, and the Town of Sharon to deal with this difficult and sensitive situation. This was only one of four homeless person situations which occurred this season.
- Our summer ridgerunners experienced a hot and wet summer. As of the end of the season (Labor Day weekend) ridgerunners had made 1367 day hiker contacts, 2255 backpacker contacts, and 28 group contacts. They dismantled 48 fire rings, and renaturalized 16 illegal sites. They also did substantial work protecting the revegetation zone at the entrance to the Sages Ravine campsite.
- Our summer crew “The GreenAgers” worked both north and south of the Schaghticoke campsite improving the relocation. Several stone staircases were constructed, as well as a steppingstone stream crossing, and several check dams.
- The privy at Riga was armored with hardware cloth, chicken wire, and flashing in an effort to prevent further porcupine damage. We are hoping this will discourage the varmints from continuing to eat the privy. Stream crossing safety signs were posted at the Sages campsite brook crossing, Guinea Brook, and Macedonia Brook. A crossing and side hill was constructed at Mile 1509 where the Trail previously washed away. The bear damaged chum at Belters was replaced, and the compost bins switched out at Pine Swamp. Graffiti was removed at the Bear Mountain summit. A new large kiosk was constructed on Warren Turnpike near the trailhead of the Mohawk Trail. The kiosk will be shared with CT Forest & Park Association. Over fifty new rock and log steps were installed by CT volunteers at various locations. Over 150 down trees were removed from the Trail.

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

*Ray Bracone  
Bob Poitras  
Paul Reder  
Adam Lippman  
Elaine LaBella  
Bernadette Ellegard*

*Jeff Glans  
Rich Cady  
Ann Sherwood  
Russ Waldie  
Christoph Geiss  
Julia Lumens*

*Jim Liptack  
Gene Grayson  
Walt Daniels  
Henry Edmonds  
Chip Ward*

***Dave Boone, CT AT Committee Chairman 2024***

***Tracy Lind, ATC Southern New England Regional Manager***



**2024 SEASON A.T. COMMITTEE AWARDS**

**12 CUMULATIVE HOURS**

<b>Mark Brucker</b>	<b>Eric Enger</b>	<b>Jonathan Ezrow</b>
<b>Jessica Fogs</b>	<b>Kayla Jansen</b>	<b>Jim Lucey</b>
<b>Andrew McCutcheon</b>	<b>Nicole Murphy</b>	<b>Simon Philips</b>
<b>John Saccone</b>	<b>Kristine Saccone</b>	<b>Ken Sgorbati</b>
<b>Stephen Sobolewski</b>	<b>Jacob Stafford</b>	<b>Vern Van Fleet</b>
<b>Brian Wettach</b>		

**30 CUMULATIVE HOURS**

<b>Mark Brucker</b>	<b>Brian Dower</b>	<b>Nicole Murphy</b>
<b>Jacob Stafford</b>	<b>Vern Van Fleet</b>	

**50 CUMULATIVE HOURS**

<b>Michael Altopp</b>	<b>Mark Brucker</b>	<b>Brian Dower</b>
<b>Chris Gunderson</b>	<b>Nicole Murphy</b>	<b>Jacob Stafford</b>
<b>Vern Van Fleet</b>		

**100 CUMULATIVE HOURS**

<b>Mark Brucker</b>	<b>Skip Frederickson</b>	<b>Richard Garrison</b>
<b>Jacob Stafford</b>	<b>Nicole Murphy</b>	

**250 CUMULATIVE HOURS**

<b>Skip Frederickson</b>	<b>Matt Sharp</b>	<b>Jacob Stafford</b>
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**500 CUMULATIVE HOURS**

<b>Adam Lippman</b>	<b>Jim McClellan</b>
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**1000 CUMULATIVE HOURS**

**Bob Andrew**

**Gregg Nolting**

**AMC CLUB WIDE STEWARDSHIP AWARDS-SEASON HOURS---2024 season**

**PYCHOWSKA AWARD-96 HOURS ANNUAL**

**Ray Bracone  
Bill Channing  
Don Klein  
Mark Delude**

**Walt Daniels  
Bernadette Ellegard  
Paul Reder  
Nicole Murphy**

**Jeff Glans  
John Hicks  
Russ Waldie**

**HART AWARD-224 HOURS ANNUAL**

**Dave Boone  
Christoph Geiss  
Gregg Nolting**

**Chip Ward  
Julia Lumens**

**Jim Liptack  
Skip Frederickson**



## ***Bicycling Committee***

### **Bike Rides:**

For the second year in a row, over 100 rides were posted by our CT-AMC Bicycling Leaders.

In addition to local CT rides, we offered six events in NY, four in RI, one in VT, one in MA and 1 in DC. Of these, five were overnight events!

The leaders, in order of rides led, were Leo Pon, Judy Borrmann, Barbara Beckerman, Tom Ebersold, Joseph Snyder, Steve Borrmann, W Neal Fisher, Susan Grant, Anna Proczek, Robert Weber, Dale Geslien, Artie Morenz, and Timothy Linehan. Many thanks to Anna Proczek for leading Gravel Bike rides this year!

We continue to increase the number of easier rides offered, and have attracted many newer riders to the chapter.

### **Ride Posting:**

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

### **Ride with GPS:**

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

### **Smart Cycling Class:**

Thirteen people completed this valuable program from the League of American Bicyclists (sponsored by CT-AMC) in April 2024.

### ***Leo Pon Bicycling Committee Chair 2024***



## *Communications Committee*

This past year has been quite busy with many new projects to improve and expand the Chapter's communications through various means. In January, the Chapter created our own [Instagram page](#)! In February, we had our first Communications Committee meeting where everyone involved in communications (Corey, Janet, Dale, Keith, Altina, and Justin) met to discuss the current status of Communications and set goals to work towards. The AMC Communications Department provided training on how to use social media templates they shared via Canva. Our Communications Committee used these templates to create generic [CT Chapter](#) and specific [event fliers](#) that could be used at activities or through social media outlets. To expand the use of the fliers, a [LinkTree](#) was created and linked to the fliers via a QR Code for people to access important Chapter information. In April, the Communications Committee hosted an online training on [how to post trips to Meetup](#) for leaders. In July, we hosted an online training on how to post trips to ActDB for leaders. During the summer, the Communications Chair worked with Northwest Camp to help with their communication needs - using Constant Contact to reach out to members, creating an email list of previous guests to Northwest Camp, advertising events, and helping them with posting activities to the database. In early Fall, we worked on addressing issues accessing Constant Contact and improving email communications across the Chapter.

Besides the new communications tools and social media expansion, we also worked on improving existing tools such as the Club's monthly eBlast and Constant Contact. In March, we took over sending out the monthly eBlast from the Club. At the time, the eBlast went to members only (around 6000 at the time). In August, the Club opened up the eBlast to anyone with a connection (not just members) expanding the list to over 12,000 recipients. "The Weekly" got a redesign to align with the Club's logo and color scheme. The redesign included a new layout with links for each committee back to the Activities Database. On Facebook and Meetup, we set up a weekly post with a link to the Activities Database for members to see what events were coming up. We continue to improve on utilization of Constant Contact and the AMC's eBlast to advertise and keep members informed about what is going on in our Chapter. Keith, our webmaster, continued to keep our website up-to-date and made minor changes to the site to meet our ever-changing needs. We also tried boosting one of our posts on Facebook. We ended up reaching 1,398 people by boosting the post.

Here's a breakdown of how our social media platform activity:

### Club Chapter eBlast

- Recipients - 12,015 recipients

### Constant Contact

- Emails Sent - 386 emails with a 49% Open Rate
- Recipients - 4,509

- Overall – 99 new contacts (new subscribers 429, deleted 155, unsubscribed 373)

Facebook Page (compared to previous year)

- Posts - 68 posts (decrease by 48.9%)
- Reach - 11.5K (increased by 26.2%)
- Visits - 5.7K (increased by 8.9%)
- Link Clicks - 702 (increased by 3.2%)
- Followers - 3,524 (increase of 179 over last year)

Facebook Group

- Main Group - 2776 members (increased by 1,476)
- Conservation Group - 156 Members
- Climbing / Mountaineering Group - 502 members
- Whitewater Group - 572 members

Instagram

- Chapter - 14 posts, 118 followers
- 20's & 30's - 59 posts, 80 followers

Meetup Group - 3,856 members

Twitter - 414 followers

**Corey Mott, CT Chapter Chair, Communications Committee-2024**  
**Corey Mott – Facebook, Janet Ainsworth – Twitter (X), Tom Carruthers - FCG Advertising**  
**Keith Spaar – Webmaster for CT Chapter webpage**





## *Conservation Committee*

In January, we discussed holding our legislative preview session, but paused the event due to the then recent departure of a key ally, Eric Hammerling, former director of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association. We are hopeful we can host this event in 2025 with the help of new leadership at CFPA, as well as other allies.

Also in January, both co-chairs attended a gathering of environmentalists sponsored by the League of Conservation Voters. Andrew May attended in person.

In April, we continued our long partnership with Eastern Connecticut State University staff and students in their annual "Town Pride, Town Wide" day of community service. Torrential rain prevented the planned bridge building project at Goodwin State Forest, but the students were able to successfully clear some overgrown brush from trails. As well as providing the opportunity for bonding, the event gave the students a chance to learn about both CFPA and AMC.

In September, we co-sponsored with the Willimantic Chapter of the NAACP and Inter-Religious Eco-Justice Network (IREJN) a showing, again at ECSU, of the searing (pun intended) documentary "COOKED: Survival By Zip Code", which documented an otherwise forgotten heat wave in Chicago that killed hundreds of people, the vast majority low-income and thus lacking access to air conditioning or fans. Many of the people even kept their windows shut for fear of home invasions. An additional showing is under discussion.

Committee member Andrew May attended a series of lectures held at the Connecticut Science Center entitled, "Coffee Talk: Environmental Sustainability".

- **Offshore Wind Energy:** Kenneth Bowes, VP of Offshore Wind Siting @ Eversource Energy. Mr. Bowes was generally pessimistic concerning the economics of the wind projects that have been proposed in and around Long Island Sound. He mentioned that several projects have been delayed or canceled and some of the initial financial backers have pulled out of the projects. He did note that wind power has the potential to meet a significant portion of our energy demands.

- **The Blue Economy:** Dr. Colleen Bielitz from Southern Connecticut State University's "Strategic Initiatives & Outreach @ SCSU" and Project Blue (<http://www.projectblue.southernct.edu>) a research and innovation center focused on developing the blue economy. Dr. Bielitz mentioned that some of her research is directed toward developing commercial uses for seaweed and kelp.

- **Talking Trash :** Dr. Jackson Somers, professor of environmental economics in the Department of Agriculture & Resource Economics at the University of Connecticut. Dr. Somers has focused much of his research on the waste and recycling industry and, thus, was generally pessimistic about the chances of recycling making a significant dent in Connecticut's waste disposal problem. (Currently, we are transporting waste out of state.) He noted that public policy would encourage only a small percentage of adopters until there is "pay as you throw". Of course, this will be difficult to pass and implement, it was noted.

- **Our Climate & Our Land:** Dr. Guling Wang is a Professor of Environmental Engineering at UConn. Dr. Wang spoke about the potential for land use policy, specifically forest policy, to sequester carbon. The type and age of trees will determine sequestration potential.

Janet Ainsworth attended several meetings or events sponsored by the Connecticut Outdoor Recreation Alliance, which brings together people from diverse organizations to increase outdoor recreation by supporting the outdoor recreation economy. See [ctoutdoors.org](http://ctoutdoors.org).

During the legislative session (February to May), several members tracked legislation and weighed in. The failure of the Senate to vote on HB 5004, a major bill addressing many environmental issues, was a great disappointment to conservationists. It is hoped that this year's long session (January to June) will accomplish more.

Janet Ainsworth attended meetings of the Club wide Conservation Committee. She stepped away from chairing it this year due, in part, to other volunteer obligations. (in June 2024, Janet became president of the Guilford Land Conservation Trust.)

***Janet Ainsworth, co-chair***  
***Andrew May, co-chair***  
***Conservation Committee 2024***



## *Education Committee*

The Education Committee in 2024 organized four leadership training sessions and a map and compass course. A total of 15 participants for the leadership trainings and 12 participants for Map and Compass. This year, the AMC staff continued to offer Wilderness First Aid courses in CT to help reduce costs for AMC activity leaders.

AMC is making progress on its online leadership training. Volunteers were allowed to test the new system. There will be further discussion on how it will be integrated into future trainings.

Looking ahead to 2025, the Education Committee aims to expand its instructor base, enabling the introduction of additional courses covering Map and Compass, Leave No Trace, and outdoor hard skills. Those interested in becoming instructors are encouraged to contact the committee via email at [education@ct-amc.org](mailto:education@ct-amc.org).

Furthermore, the Education Committee actively seeks alternative venues to host its program in the state. The chapter's educational program's annual success is deeply indebted to its dedicated volunteers, including Keith Spaar (Chair), Janet Ainsworth, Phil Wilsey, Barbara Beckerman, and Barry Black.

### ***Keith Spaar Education Committee Chair 2024***



## *Excursions Committee*

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

During this reporting period, a total of 506 hikes were offered by 55 CT Chapter leaders in the 12-month time period through the end of September 2024, with 176 occurring on weekends and 330 occurring mid-week. The total number of events was up from 441 events last year, due to an increase in the number of mid-week hikes and a more significant increase in weekend hikes. 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 15 per month last year to over 17 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 two cross-country ski trips, two snowshoe hikes, several Yoga hikes, several Sleeping Giant Master Series hikes, a Shorter/Slower CT AT Hike series, a few After Work hikes, and several other out-of-state trips.

This year, 47 hike leaders and hike coordinators qualified for our chapter Volunteer Stewardship Award, which honors those who have led 5 or more events or contributed 30 or more volunteer hours. Seven “super-leaders” led more than 20 hikes each. Congratulations, and thanks, to Tom Ebersold, Mary Anne Hardy, Pat Kennedy, Joanna Miller, June Powell, Zellene Sandler, and Phil Wilsey for their dedication by offering their time to lead so many hikes over the past year. 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’s mid-week hike coordinators: Bill McCarthy, Leigh Knuttel, Gayle Amato, Shirley McCunn, and Patty Wehrli Zemsta.

Several Hike Leaders led ski trips or hiking trips both within and beyond the state. For National Trails Day, run by the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association, our hike leaders offered 5 of the over 200 CT events 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 19 with blue skies, bright sunshine, and temperatures in the 70’s. Eighty-six hikers, bikers, and trail workers participated in 10 hikes, 1 trail work party, and a 30-mile bike ride. Topping the list was Jim Liptack’s rock steps party on Mt. Algo with 18 participants. Many thanks to the 13 leaders who volunteered to lead these events. Also, thanks to our AT Day All Star BBQ Team, who fed 94 people at the after-event Grand BBQ at Macedonia Brook State Park.

Once again, the Excursions Committee sponsored and planned AMC’s 142nd Fall Hiking Week (FHW), as well as supported and worked to provide leaders for August Camp. This year FHW was based at the Town & Country Inn in Gorham, NH from 9/20-27. For the second year, FHW conducted a lottery for this year’s registration. A General Registration window ran from 5/3-12. All applications received over that time period were put into a lottery for the open slots. Any applications received after that open enrollment period were put at the end of the Wait List. 95 applications were included in the initial lottery. After the lottery, 35 applicants were put on the Wait list. We eliminated the wait list from the original lottery as well as for those that had applied after the original lottery ended. Anyone that wanted to go to FHW was able to go. For previous years, FHW had used a quota of 125 people for the entire FHW time period, however, this year we were limited by the number of rooms available. More people this year had requested Single



rooms rather than Double rooms. After the initial lottery, we had increased the number of available rooms from 60 rooms to 70 rooms and finally to 75 rooms. The final attendance for the entire week was 99 people. We offered 7 A-Hikes, 13 B-Hikes, and 12 C-Hikes. We had 5 of our own CT-AMC Hike Leaders lead hikes for FHW. This year, CT had the highest number of hikers at 41 attendees. We have reserved the week of 9/12-19 at the Indian Head Resort in Lincoln, NH for the 2025 FHW. We have not stayed on the Western side of the White Mountains for several years

Special thanks to Keith Spaar and the Education Committee, composed mainly of hike leaders (including Excursions Co-Chair Phil Wilsey) for organizing Leadership Training sessions in October, April, and May. Those training sessions are critical to providing high quality training to leader candidates. We have approved five (5) new Hike Leaders over the past year and several others are working to complete their co-Lead requirements.

Behind the scenes, our Excursions Committee members spend countless hours maintaining our lists, adding hikes to the AMC activities database, approving hikes, distributing emails, and responding to many emails from hike leaders, hikers and potential hikers. All these contributions are invaluable and very much appreciated. This year, our Excursions Co-chairs Peg and Phil participated in meetings and provided feedback on the planned changes to the Activities Database. Corey Mott, our chapter Communications Chair, coordinates and sends The Weekly, our chapter email for advertising hikes and all our chapter events. Peg Peterson coordinates the annual White Mountain permits available to any CT-AMC leaders who lead there.

***Peg Peterson & Phil Wilsey, CT Chapter Co-Chairs 2024***

*Excursions Committee-2024 Bill McCarthy, Patty Wehrl Zemsta, Leigh Knuttel, Gayle Amato, Shirley McCunn.*





## *Fairfield County Committee*

In the last 12 months Sep-23 to Jun-24, The Fairfield County Group (FCG) organized ten programs. Just like in pre-pandemic days, the presentation-dinner socials are in both north and south Fairfield County: five in Bethel and five in Westport. Each program featured a presentation by a guest speaker or a film. The programs focused on adventure travel as well as environmental aspects in an educational manner.

The places presented in adventure travel were Connecticut state, Minnesota state, Washington state, mid-west USA states, Australia, China, Columbia, Scotland and Thailand. The modes of transportation shown were hiking, biking, horse-riding and paddling.

On average, in the last 12 months at each meeting there were 40 paid attendees and seven volunteers. Before the pandemic, there were on average 50 attendees at each meeting. The Westport meetings were run by Eleanor Sasso however she fell ill late 2023 and sadly, passed in the Spring this year. The Westport meetings are now run by Tom Carruthers (who ran the Bethel meetings) and Fiona Nicholson who became an FCG co-chair to help run both the Bethel and Westport meetings with Tom.

*The Fairfield County Committee 2024  
Tom Carruthers Fiona Nicholson, FCC co-chairs.*





## *Family Activities Committee*

In addition to the hikes reported through the Excursions Committee, three other committees offered family-friendly events for the year ending September 30, 2024. The Bicycling Committee had a Holiday Lights bike ride. The Fairfield County Group had 2 events: a dinner and presentation about easy family-friendly outdoor activities across Connecticut, and a dinner and movie that included a film about a family canoe trip with their young sons. The Whitewater Committee held a holiday pool and pizza party.

We had 4 different hike leaders who led 10 hikes in diverse areas of the state including Danbury, Guilford, Groton, Killingworth, and the traditional AT Day hike to Cobble Mountain in Macedonia Brook State Park.

***Peg Peterson***  
***Family Activities Committee Chair 2024***



## *Membership Committee*

As of October 3, 2024, there are 7,207 AMC Connecticut Chapter registered members. This represents a decrease of 216 in total membership from 8/31/2023. The only categories to see an increase were:

Lifetime 158 +1 compared to 2023  
Senior 723 +33 compared to 2023

This year we will be distributing 51 twenty-five-year pins and 8 fifty-year membership pins.

The Membership committee offered one New Member hike in September 2024. It was led by Barbara Beckerman and Claire Rusowicz at Salmon River Trail, East Hampton, CT. The new member hikes goals are not only to get more people involved outdoors but to inform them of the benefits of belonging to AMC, such as outdoor activities within this chapter and the other eleven chapters representing Washington DC (Potomac Chapter) to Maine. Also, new members or non-members are informed of how AMC supports land conservation across the Northeast. Our intention for 2025 is to hold a minimum of two new member hikes and to have conversations with hikers about the advantages of joining AMC and to answer any question they might have.

We thank the mountaineering committee for once again taking the lead on organizing an information table for the Banff Film Festival at the following locations:

Stamford Palace Theater Friday March 1st  
New London - Garde Theater Saturday March 2nd  
New Haven- Lyman Auditorium Wednesday March 27th Hartford - Bushnell Theater Thursday March 28th  
Northampton MA- Academy of Music- Friday March 29th  
Each table location was staffed by members of various committees.

The committee, primarily through Barbara Beckerman, organized the third annual members appreciation picnic at Chatfield Hollow State Park in Killingsworth. The day acknowledged and celebrated CT Chapter volunteers and members in general. While the event was sold out at 55, attendance was a bit lower due to the change of date from Saturday July 13<sup>th</sup> to Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup> due to bad weather. The event continues to provide an opportunity to meet new and longtime members as well as providing information to newer members and prospective volunteers on various opportunities to volunteer with AMC.

***Jeff Bass, CT Chair, Membership Committee 2024***





## *Mountaineering Committee*

2024 has been a spectacular year for the Mountaineering Committee. We hosted a variety of different events, including weekly gym climbs, seasonal outdoor climbs, skills classes, quarterly member meetings, and our annual holiday party.

Early in the calendar year our club offered ice climbing classes for both new and experienced climbers. These classes are always very popular and see a full attendance. We like to utilize North Conway, New Hampshire for these events, since the ice there is plentiful and always in great shape.

As spring began, we stowed away our ice axes and transitioned on to rock. Our outdoor climbing season begins around mid-March if the weather allows and starts off with a series of skills classes. The most favored class year after year is the Top Rope Setup Class. This class gives climbers who have mastered the climbing gym an opportunity to bring their skills outdoors. We cover multiple different setup techniques and discuss all the gear required to complete them. Our other classes include a Trad Anchor Building Class, a Self-Rescue Class, and for the first time this year a Rappelling Class.

Our Thursday afternoon climbs continued this season, starting in April and ending in October. Our club meets up weekly in central Connecticut along the Metacomet Ridge. This ridge, which extends from Long Island Sound into Northern Massachusetts, provides several easily accessed cliffs that we utilize for these outings. These events are a great opportunity for people to climb outside for their first time ever and be introduced to a local scene of like-minded climbers.

Throughout the year we have offered our weekly gym climbing event every Tuesday at Central Rock Gym in Glastonbury. From early afternoon into the evening, you can find members of our club here climbing and socializing. This venue is the best place to be introduced to the sport, and we often find ourselves working alongside new climbers to help them get started.

Our group continued supporting a local veteran-run climbing organization this season called VetClimb CT. This group was started with the goal of providing free indoor and outdoor climbing events as a thank you to veterans and their families. During the indoor events the AMC is able to provide belayers and guidance to the attendees. When the events are hosted outside, AMC members complete all the rope work needed for the event, and carry in the necessary gear for attendees, including harnesses, helmets, and shoes.

Our annual holiday party has become a popular meet-up every December. This pot-luck style gathering allows our group to unite as a whole and intermingle. As everyone settles in, our Co-Chairs take the opportunity to recap the achievements our group has accomplished throughout the season, as well as thank all the volunteers who were involved in helping.

We are looking forward to a productive 2025 season and encourage anyone with an interest in rock climbing to reach out and see what our group has to offer you.

***Chris Granata & Levi Shmulsky, CT Chapter Co-Chairs  
Mountaineering Committee - 2024***









## *Northwest Camp Committee*

The Committee had an active year managing the cabin and its 125-acres, high on the Taconic plateau in Salisbury, Connecticut. The cozy cabin, constructed of native, American chestnut logs by members of the CT Chapter is tucked away under an old-growth hemlock forest canopy in the very remote northwest wildlands of Connecticut. Less than 1% of old-growth forests remain in Connecticut and sadly they have no special protection. The NW Camp Committee understands that old-growth forests are essential in maintaining and increasing biodiversity while mitigating climate change. Allowing proforestation and natural processes to prevail and promoting Leave No Trace (LNT) principles are a priority. Balancing the needs of its guests with a safe, healthy, and environmentally responsible lodging experience is paramount.

The stream next to the cabin continued to supply the much-needed water resources for campers to access. This cold-water, canopy-covered, stream drains from a poor fen and is the headwater of a rare watershed. It serves as a critical habitat for many rare, endangered, threatened, and uncommon species. The Committee continues to participate with the CT DEEP Volunteer Stream Temperature Monitoring Network, a community-science-based statewide water quality monitoring program.

The AMC Ridgerunners (RRs) kept a close eye on the cabin and campfire ring and monitored the property regularly from May to September. They complied with the Memorandum of Understanding. In appreciation of the AMC RRs, in August, the Committee donated \$200 to their efforts, and Coordinator, Brandon Elgun accepted on their behalf. The donation was made at the cabin with the new AMC Vice-president of Lodging and Hospitality present. The Committee expressed disappointment that the RRs season ended in early September and is working with staff to extend through October like previous years.

In October the Committee learned of the passing of Mark Nararra. Mark was an active Committee member and Volunteer Cabin Monitor. He will be dearly missed.

During the year, members attended the Snowshoe Frolic with Special Guest Carol Cheah of the CAES, four productive Committee meetings, three Subcommittee meetings, CT Chapter meetings and events, AMC events, Volunteer Camps & Cabin committee meetings, two major workparties, and many mini-workparties. None of the success of the Committee would be possible without the steadfast and consistent volunteer hours provided by Committee volunteers, Craig Kennedy (Registrar), Don Klein (Caretaker), Paul Thoma (Treasurer), Arft Mauger (Secretary), Tom McGrath (Safety Captain), John Hicks (Volunteer Extraordinaire), Joe

Parenteau, Ethan Rain, Angel Vega, Volunteer Monitors, fellow Chapter Executive Committee members Corey Mott and Keith Spaar and the growing number of workparty volunteers.

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

**2024 NWC Committee Roster with Volunteers** \* Denotes 2024 AMC CT Stewardship Award with more than thirty volunteer hours

### **Executive Board**

Rod Parlee (Chair) \*  
Tom Potter (Vice-Chair) \*  
Art Mauger (Secretary) \*  
Craig Kennedy (Registrar) \*  
Donald Klein (Caretaker) \*  
Paul Thoma (Treasurer) \*  
Tom McGrath (Safety Captain) \*  
Al Puches (Chapter Treasurer) \*

### **Committee Members**

John Hicks (Past Chair/Caretaker/Registrar/Cabin Monitor) \*  
Carol Langley (Cabin Monitor) \*  
Tom O'Connor (Cabin Monitor) \*  
Mark Navarra (Cabin Monitor) \*  
John Rek (Past Chair/Caretaker/Registrar)

### **Committee Volunteers**

Joel Blumert (Cabin Monitor) \*  
Trent Link (Cabin Monitor, Past Chair/Caretaker/Registrar)  
Roy Hoffman (Past Chair/Caretaker/Registrar)  
Joe Parenteau \*  
Angel Vega \*  
Ethan Rain \*  
Joanna Miller  
Barry Snider





## *Whitewater Committee*

The CT AMC WHITEWATER COMMITTEE had an excellent year in 2024. We ran numerous pool sessions at the Dennis Malone Aquatic Center in Bristol during the winter months. During the summer we had weekly lake sessions at Beseck Lake and beginner river runs at Satan's Kingdom. Pool sessions and lake sessions drew in 15-25 participants.

Numerous trips were run over multiple states throughout the year: Tville (CT), Satan's Kingdom (CT), New Boston (MA), Kennebac (ME), Dead (ME), and Fife (MA) just to name a few.

Numerous individuals attended our annual trip to the Ottawa Kayak School in Canada. The Ottawa Kayak School has provided a wealth of knowledge to our group. The area also provides some of the best whitewater in North America.



We hosted our annual leader's appreciation picnic in October, and we presented the Stephen Forster Award to Jeff Magee. Jeff Magee puts in a tremendous amount of effort behind the scenes. He prepares delicious meals for our picnics, collects raffle prizes, and arranges transport of kayaking gear throughout the year.

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 2024***  
***Mark Schappert co-chair***  
***Ed Yiznitsky co-chair***  
***Troy Schinkel co-chair***

## *Young Members/20's & 30's Committee*

This year we planned 11 events and held 8 trips. We hiked at Sleeping Giant, People's State Forest, Hubbard Park, and Ragged Mountain. We had two kayak trips on the Mystic River (including a concert on the water) and a joint event with the Climbing Committee for an indoor rock-climbing event at Central Rock Gym. We also participated in AT Day hiking from Bulls Bridge to Rt 341. Our ice-skating trip at Foxwoods, hike to Ell Pond/Long Pond, and Devil's Hopyard hike events were canceled due to weather or no sign-ups.

**Corey Mott, CT Chapter Chair  
Young Members Committee-2024**



***No Reports Submitted This Year.***

East of the River

Newsletter

Program Committee

Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee

## ***2024 Chapter Volunteer Stewardship Awards***

*Presented to those who ran 5 or more trips or gave more than 30 volunteer hours to the Chapter between 9/30/23-10/1/24.*

Janet Ainsworth	Dale Geslien	Anna McClellan
Michael Altopp	Jeff Glans	Debra McConville
Gayle Amato	Zvi Goldman	Hob McConville
Bob Andrew	Barry Gorfain	Shirley McCunn
Maite Barainca	Chris Granata	Tom McGrath
Jeff Bass	Susan Grant	Jim McLellan
Barbara Beckerman	John Grasso	Joanna Miller
Barry Black	Gene Grayson	Kathleen Miller
Joel Blumert	Dorothy Grimm	Kathy Miville
Dave Boone	Chris Gunderson	Corey Mott
Steve Borrman	Michael Handelsmann	Nicole Murphy
Judy Borrman	Mary Anne Hardy	Pete Myers
Steve Braciak	John Hicks	Mark Navarra
Ray Bracone	David Homer	Fiona Nicholson
Mark Brucker	Patrick James	Scott Nickel
Heidi Bucholtz	Gail Jaques	Gregg Nolting
Rich Cady	Patrick Kennedy	Gregg Nolting
Martha Cain	Craig Kennedy	Tom O'Connor
Tom Carruthers	Philip Khoury	Joe Parenteau
Bill Channing	Don Klein	Joe Parenteau
Andrea Crawford	Donald Klein	Rod Parlee
Walt Daniels	Leigh Knuttel	Louise Perkins
Mark Delude	Phil LaBell	Peg Peterson
Lisa DeRosa	Elaine Labella	Jeffrey Phelon
Brian Dower	Carol Langley	Leo Pon
Tom Ebersold	Meeyoung Lepore	Tom Potter
Bernadette Elligard	Dee Liepkalns	June Powell
Jocelyn Eppich	Adam Lippman	Anna Proczek
Ken Evitts	Jim Liptack	Al Puches
Elizabeth Fiorillo	Jeannine Loughlin	Ethan Rain
Neal Fisher	Ida Lowe	Paul Reder
John Fitzpatrick	Julia Lumens	Connie Rokicki
Skip Frederickson	Jeffrey Mantie	Claire Rusowicz
Paul Garbarino	Bobby Mathoda	Zellene Sandler
Christoph Geiss	Art Mauger	Mark Schappert
Oliver Geiss	Bill McCarthy	Troy Schinkel



## 2024 Chapter Volunteer Stewardship Awards continued

Presented to those who ran 5 or more trips or gave more than 30 volunteer hours to the Chapter between 9/30/23-10/1/24.

Matt Sharp	Alison Terjek	Chip Ward
Levi Shmulsky	Paul Thoma	David Wemett
Joe Snyder	Nancy (Star) Tower	Phil Wilsey
Pete Sofman	Vern Van Fleet	Ed Yiznitsky
Keith Spaar	Angel Vega	Patty Zemsta
Jacob Stafford	Russ Waldie	
Debbie Tedford	Tyna Waller	





***Connecticut Chapter Annual Awards***  
*Janet Ainsworth, Dave Boone, Peg Peterson – Awards Committee*

**2024 Appie of the Year**  
**Barbara Beckerman**

As a member at large, Barbara conducted three volunteer appreciation events across the state at different venues. The events included food, raffles, and activities to support the volunteer efforts in the chapter. In her spare time, Barbara led bicycling trips, hikes and assisted in training future hike leaders at the chapter's leadership training.



Barbara Beckerman and her partner Joe Snyder.

## **2024 Lifetime Service Award**

### **Mark Schappert**

Mark joined AMC in 1989, paddling with the whitewater group. He created the group's webpage, before the chapter website was even started. At the turn of the century, in 2000, he stepped up to chair the committee and has been a steadfast participating member of the CT-AMC Executive Committee ever since. The whitewater group has always been a robust part of the CT chapter, often involving dozens of participants at their events with a special emphasis on instructing beginners in all aspects of whitewater paddling and safety.

With the inspiration of his Co-chair Dennis Wigg, the committee added a very popular annual Leaders Appreciation Picnic, and annual trips to Ottawa Kayak School.

During his time leading the group, he expanded the kayak pool sessions to include summer lake sessions, and with the help of his co-chairmen, Ed Yinznitsky and Troy Schinkel, weeknight on-river instructionals were added.

Overall, the committee offers 4 months a year of instruction plus dozens of on-river trips throughout the northeast, including CT, MA, ME, NH, and northern and eastern NY state.

But his most important achievement (of course) during his time with the group was meeting his wife, Nina. They married in 2006 at Bulls Bridge, a popular whitewater kayaking spot on the Housatonic River.





Mark Schappert

## *Nominations for the 2025 Executive Committee*

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

Chapter Chair	<i>Jeannine Loughlin</i>
Chapter Vice-Chair	<i>Paul Block</i>
Secretary	<i>Mary Anne Hardy</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
Immediate Past Chair	<i>Altina Waller</i>
Appalachian Trail Chair	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Bicycling Chair	<i>Leo Pon</i>
Communications Chair	<i>Corey Mott</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Janet Ainsworth</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Andrew May</i>
East of the River Chair	<i>open position</i>
Education Chair	<i>Keith Spaar</i>
Excursions Co-Chair	<i>Phil Wilsey</i>
Excursions Co-Chair	<i>Peg Peterson</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chair	<i>Fiona Nicholson</i>
Family Activities Chair	<i>open position</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair	<i>open position</i>
Member at Large	<i>Barbara Beckerman</i>
Member at Large	<i>John Grasso</i>
Member at Large	<i>open position</i>
Membership Chair	<i>Jeff Bass</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Chris Granata</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Levi Shmulsky</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>open position</i>
Program Chair	<i>David Wemett</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>



## **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!

**Susan Anwander  
Judith Harmon  
Ann Hayman  
Patricia LeBeau  
Thomas Moore  
Patricia Murphy  
David Ortoli  
Betty Palmer**

## **25 Year Members**

We also extend congratulations and best wishes to our 25-year members.

<b>Philip Barnes</b>	<b>Paula Jones</b>
<b>John Bayer</b>	<b>Frank Keen</b>
<b>Barbara Beckerman</b>	<b>Donald Klein</b>
<b>Lynne Burgess</b>	<b>Dean Kleinert</b>
<b>Doug Couture</b>	<b>Mark LaFontaine</b>
<b>Beth Critton</b>	<b>Charles Landau</b>
<b>Maureen Crouch</b>	<b>Kimberly Ann Lang</b>
<b>Linda Cuddy</b>	<b>Christopher LaRose</b>
<b>Garfield Danenhower</b>	<b>Leanne LaRose</b>
<b>Nicole DeLong</b>	<b>Ron Littell</b>
<b>Joseph Dwyer</b>	<b>Cynthia Littell</b>
<b>Michael Dylag</b>	<b>Lauren Mahler</b>
<b>Donald Field</b>	<b>Seth Mahler</b>
<b>Doreen Gagnon</b>	<b>Edward McCaffrey</b>
<b>G. Gough</b>	<b>Marc Metzner</b>
<b>Janet Griggs</b>	<b>Ken Norris</b>
<b>Anthony Griggs</b>	<b>Colleen Noyes</b>
<b>Richard James</b>	<b>George Noyes</b>
<b>Karin James</b>	<b>Joseph Poland</b>
<b>Mark Janke</b>	<b>Thomas Pour</b>
<b>Ethan Rain</b>	<b>Michael Ungaro</b>
<b>Terrence Ryan</b>	<b>Dennis Wigg</b>
<b>David Scarborough</b>	<b>Janet Woodward</b>
<b>Patrick Selberg</b>	<b>Kimball Woodward</b>
<b>Terry Selberg</b>	<b>Kimberly Yonkers</b>
<b>Christine Towne</b>	