



CONNECTICUT CHAPTER
104th Anniversary

Annual Report
November 8, 2025

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
2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Chapter Chair	<i>Jeannine Loughlin</i>
Chapter Vice-Chair	<i>open</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>NA</i>
Education Chair	<i>Keith Spaar</i>
Excursions Chair	<i>Phil Wilsey</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chair	<i>Fiona Nicholson</i>
Family Activities Chair	<i>Deborah Minor</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair	<i>NA</i>
Member at Large	<i>John Grasso</i>
Member at Large	<i>Barbara Beckerman</i>
Member at Large	<i>Paula Burton</i>
Membership Chair	<i>Jeff Bass</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Chris Granata</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Levi Shmulsky</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>NA</i>
Northwest Camp*	<i>Rodney 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/20s & 30s Chair	<i>Corey Mott</i>

**Non-voting representative from the Volunteer Camps & Cabins Committee of the AMC*

CHAPTER CHAIR'S REPORT – 2025

Reimagining Chapters, the product of a collaborative effort that began in 2024 and included chapter chairs, regional directors, staff and moderated by La Piana, a consulting firm hired by AMC overshadowed much of chapter management this year. This series of workshop discussions sought solutions to chapter operational challenges. Among these were: Financial sustainability, connection to overall AMC strategy, lowering administrative burdens on chapter leaders and improving staff support, each of which remains a work in progress to this day.

Restructuring of AMC finances in 2024 and the rolling out of Outdoor Connector technology in January of this year accelerated the organization's adaptation to today's competitive leisure market. Chapter functions were altered as a result of centralized financial management and improved access to data. The evolution of AMC business practices contributed to the framework we used in February to set chapter priorities. We identified those as: Retaining current members, attracting a broader membership, increasing activities with a focus on weekends, and expanding the leadership pool.

Realigning our Executive Committee along more functional lines as well as a review of our Standing Rules and By-Laws was needed in order to achieve the herculean task we set for ourselves. A sub-committee created in March for that purpose studied our current committees and responsibilities, presenting their recommendations at our April Executive Committee meeting. Other chapters and staff conducted parallel activities, all of which were presented at the Chapters Chairs meeting in May.

Discussion by Chapters Chairs and staff resulted in voting for several measures that affect all chapters across the board. First, all Chapters Chairs agreed to the common goals of increasing activities and leadership. Secondly, of greater consequence was the adoption of two 2-year terms for the top officers (chair, vice-chair, secretary, treasurer) for all chapters.

For us, with two 1-year terms currently for officers, such a change exposes our lack of a succession plan, not to mention a shortfall of volunteers who either may be interested or eligible for positions. We are also losing long-serving members. It is with regrets and a debt of gratitude that we acknowledge leaders who have decided to retire or serve the chapter in another capacity. Phil Wilsey, Excursions Chair, mentor, Fall Hiking Week organizer, will now be Member-at-Large, leaving open the position for Excursions Chair. Jeff Bass, Membership Chair is retiring as is AT Chair Dave Boone. They have all served long and well. We also mourn the loss of Nominations Committee Chair Bruce Laroche.

Leading an AMC chapter is a privilege that offers an unlimited learning experience enriching the life of the person who holds the job. Beyond meeting with volunteers and staff, it pushes personal boundaries, like trying your hand at the ropes with mountaineering, or visiting a kayaking training session, even carrying a bear locker down a ravine.

The lessons learned are priceless and come from the mountains and the volunteers who shared their time and knowledge with me:

1. Don't be afraid to set lofty goals.
2. Move forward and up, one step at a time.
3. Persevere, but respecting your limits is neither a sign of weakness nor failure.
4. The resources you need to achieve your objectives are around you.
Recognize them and use them wisely.
5. Don't let others make your decisions.

In conclusion, our chapter can be proud of continuing its tradition of offering a wide array of top-notch activities, thanks to the dedicated volunteers who generously offer their time and skills to the wider community for the enjoyment of the outdoors. Furthermore, everyone on the Executive Committee deserves special recognition for going above and beyond to adapt the new Outdoor Connector technology to chapter needs (Corey Mott, Keith Spaar, Phil Wilsey); for reimagining our activities to fit within tighter budgets; for maintaining the Appalachian Trail.

What we do does not change. How we do it does. We and AMC are partners committed to mutual success. Let's continue our good work!

Jeannine Loughlin
Chair of the Connecticut
Chapter 2025



CONNECTICUT CHAPTER ANNUAL 2024 MEETING MINUTES

The 103rd Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was held on November 12, 2024, at Saint Clements Castle in Portland, CT. Chapter chair Tyna Waller welcomed everyone to the gathering. She urged everyone to read the 2024 Annual Report available on the CT AMC website – there are wonderful reports from all the CT chapter committees and the terrific things that we participated in over the past year. She also thanked everyone for all the support she received in the past two years as the chapter chair.

Recognition of Members who has passed in the past year

Tyna asked for a moment of silence as we remembered deceased CT chapter members:

Bill Beyerly
Dave Morris
Mark Navarra
Eleanor Sasso
Janet Blaha

Recognition of Volunteers and Members

Tyna then thanked all the tireless volunteers that make the CT chapter what it is today. She acknowledged those volunteers who ran five or more excursions or participated in over 30 volunteer hours. Those folks are all recipients of the Volunteer Stewardship Award and they are listed in the Annual Report. She asked anyone present who is in this group to please stand and be acknowledged.

Appalachian Trail Committee Volunteers

Tyna introduced Adam Lippman (vice chair of the AT Committee) and Bernadette Ellegard (volunteer coordinator) for the presentation of awards for AT committee volunteers. Adam urged everyone to read their annual report summary which lists the many accomplishments of this past year. Some highlights:

- They have a full roster of section maintainers
- Total of 103 volunteers, 23 who are new (all having done at least 12 hours)
- Total of 4369 trail hours
- Total of 1765 of administrative hours
- Nicole Murphy – a new volunteer who has over 100 hours of volunteer service – was awarded a pin & a patch (and more to come!)
- Two stewardship award recipients: Don Klein & Phil Wilsey
- Adam Lippman was recognized for 500 volunteer hours.

All their volunteers will be recognized with awards and swag at their volunteer round-up in the spring.

2024 Appie of the Year Award

Janet Ainsworth presented this award to Barbara Beckerman who was thanked for her years of service to the AMC, and particularly this year for organizing the leadership appreciation gatherings for our chapter.

2024 Lifetime Service Award

Peg Peterson presented this award to Mark Schappert. Peg described Mark's outstanding work in Whitewater since 1989.

Recognition of the 25-year and 50-year members

Tyna recognized the 50-year members by name:

Susan Anwander

Judith Harmon

Ann Hayman

Patricia LeBeau

Thomas Moore

Patricia Murphy

David Ortoli

Betty Palmer

The 25-year members (over fifty in all) are listed in the Annual Report.

All these individuals received recognition and their pins in the mail, sent by Jeff Bass, our membership chair.

AMC Professional Staff Speaker

Tyna introduced the CEO and President of the Appalachian Mountain Club, Nicole Zussman. Nicole thanked everyone for coming and acknowledged that she is a member of the CT chapter, being a resident of Stamford, CT.

Nicole thanked Tyna for her service over the past two years. She gave a shout-out to Corey Mott who has completely revitalized the chapter's social media presence. She is also impressed with the AT committee – they are the sole maintainers of the AT in CT. Additionally, the CT chapter has the most cycling trips of any chapter by a wide margin. Kudos to all.

Nicole accompanied her talk with a PowerPoint presentation.

Nicole shared some metrics (acknowledging the data is still preliminary) showing that the club is getting back to its pre-covid levels of participation and events. What other

organization in America offers more than 5000 free activities in the outdoors every year? We should be so proud – the AMC is our volunteers.

Nicole highlighted important AMC values – and what they look like in our club:

1. Joy – we share in the joy of the outdoors
2. Inclusion – we value differences and want to be a culture of belonging
3. Collaborative – we achieve more together than we do alone
4. Bold – we are confident and take smart, creative risks
5. Resilient – we are resourceful and embrace change and opportunities
6. Integrity – we consistently act in line with our values, even in the face of difficult decisions

She discussed the technology assessment and roadmap. A new system for volunteer leaders to post their activities and where participants can sign up is being rolled out in December – the new Outdoor Connector. This is a new flexible system which will evolve over time.

Nicole lastly went through the virtuous cycle of change – getting people involved. The AMC wants to connect people with the outdoors. Their strategic priorities include:

- Inspire joyous, meaningful outdoor experiences
- Protect critical landscapes for the well-being of people and the outdoors
- Cultivate and sustain a diverse, robust, and welcoming community
- Foster equity in the outdoors

BUSINESS PORTION OF THE MEETING

Action Items

- a. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 2023 Annual Gathering. The motion was unanimously approved.
- b. Tyna recognized all of Al Puches's hard work this year with the upcoming budget and the financial changes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Annual Treasurer's report. The motion was unanimously approved.
- c. Bruce Laroche presented the nominating committee's slate for the 2025 executive committee. He read the names of everyone on the slate and highlighted the open positions. He asked the secretary to cast one ballot to approve the slate. Everyone was in favor and the executive committee slate for 2025 was approved.

Red Hat Ceremony

Tradition decrees that all chapter chairs (past & present) wear red hats at all events. The new chair, Jeannine Loughlin, was asked to come forward to receive her new red hat. And all past chairs present were asked to stand for a round of applause.

With no further business, the 103rd Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was adjourned at 4:15 PM

The Annual Gathering concluded with an excellent presentation by Dr. Nicholas (Nick) Bellantoni, emeritus state archaeologist. His presentation (with accompanying powerpoint) highlighted nine hikes in his new book Ruins of Southern New England.



***Annual
Committee
Reports
2025***

**TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND 2024**

	2023	2024
	-----	-----
Cash at January 1	\$142,903	\$121,218
Revenue Collected:		
Boston dues allocation	21,477	20,692
Program activities	11,878	12,335
Contributions	300	200
Reserve funds- sources (1)	50	775
Share of initial memberships	270	0
Leadership training	7,902	603
Centennial Book Sales	444	27
Interest and investment income	6,621	9,948
Total revenue collected	\$48,942	\$44,580
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	15,132	19,155
Donations	10,000	0
Reserve funds- uses (1)	4,000	1,609
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	1,568	1,381
Conservation	198	516
Education	8,324	542
Executive	11,545	6,906
Membership	1,117	1,934
Mountaineering	1,983	471
CT-AT Committee	16,478	12,332
Whitewater	282	564
Total expenditures	\$70,627	\$45,410
Cash Transferred to Boston		64,750
Cash Transferred from Fall Hiking Weekend		3,642
Cash at December 31	\$121,218	\$59,280

**TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2024, AND 2025**

	2024	2025
	-----	-----
Cash at January 1	\$121,218	\$59,280
Revenue Collected:		
Boston dues allocation	13,880	20,373
Program activities	4,820	7,974
Reserve funds- sources (1)	775	1,150
Leadership training	474	167
Interest and investment income	6,377	1,273
Total revenue collected	26,326	30,937
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	5,123	4,910
Reserve funds- uses (1)	1,609	3,365
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	1,050	1,000
Conservation	312	0
Education	542	178
Executive	1,684	3,859
Membership	1,643	1,012
Mountaineering	175	142
CT-AT Committee	4,095	1,491
Total expenditures	16,233	15,957
Cash Transferred to Boston	64,750	2,401
Cash at September 30	\$66,561	\$71,859

TREASURER'S REPORT RESERVE FUNDS

	12/31/23	12/31/24	9/30/25
Reserve funds (1):			
AT Handicap Accessible Project	\$5,176	\$5,176	\$5,176
Eversource Donation	8,762	7,152	4,041
Other CT-AT Committee Memorials/Grants	4,328	4,328	4,293
Connecticut Teen Wilderness Fund	1,336	2,111	3,261
Whitewater Committee reserve	6,750	5,013	4,793
General fund	94,866	35,500	50,295
	-	-	-----
Total cash	\$ 121,218	\$ 59,280	\$ 71,859
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(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 Chapter's operating budget.

Al Puches, CT Chapter Treasurer-2025



Appalachian Trail Committee

2024-2025 SEASON

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).

- 104 individual AMC-CT AT volunteers contributed 2,724 field hours, and an additional 874 hours of non-field-based work. Travel constituted an additional 1,470 hours.
- Early in the season additional stone steps were installed south of RT 341, the Trail between Riga Junction and Brassie Brook was brushed back, and several water bars were installed between Riga Junction and Bear Mountain Road.
- Our Boundary volunteers report that over the past season they have visited 268 monuments along 17.2 miles of boundary. They walked on the wild side!
- We received two steel job boxes donated to us by ATC. We refitted the boxes using our usual bear box configuration and installed them both at Sages Ravine.
- ATC developed business card sized messaging regarding “Trail Magic”. We had a small number printed. The cards are used when our Patrollers encounter unattended food, water, etc. at trailheads and road crossings.
- We felt the impact of the Presidential order freezing grant funding to certain NGOs. ATC was unable to access government funds approved by the NPS for AT trail projects. This is despite the freeze being blocked by judicial orders and the White House rescinding the directive memo.
- Our effort to update our CT-AT Local Management Plan is moving forward, with the issues of partner relationships, cooperative management, land and resource management, and visitor use management having been reviewed and updated.
- ATC, in coordination with the AT maintaining clubs, sent a letter to the Congressional delegations of the AT states, protesting the Trump administration

firings and funding freezes. AMC was a signatory, including the CT and Western MA Chapters. Additionally, ATC is organizing a messaging campaign for all Trail state congressional delegations including personal meetings. AMC again is part of this campaign.

- Funding was eventually released for our summer crew projects. The GreenAgers of Great Barrington, MA completed work on the staircase on Wetawanchu Ridge and treadway improvements south of Pine Swamp.
- Our annual Volunteer Round-Up was held in April at Kent Town Hall. Our volunteers were welcomed by Kent First Selectman Marty Lindenmeyer, himself an enthusiastic AT hiker.
- In April, the Pine Swamp campsite was closed due to the presence of numerous hazardous trees at the location. The Pine Swamp campsite and shelter were reopened following extensive hazard tree removal. Bartlett Tree Exerts was contracted to perform the necessary work and completed the job over three- and one-half days.
- Committee members reached out to CT DOT regarding improvements to hiker parking along RT 341 in Kent. In response to our request, CT DOT placed road millings at the hiker parking where the Trail crosses RT 341. We very much appreciate DOT's responsiveness in creating a much drier, less muddy parking place.
- Skip Fredericksen of New Hartford has been appointed as our new Outreach Coordinator. Skip is well suited to promote the AT, the Committee, and the Club. He is a very active volunteer, the section maintainer for the W. Cornwall Rd-Cesar Brook, is well-known for his "hiker feeds", and is an AT thru-hiker. Kristine Saccone of Trumbull has been appointed to join the Committee as Volunteer Coordinator. Kris and her husband and son, John and Evan, also are section maintainers on Schaghticoke Mountain.
- Brandon Elgon returned for his second season as Ridgerunner Coordinator. Ridgerunner Vince Dewitt returned for his fourth season, but this year as a weekend ridgerunner. Caleb Williams is a third season AMC caretaker, but his first season in Connecticut as a RR. Ridgerunner Tyler is a new hire this year but comes with much practical experience as a member of the Army National Guard. The RR's began their season 5/16. The Ridgerunner Team completed a very successful season, with no major incidents. The ridgerunners were challenged, however, with

an exceedingly wet beginning to the season, and an exceedingly hot and dry end of the season. We sincerely thank Tyler, Caleb, Vince and Ridgerunner Coordinator Brandon for their dedication and professionalism.

- It was discovered that timber theft had been occurring at the woods road to the “butterfly field” in Kent. Cedar logs had been taken, with additional trees cut. A work party installed a new gate on the woods road: hopefully, this will make stealing more difficult.
- Ken Sgorbati of Cheshire was appointed section maintainer for the Lions Head-Riga Junction section. Jacob Stafford of Newington was appointed Section Maintainer for the Undermountain Trail-Bear Mountain summit, replacing Dave Boone.
- “Give-A-Day 2025” was quite a success despite recent heavy rains and threatening weather. 40 volunteers participated in projects including boundary maintenance, invasive species removal, basic maintenance, repairs to the Silver Hill swing, and rock step construction. The weather improved remarkably by late morning, enabling all to enjoy a sunny and dry social hour.
- Over the summer months, a rock stepping stone crossing was installed at Thayer Brook, 16 rock steps were added to Ten Mile Hill and 13 wooden steps added on Schaghticoke,, over 100 downed trees and over 50 hazard trees were removed, and the Brassie and Carse Brook crossings were repaired. Over half of the trail was brushed back.
- Vice Chair Adam Lippman and Outreach Coordinator Skip Fredericksen attended the ATC Volunteer Leadership Meeting in Fredrick County, Maryland. This meeting was designed for new or rising AT maintaining club leaders. Both Adam and Skip felt it was very beneficial and appreciated the peer-to-peer opportunities for exchange.
- A forestry operation in the Housatonic State Forest has resulted in an incursion into the AT corridor in the area of Mt. Easter Road. A logging contractor mistakenly created a truck turn-around within the corridor. Discussions are underway as to what needs to be done to best resolve the issue.
- An assessment of the entire treadway in Connecticut was conducted by our Overseer of Trails Jim Liptack, working under ATC. The assessment was conducted

to help prioritize any improvements that might be funded under the Great American Outdoors Act “Legacy Restoration Fund”. Based on Jim’s observations, the Committee decided that we would recommend LRF funding for treadway improvements between the Lions Head trail junction and the summit of Lions Head, and also the north side of Bear Mountain.

- On October 1, 2025, the federal government shut down due to a lack of appropriated funding. As in past shutdowns, AT volunteers were instructed to cease work on the Trail as our “Volunteers in Park” protections were suspended. On October 3 we received notification that through the efforts of our Chief Ranger, arrangements were made that enabled us to return to work as normal. NPS AT staff, however, have all been furloughed, except for the Chief Ranger.

The Committee is grateful to our dedicated Section Maintainers, Boundary Monitors, Trail Patrollers, 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.

<i>Ray Bracone</i>	<i>Jeff Glans</i>	<i>Jim Liptack</i>	<i>Bob Poitras</i>
<i>Rich Cady</i>	<i>Gene Grayson</i>	<i>Paul Reder</i>	<i>Ann Sherwood</i>
<i>Walt Daniels</i>	<i>Adam Lippman</i>	<i>Russ Waldie</i>	<i>Henry Edmonds</i>
<i>Elaine LaBella</i>	<i>Christoph Geiss</i>	<i>Chip Ward</i>	<i>Bernadette Ellegard</i>
<i>Julia Lumens</i>	<i>Skip Fredericksen</i>	<i>Kristine Saccone</i>	

Tracy Lind, ATC Southern New England Regional Manager
Dave Boone, CT AT Committee Chairman 2025



Bicycling Committee



Bike Rides:

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

In addition to our local CT rides, we offered four events in NY, one in RI, two in MA, one in DC and one in Quebec City.

Our overnight bike events to NY, RI, MA, DC and Quebec City were all sold out.

The CT-AMC Bicycling Leaders, (in order of rides led from September 30, 2024 to October 1, 2025), were:

Leo Pon, Barbara Beckerman, Tom Ebersold, Anna

Proczek, Joseph Snyder, Judy Borrmann, Steve Borrmann, Susan Grant, Dale Geslien, and Timothy Linehan.

Many thanks to Anna Proczek and Tom Ebersold for leading Gravel Bike rides this year!

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 Classes:

Eighteen people in two classes completed this valuable program from the League of American Bicyclists (co-sponsored by CT-AMC and Bike West Hartford) in 2025.

The Smart Cycling curriculum is designed to develop the confidence and competence of any bicycle rider. Students will learn about choosing a bicycle, basic parts of a bike, essential equipment, as well as how to safely and comfortably ride your bike in various traffic conditions, terrain and climates.

Leo Pon

Bicycling Committee Chair 2025



The Appalachian Mountain Club

An outdoorsy community.



Visit ct-amc.org



Communications Committee

Technology and Data Management

This year was defined by the **implementation of AMC's new trip data management system, Outdoors Connector (OC)**, which replaced the old Activities Database in January 2025. This was a massive undertaking, relying on the dedication of several Chapter volunteers. Their work included re-approving trips transitioned from the old system, fixing and adjusting leader permissions, and training our leaders on the new platform. Throughout the year, we continued to improve OC, opening up significant new possibilities for efficiency and communication.

Automation and Integration

During the summer months, we focused on **creating several new automation processes** that linked Outdoors Connector with other platforms:

- **Improved Leader Communications:** We synced OC with our **Google Groups** to create up-to-date lists of current leaders. This allows committee chairs to communicate more efficiently and gives leaders a platform to easily reach out to others with similar skills for coordinating activities and sharing ideas.
- **Automated Event Calendar:** With the help of Chao Xie from the Boston Chapter, we established a **Google Calendar that automatically posts activities from OC**. This calendar is now seamlessly shared in "The Weekly," other email communications, and on our website.
- **Meetup Pilot Program:** We ran a successful pilot program to sync OC directly with our **Meetup page**. The positive feedback means this feature will be offered to all leaders during the 2026 season.
- **Social Media Sync:** We also tested having a **post automatically created on our Facebook page** when an event was added to OC.

Communications and Branding

In addition to the work with **Outdoors Connector**, we continued to use **Constant Contact** to send "The Weekly" and other Chapter communications. We were pleased to receive **committee-specific logos** toward the end of the summer. We immediately began using them for major events, and leaders will gain access to them for posting their trips in Outdoors Connector in the late fall. We streamlined how we share information by designing a new **Chapter business card**. This card features a **QR code** that takes users directly to a customized **Linktree**, providing a simple, single point of access for all our online presence, from

social media to event sign-ups. Lastly, we successfully transitioned our leadership email accounts to Google Workspace. Executive Board members and Committee Chairs now have access to Google's integrated suite of tools, greatly improving our ability to store data, schedule meetings, and host online gatherings.

Platform	Key Metric	Year End Total (Sept 30)	Change from Previous Year
Constant Contact	Total Recipients	4,539	+0.67%
Facebook Page	Total Followers	3.6K	+2.9%
Facebook Main Group	Total Members	3,802	+37.0%
Meetup	Total Members	3,988	+3.4%

Corey Mott
Communications Chair 2025



Appalachian Mountain Club - Connecticut Chapter (CT-AMC)

🌐 Public group · 3.8K members · 🗨️ AI enabled



Conservation Committee

The Conservation Committee has been remarkably stable in membership. Most members have been participating since at least 2008. Andrew May and Jamie Lee were co-chairs, followed by Andrew and Russ Charest and then most recently Janet Ainsworth. Janet is the newcomer, becoming a co-chair because she is available to attend chapter executive committee meetings.

Andrew and Janet have been tracking legislation during General Assembly sessions. There are two big ones that became law:

- **HB 5004, The Climate Action Bill** codifies the use of nature-based solutions (forests, trees, meadows, wetlands, riparian buffers, healthy soils, etc.) as part of the state's comprehensive climate action strategy.
- **SB 9, The Climate Resiliency Bill** provides planning tools for municipalities to address climate preparedness and response. The bill includes prioritizing nature-based solutions in municipal resiliency improvement districts. It also bans neonicotinoids on turfgrass and restricts the use of rodenticides to certified professionals.

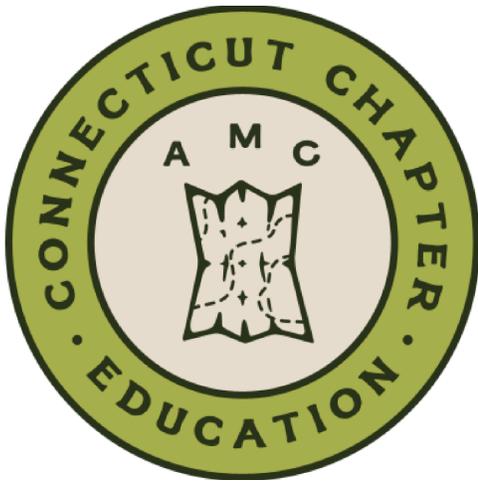
Andrew and Janet both attended a conference on pending legislation before these bills became law. They were being tracked by a variety of environmental organizations.

The committee has a long-time relationship with Eastern Connecticut State University's Center for Community Engagement, participating in trail work projects with students. The committee's members are Russ Charest, Bob Andrews and Jamie Lee.

***Janet Ainsworth, co-chair & Andrew May, co-chair
Conservation Committee 2025***



Education Committee



The Education Committee in 2025 hosted two leadership training sessions. One in April and October at Hammonasset State Park. The AMC staff organized Wilderness First Aid training held on June 14th and 15th at the White Memorial in Litchfield, CT. Keith Spaar provided support for the event. In October, Keith Spaar offered a Leave No Trace Awareness at AMC Northwest Camp during their fall open house on October 18th. Ten people signed up for the class.

This year, the AMC organization launched an online leadership training program called Outdoor Leader Fundamentals (OLF). This online training supplements the in-person training to help Leaders in Training start on the path to becoming qualified activity leaders. In addition, a new “Engaging Community Through Transformational Leadership” online training will replace their DEI education.

The Education Committee is always seeking alternative venues to host leadership training, map-and-compass, and Leave No Trace classes. If interested in becoming an instructor in the CT chapter please reach out to the Education Committee via email at education@ct-amc.org.

The chapter's educational program's annual success is deeply indebted to its dedicated volunteers, including Keith Spaar (Chair), Phil Wilsey, Janet Ainsworth, Barbara Beckerman, and Barry Black.

Keith Spaar
Education Committee Chair 2025



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 481 hikes were offered by 61 CT Chapter leaders in the 12-month time period through the end of September 2025, with 176 occurring on weekends and 305 occurring mid-week. The total number of events was down from 506 events last year, primarily due to a decrease in the number of mid-week hikes, but no change in the number of

weekend hikes. These included several weekends and other multi-day trips. The number of hike-related emails issued by the Excursions Committee remained the same at an average of about 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 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 including a Long Trail hiking series in VT, a cross-country ski trip in VT, a Redline hike on Mt. Wachusett in MA, and a 52 With a View hike in NH.

This year, 39 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. Eight “super-leaders” led more than 20 hikes each. Congratulations, and thanks, to Tom Ebersold, Mary Anne Hardy, Pat Kennedy, Bill McCarthy, Joanna Miller, Jeff Phelon, June Powell, 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, Gayle Amato, Shirley McCunn, and Patty Wehrli-Zemsta as well as weekend coordinator Stepanie Barnhart.

Several Hike Leaders led hiking trips both within and beyond the state. For National Trails Day, run by the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association, our hike leaders offered 8 of the over 200 CT events for the June 7th-8th weekend. Appalachian Trail Day, the CT Chapter’s largest outdoor event each year celebrating our almost 53 miles of

Appalachian Trail in CT, was held on October 18th with blue skies, bright sunshine, and temperatures in the 60's. In spite of the good weather, attendance for the AT Day events and the BBQ were all down considerably this year. Two sections of the AT did not have a hike offered this year due to a lack of Hike Leaders for them. About sixty-seven hikers, bikers, and trail workers participated in 8 hikes, 2 trail work parties, an Open House/Leave No Trace Awareness Training session at the NW Camp, and a 30-mile bike ride. This year, no one event stood out for attendance. Most were in the 6-8, or less, attendance range. Many thanks to the 15 leaders who volunteered to lead these events. Also, thanks to our AT Day All Star BBQ Team, who fed 42 people at the after-event Grand BBQ at Macedonia Brook State Park.

Once again, the Excursions Committee sponsored and planned AMC's 143rd Fall Hiking Week (FHW), as well as supported and worked to provide leaders for August Camp. Fall Hiking Week was held this year at the Indian Head Resort in Lincoln, NH from September 12-19, 2025. It was the first time that we had stayed on the Western side of the White Mountains in several years. FHW utilized a lottery process again for this year's registration. The general population on-line registration for the lottery ran from May 2nd-11th. Early registration for the FHW Committee and Leaders willing to lead at least 2 hikes during FHW took place in late April. Once again, this year we were limited by the number of rooms available. More people this year had requested Single rooms rather than Double rooms. We managed to clear the wait list in the days before this year's event. Everyone that was on still on the wait list and still wanted to attend FHW was cleared. We had a total of 112 people attend and utilized up to 82 hotel rooms over the time period. In 2005, our CT-AMC Chapter "saved" FHW by stepping forward to provide its sponsorship and we have continued to actively support FHW. This year, FHW had attendees from 10 states, including from as far away as Colorado. As usual, CT led the number of attendees this year with 37 of the 112 attendees. We offered a total of 35 hikes at FHW this year – 10 A-Hikes, 12 B-Hikes, and 13 C-Hikes. Nine (9) of our own CT-AMC Hike Leaders led at least 2 hikes each this year at FHW accounting for 18 of the 35 hikes. Next year we will be returning to last year's location on the Eastern side of the White Mountains, Town and Country Resort in Gorham, from September 25 – October 2, 2026. We are currently working to set something up again with Indian Head Resort for September 2027.

Special thanks to Keith Spaar and the Education Committee, composed mainly of hike leaders (including Excursions Chair Phil Wilsey) for organizing Leadership Training sessions in October and April. The May session was cancelled. Those training sessions are critical to providing high quality training to leader candidates. We have approved only two (2) new Hike Leaders over the past year. That number is down considerably from previous years. We also re-certified a Hike Leader that had not been able to lead for several years.

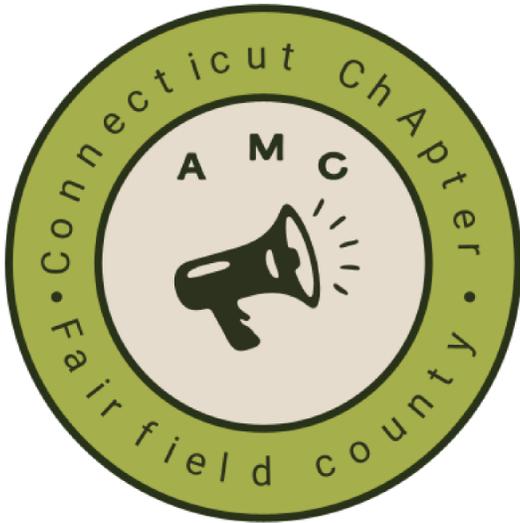
Behind the scenes, our Excursions Committee members spend countless hours maintaining our lists, adding hikes to the AMC activities database, approving hikes, distributing emails, and responding to many emails from hike leaders, hikers and potential hikers. All these contributions are invaluable and very much appreciated. This year 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's upcoming events. Phil Wilsey coordinates and sends the Monthly EOR and mid-week e-mail. Our Hikers continue to depend heavily on our Weekly upcoming events e-mails and our Monthly EOR and mid-week e-mails for finding upcoming events. Phil also coordinates the annual White Mountain National Forest Outfitter Guide Contact permits available to any of our CT-AMC leaders who lead there.

Excursions Committee-2025 Peg Peterson, Bill McCarthy, Patty Wehrli-Zemsta, Gayle Amato, Shirley McCunn

Phil Wilsey, CT Chapter Excursions Chair 2025



Fairfield County Committee



In the last 12 months Sep-24 to Jun-25, The Fairfield County Group (FCG) organized 10 programs. The presentation-dinner socials are in both north and south Fairfield County: five in Bethel and five in Weston. 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 Weston meetings used to be in Westport, however, the rental was over \$135 more than in Weston.

The places presented in adventure travel were archaeology in Connecticut state, The National Parks in the US, an Appalachian Trail thru-hiker, Portugal, Camino de Santiago Spain, hiking up Kilimanjaro, Alaska, Antarctica, Iceland and East Australia.

On average, in the last 12 months at each meeting there were 52 paid attendees and 7 volunteers. Last year the average was 40 paid attendees per meeting.

The Fairfield County Committee 2025

Tom Carruthers & Fiona Nicholson, FCC co-chairs.





Family Activities Committee

This year, the Family Activities Committee, a committee of one, offered 4 hikes that were easy to moderate in difficulty and included features of interest to both adults and children. We hiked in Hartman Park in Lyme, Bushy Hill Preserve in Essex, Castle Craig in Meriden, and Wadsworth Falls in Middletown. New members of the committee are always welcome, either to plan and lead outdoor and social activities, or simply to participate in brainstorming sessions.

Deborah Minor
Family Activities Committee Chair 2025

Membership Committee

As of October 8, 2025 there are 7,127 AMC Connecticut Chapter members. This represents an increase of 39 in total members from 9/30/2024. Here's an outline of the categories of membership that saw increases and declines:

	2025	2024	Difference
Family	4,273	4255	+18
Family Life	185	187	-2
Individual	1,643	1651	-8
Lifetime	160	158	+2
Senior	709	705	+4
U-30	150	126	+24
Youth Leader	6	5	+1

This year we will be distributing 49 twenty-five-year pins and 16 fifty-year membership pins.

As of this report no New Member hikes were held in 2025. The tabling events we held are meant to motivate people to take advantage of the many outdoor activities offered by AMC and also 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 as well as informing people of the degree that AMC supports land conservation across the northeast.

The membership committee took the lead on organizing an information table for the Banff Film Festival and REI at the following locations:

REI-West Harford, Saturday March 15

New London - Garde Theater Saturday March 22

New Haven- Lyman Auditorium Wednesday March 21

Hartford - Bushnell Theater Thursday February 22

Each table location was staffed by members of various committees.

The committee, with great help from Joanna Miller, organized the fourth 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 tallied at 47.

The following excursions were held before the picnic:

Vigorous hike-Mary Anne Hardy.

Moderate hike-Janet Ainsworth and Phil Wilsey

Easy/Casual hike-Leslie Bourque

Bicycle Ride through Park-Tom Ebersold

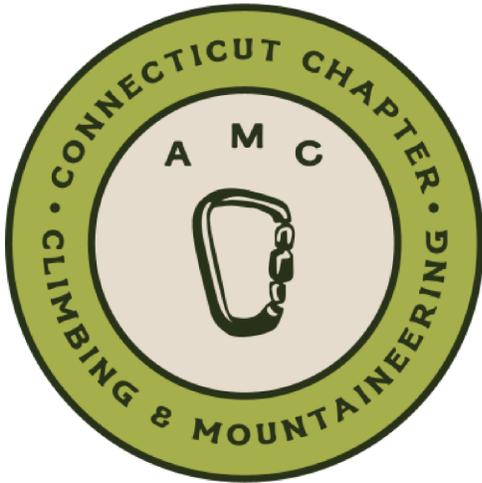
The event continues to provide an opportunity to meet new and longtime members as well as providing information to newer members and prospective volunteers on various opportunities to volunteer with AMC.

Jeff Bass

Chair Membership Committee 2025



Mountaineering Committee



2025 was another successful year for the Climbing and Mountaineering Committee. We maintained a full and vibrant schedule of events, including outdoor group climbs, weekly gym meetups, crag clean-ups, and a variety of skills classes.

Our season kicked off early with the annual Ice Climbing Weekend in North Conway, NH. The club hosted an introductory ice climbing course, an intermediate class, and several group outings for those looking to put their skills to the test.

Spring brought the return of our rock climbing classes, which began in late March and ran through May. These classes continue to be incredibly popular and often reach full capacity. This season, we offered:

- Top Rope Anchor Building
- Basic Self-Rescue
- Rappelling 101
- Trad Anchor Building
- Trad Seconding
- Introduction to Trad Climbing

Due to increased demand, we hosted more Top Rope Setup classes than ever before—three in total.

As the classes wrapped up, we transitioned into our regular Thursday Night Outdoor Meetups, where members from all over Connecticut come together to climb and socialize at local crags in the Greater Hartford area. These weekly events are perfect for newer climbers looking to transition from indoor gyms to outdoor climbing. Many of this season's meetups were organized and supervised by a small group of dedicated members. In the coming season, we hope to increase volunteer involvement to help support and grow these gatherings.

As fall approached and daylight hours shortened, the club began shifting indoors. Every Tuesday afternoon, we meet at Central Rock Gym in Glastonbury, where we've built a strong and welcoming community of regular climbers. These sessions are beginner-friendly and open to anyone interested in learning or improving their climbing skills. We are incredibly grateful to Central Rock Gym for their ongoing support and generosity over the years.

Looking ahead, plans are already underway for our annual Holiday Potluck Party. In recent years, this event has become a club favorite, complete with photo slideshows of the year's activities, raffles, strength challenges/games, an amazing spread of food, and a chance to reflect and share plans for the future.

With 2026 shaping up to be another exciting year, the committee, along with a small but passionate group of volunteers, is ready to take it on!

***Chris Granata & Levi Shmulsky, CT Chapter Co-Chairs
Mountaineering Committee - 2025***





Northwest Camp Committee

The NW Camp Committee maintained an active stewardship role throughout the year, overseeing the cabin and its surrounding 125-acre tract situated atop the Taconic Plateau in Salisbury, Connecticut. This rustic structure—crafted from native American chestnut logs by members of the Connecticut Chapter—is nestled beneath a mature hemlock canopy within one of the most remote and ecologically significant wildland corridors in the state.

The Committee recognizes the irreplaceable ecological functions of old forests, including their role in sustaining genetic and functional biodiversity, regulating hydrological cycles, and accumulating carbon to mitigate climate change. Accordingly, for this special property the Committee prioritizes proforestation—allowing natural forest processes to proceed unimpeded, with minimal human intervention as needed. The Committee also actively promotes Leave-No-Trace ethics to minimize anthropogenic impact.

NW Camp is back to pre-covid registration levels and 2025 looks to be financially healthy. Providing guests with a safe, authentic, historic, health-conscious, and environmentally responsible lodging experience remains central to the Committee's mission, requiring thoughtful integration of ecological integrity with public access and education.

The Committee hosted a variety of events this year, including numerous NW Camp Committee and Subcommittee meetings, cabin work parties, Leave-No-Trace training, AMC Ridgerunner orientation, and property reviews in preparation for a comprehensive environmental assessment by AMC Lands Planner Kristin Peet and Foresters Steve Tatko and Carolyn Ziegra. Seasonal highlights included the Snowshoe Frolic with guest botanist and ecologist Jared Lockwood, and a Summer Cookout featuring a farewell tribute and donation to the AMC Ridgerunners. Each event advanced our mission of stewardship, education, and volunteer engagement.

The AMC NW Camp Committee remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring the long-term ecological legacies of this carefully managed and biologically sensitive property. Through collaborative stewardship, transparent data-sharing, and science-informed decision-making, the hope endures that this unique landscape will continue to serve as a climate-resilient refuge and biodiversity corridor in

Connecticut's northwest wildlands. Its protection is not only vital for sustaining native species and old forest dynamics, but also for establishing the foundation for an ecologically functional region. As such, the Committee advocates stronger policy recognition and conservation frameworks that reflect the ecological significance of old wildland forests and prioritize their preservation for future generations.

The Committee is thankful for the many services the Chapter provides us, such as financial oversight from the Chapter Treasurer, website management, technical support, Leave No Trace guidance, leadership training, and assistance with camp workparties and major projects. NW Camp would not be the exceptional destination it is today without the Connecticut Chapter, whose members constructed the facility and contributed significantly to the property's acquisition.

2025 AMC Northwest Camp Committee Roster with Volunteers & Stewardship Awards

Executive Board

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

Committee Members

John Hicks (Past Chair/Caretaker/Registrar/Cabin Monitor) *
Carol Langley (Cabin Monitor) *
Joanna Miller *
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 *
Ethan Rain *
Angel Vega

** Denotes 2025 Northwest Camp volunteers with more than thirty volunteer hours*

Rod Parlee
Chair, Northwest Camp Committee

Northwest camp as an AMC entity is not part of the CT Chapter Executive Committee. They are part of the Volunteer Camps and Cabins Committee of the AMC. Northwest camp does share a geographic region with the CT Chapter, and many of their volunteers are also active in the CT Chapter. Northwest Camp also does a lot of “joint activities” with the CT Chapter. Northwest Camp is an important part of the AMC outdoor experience in Connecticut. Northwest Camp has a representative sit on the CT Chapter Executive Committee as a non-voting member which allows the Executive Committee to have updates and insights into what’s happening at a camp that falls within their geographic area and allows coordination of joint activities. This representative is not voted on with the slate of Executive Committee nominees each year and is instead appointed by the NW Camp Committee. (This information is from the central offices of the AMC).



Program Committee

1. Introduction - I have only been in this position since the beginning of the year when I offered to help out in any capacity on the executive board. My background as an IT Project Manager, a programmer/analyst, and as Sergeant First Class in the Army Reserves was only somewhat useful, as I tend to look upon everything as a series of ordered tasks to be accomplished, and there were not detailed task lists for events that were available for the Program Committee. I had only been to one CT AMC Event ever, last year's "Annual Gathering."

This report provides an overview of the Connecticut Chapter's program activities from the beginning of 2025 to now. My goal was to provide a variety of educational outdoor opportunities that engage new members and attract new participants in line with the CT-AMC's mission. It's been mostly focused on recovering and **revitalizing program offerings to meet pre-pandemic levels of activity**.

2. Program highlights - This year had three main events, which I tried to combine with educational workshops, and conservation efforts across the state. Notable programs included:

- **Spring Roast Beef Dinner at the Cheshire Grange:** The dinner was well attended and had 58 people enjoying a traditional Roast Beef Dinner and/or Lasagna (I'm a vegetarian myself). We had Dr. Robert Marra of the Connecticut Agricultural Experimental Station to give us a lecture on fungi. Dr. Marra is a dynamic speaker who kept most everyone awake after a heavy meal.
- **Membership Appreciation Picnic** was held in July at Chatfield Hollow. This successful event was organized by the Membership Committee. (see their report for more details).
- **Dinosaur Day at the State of Connecticut Dinosaur Park in Rocky Hill** I really enjoyed this event which was a co-production with the staff at Dinosaur Park, and it brought in one of my "target market" of younger people with families.
- **Appalachian Trail AT Day Picnic:** Our volunteers continued to be the stewards of the 52 miles of the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut. Key events included the annual "Appalachian Trail Day" in October which unfortunately came on the same day as the "No Kings" Protests, so did not have as many participants as usual.
- **Annual Gathering:** The year should be capped by a successful Annual Gathering/Meeting on November 8th. Its format and location are a departure from how this event has been celebrated in recent years.

The location: Clifton Hall - Deer Lake Outdoor Center - Killingworth, CT

<https://deerlakeoutdoors.org/>



The schedule for the day (subject to change a little bit from the weather, however Clifton Hall is the size of a high school gym and has plenty of room for the assembly and tables and presentations):

Anticipated Tables to be set up in the morning:

- 1.) REI
- 2.) Connecticut Audubon Society
- 3.) Representatives from "Save the Sound"
- 4.) Connecticut Forest & Park Association (possible hiking gear talk 9:30-10:25)
- 5.) Representatives from the AMC NorthWest Camp
- 6.) A highly anticipated used hiking and outdoor gear sale

Dr. Robert Marra will give a presentation on Beech Leaf Disease, and it will include details from Dr. Marra's recent trip to Japan last year for his research on this disease.
10:45-11:45

Appetizers from 12:00-12:30 and give people social time & time to assemble and for the formalities

Dinner (or lunch): at 12:30 PM

Annual Meeting starting at 1:00 PM

Lecturer/Entertainment: (at 2:30PM) "Appalachian Trail--the Musical" Skip Fredrickson

3. Participation and trends - Participation in chapter programs remained strong throughout the period, with a particularly noticeable increase in engagement from young members and new hikers. The CT Chapters Programs on Meetup and Facebook helped expand our reach and attract new members.

- **Overall participation:** We were able to nearly match our pre-pandemic participation numbers this year.
- **Most popular activities:** Hikes remain our most frequent and popular activity, but paddling, cycling, and mountaineering also drew consistent interest. CT AMC doesn't appear to have a flatwater chair, so I have taken the open water map and compass navigation with the AMC Knubble Bay Camp Staff and plan to take a leadership class.
- **Challenges:** The chapter, and the organization as a whole, continues to seek more volunteers for leadership positions to sustain this level of activity.

4. Volunteer contributions - Our programs are made possible by the dedicated efforts of our volunteers, especially Corey Mott (Communications), Keith Spaar (Education/webmaster), and Mary Anne Hardy (chapter secretary). Those volunteers are standouts for their perseverance and enthusiasm whose efforts are crucial to providing a creative and engaging mix of events. Additional essential contributors to our chapter include:

- **Activity leaders:** A special thanks to all our activity coordinators who organized and led trips throughout the year. Their dedication ensured safe and enjoyable experiences for everyone.
- **Communications team:** Our Bulletin and Newsletter Chairs were critical in communicating our activities to both Boston and our local members.
- **Trail crews:** The A-T Trail Management Committee and its volunteers put in countless hours to maintain our trails in pristine condition.

5. Goals for the upcoming year - Building on the momentum of this past year, my goals for the next program cycle are:

- **More frequent events of a smaller nature:** I'd like to do more small events especially that would bring in new members who we wouldn't ordinarily have contact with.
- **Cooperative Events With Like Minded Environmental Groups:** I continue to explore adding more educational workshops and conservation-focused events, surveying the membership for their interests - so far have made connections with the (various contingents) of Connecticut Audubon, Save The Sound, Great Mountain Forest, REI, and the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association

- **Enhance Communication:** We will work closely with the Communications and Webmaster teams to publicize events effectively and expand our reach to new audiences.

6. Conclusion - The programs offered by the CT-AMC continue to be a vital part of our mission, fostering a deep appreciation for the natural world while strengthening our community. The success of this period is a testament to the hard work of our volunteers and the passion of our members. I am confident that with continued effort, we will build upon this success and offer an even more vibrant array of programs in the coming year.

David Wemett
Program Chair 2025



Whitewater Committee

2025 was another great year for The CT AMC WHITEWATER COMMITTEE. As usual, we ran numerous pool sessions at the Dennis Malone Aquatic Center in Bristol during the winter months. In the spring months we ran weekly trips down the Tville section of the Farmington River. During the summer we held weekly lake sessions at Beseck Lake, and beginner river runs at Satan's Kingdom, Farmington River. All these trips and sessions were well attended bringing 10-20 participants.

Numerous trips were run over multiple states throughout the year: Tville (CT), Satan's Kingdom (CT), Shepaug (CT), Mongaup, (NY), Kennebac (ME), Dead (ME), Salmon (CT), Jeremy (CT) Otter Brook (NH), and Fife (MA) just to name a few.

Furthermore, we had trips specifically designed for surf skills, which were 'park and play' trips, and we had other trips that were geared toward swiftwater rescue skills.

We had our annual trip up to the Ottawa Kayak School in Ottawa, Canada. Numerous individuals attended the trip. Each year the Ottawa Kayak School has provided a wealth of knowledge to our group.

We hosted our annual leaders appreciation picnic in October and we presented the Stephen Forster Award to Ed Yiznitsky. Ed Yiznitsky played a significant role in launching the new trip computer system for the Whitewater Committee. Many hours were spent working out the kinks and helping trip leaders post trips. He encouraged participants to sign up for trips and because of his efforts we have most of our participants sign up using the new system.

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 2025

Mark Schappert co-chair

Ed Yiznitsky co-chair

Troy Schinkel co-chair





Young Members/20's & 30's Committee

The **20s & 30s Committee** successfully executed **11 trips and events** this year, strategically incorporating new activities to engage a dynamic younger audience. Highlights included our first-ever winter **tubing social at Powder Ridge** and organizing a dinner social before attending the **Banff Festival** at SCSU. We significantly increased our **Chapter's visibility** by tabling outside the Garde Theatre's Banff showing alongside the Family Activities Committee. A major success was the

inter-chapter Spring Fling, where we collaborated with the Worcester and Narragansett Chapters for a hike and social, strengthening regional ties. Recognizing the need for future leadership, we launched a successful campaign to recruit a co-chair, attracting several promising new volunteers considering leadership roles in 2026. This initiative ensures the committee's continued vitality as we prepare for current leadership transitions.

Corey Mott

Young Members Committee Chair 2025



No Reports Submitted This Year.

East of the River

Newsletter

Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee

2025 Chapter Volunteer Stewardship Awards

Presented to those who ran 5 or more trips or gave more than 30 volunteer hours to the Chapter between 9/30/24-10/1/25.

Janet Ainsworth	Jo-Ann Durdock	Mike Kulikow
Gayle Amato	Tom Ebersold	Phil LaBell
Bob Andrew	Bernadette Elligard	Will Lavery
Maite Barainca	Jocelyn Eppich	Meeyoung Lepore
Stephanie Barnhart	John Fitzpatrick	Dzintra Liepkalns
Jeff Bass	Skip Frederickson	Adam Lippman
Barbara Beckerman	Paul Garbarino	Jim Liptack
Paul Block	Christoph Geiss	Jeannine Loughlin
Dave Boone	Jeff Glans	Ida Lowe
Judy Borrmann	Barry Gorfain	Julia Lumens
Steve Borrmann	Chris Granata	Jeff Magee
Steve Braciak	Kathy Granata	Jeffrey Mantie
Ray Bracone	John Grasso	Andrew May
Paula Burton	Gene Grayson	Bill McCarthy
Rich Cady	Dorothy Grimm	Shirley McCunn
Tom Carruthers	Jim Hagadorn	Joanna Miller
Steve Clark	MaryAnne Hardy	Deborah Minor
Andrea Crawford	John Hicks	Kathy Miville
Walt Daniels	David Homer	Corey Mott
John Deangelis	Jay Hummer	Fiona Nicholson
Chris DeGraaf	Dennis Jakiela	Scott Nickel
Lisa DeRosa	Gail Jaques	Gregg Nolting
Denise Dieli	Patrick Kennedy	Peg Peterson
Carmen DiOnfrio	Don Klein	Jeffrey Phelon

2025 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 9/30/24-10/1/25.

Leo Pon	Ken Sgorbati	Matt Voelker
June Powell	Bill Shaffer	Russ Waldie
Anna Proczek	Mark Shappert	Tyna Waller
Al Puches	Ann Sherwood	Chip Ward
Paul Reder	Levi Shmulsky	David Wemett
Connie Rokicki	Joe Snyder	Phil Wilsey
Claire Rusowicz	Pete Sofman	Ed Yiznitsky
Kristine Saccone	Keith Spaar	Patty Zemsta
Zellene Sandler	Jacob Stafford	
Mark Schappert	Debbie Tedford	
Troy Schinkel	Nancy (Star) Tower	



Connecticut Chapter Annual Awards

Janet Ainsworth, Dave Boone, Peg Peterson – Awards Committee

2025 Appie of the Year

This award is presented to chapter member(s) who have made a significant contribution to the Connecticut chapter in the previous year.

Leo Pon

Leo's interest in the outdoors began after taking an adult program at Colorado Outward Bound School in 1999. He joined the AMC in 2001, and has been an extremely active bicycling leader, as well as a hike leader. He was the Bicycling Co-chair in 2023, and at the end of that year, stepped up to chair the Bicycling Committee, which has expanded and thrived under his leadership. For example, just since 2023, he has led over 40 bike rides each year, totaling more than 130 of the 320+ rides offered. During that time, he also led over 50 hikes in support of the Excursions Committee, and even managed to get in a snowshoe event in spite of the dearth of snow in Connecticut in recent years.

Leo has achieved the highest level leader ranking, having completed the CT-AMC Leadership Weekend, AMC Mountain Leadership School, and National Outdoor Leadership School - Pacific Northwest Trip Leader program. He is one of our few leaders who lead in the White Mountains and the Adirondacks. He has led cycling trips in NYC, Washington DC, and Quebec City. For AMC Adventure Travel, Leo led hiking trips in the Canadian Rockies, Belize and Iceland, and cycling from Spokane to Glacier National Park.

Leo is a Cycling Instructor with League of American Bicyclists and a certified Public Safety Cyclist. He was also an active hiking and bicycling leader with an adventure travel company called Outdoor Adventures llc. He is also a retired Firefighter Paramedic and a certified Wilderness EMT. Leo is currently the Chair of the CT-AMC Bicycling Committee and an Associate Adventure Travel Leader.



2025 Lifetime Service Awards

This award is presented to the chapter member(s) who have made significant lifetime contributions to the Connecticut chapter. Recipients have 10+ years of significant service to the chapter.

Phil Wilsey

Unlike many of us who came to appreciate the White Mountains as adults, lifetime service awardee Phil Wilsey was exposed as an infant when his parents took him car and then tent camping in White Mountain campgrounds. He took note of the AMC labels on trail signs and then progressed to reading their publications in libraries. When he was 8, Phil and a friend got to hike Mt. Monadnock with Phil's dad. It was his first big hike and he was hooked.

Phil joined the organization in 1971 at a time when you had to be nominated to join. While at Pinkham Notch, two CROO members he didn't know became his sponsors. Although prior to this he was hiking often in the White Mountains, his first AMC-organized activity was a backpacking trip to Kinsman Pond with the Narragansett Chapter. One of his first activities with Connecticut AMC was white-water kayaking. Next, he became an AMC volunteer ridge runner on the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut, referred to as "Guides" at that time.

Phil ramped up these AMC-centric activities after retiring in 2006. Since 2007, he has led 25–30 hikes annually and instructed leadership workshops. In 2013, he attended Mountain Leadership School at the Highland Center to qualify as a leader for hikes over 4000 feet. Phil also has been an information volunteer at the AMC high huts in New Hampshire. He has worked at all but the Lakes of the Cloud and Carter Notch huts.

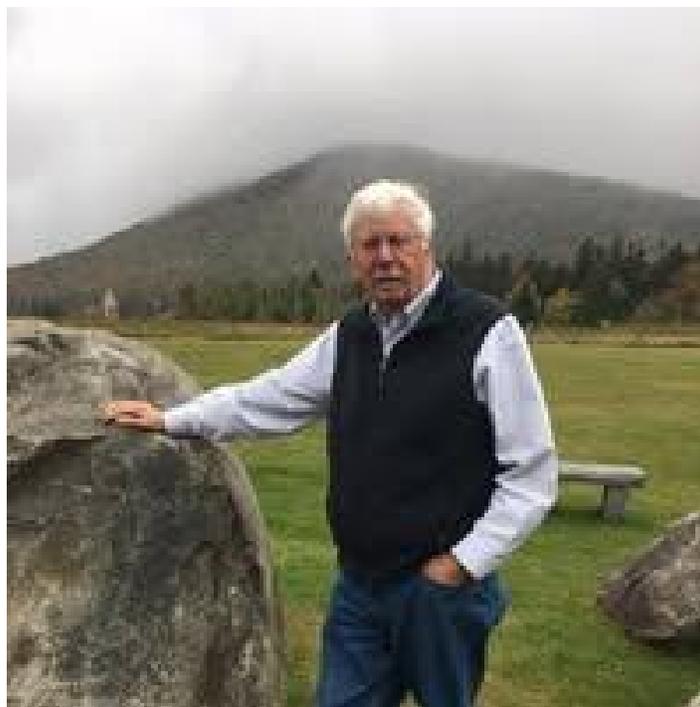
In 2013, he also joined the CT-AMC Excursions Committee to become a hike approver. He has since served as co-chair and then chair of this most important committee. Distributing East of the River midweek hike emails were among his initial duties. Phil's time with excursions is probably his most familiar role to the average chapter volunteer. Another very important role Phil fulfills is serving on the Fall Hike Week Committee. He has been a member for 12 years. In 2014, the Connecticut Chapter hosted Fall Gathering and Phil was the hike coordinator.

In 2020, the Centennial History Committee was formed to celebrate the chapter's 100th anniversary. As a member of the committee, he worked with other volunteers to collect and document the memories, histories and stories of the chapter's first 100 years. The book, *A Century Outdoors*, was published in 2021.

In 2024, Phil played an essential role in the development and migration of data to the new Outdoors Connector database.

Phil also regularly participates in work parties on the Appalachian Trail with the CT-AMC AT Committee. In 2011, he started working with the Connecticut Forest and Park Association to maintain blue blazed trails, of which there are 825 miles in Connecticut. In 2017, he became a Blue Trail manager and in 2019 he joined the CFPA Trails Committee.

Although he is stepping down from the Excursions Committee, he intends to continue with his many volunteer activities. "I have enjoyed my work with the AMC and the many friends that I have made over time," he said.



Janet Ainsworth

Janet says she became an AMC member for hut and other lodging discounts. One Fall, she was at the Highland Center when she met Beth Critton, who was attending the fall gathering hosted by the New Hampshire Chapter. Beth suggested that she become a family hike leader, and she signed up for the next class. She said she was inspired by the experience and began leading family hikes in 2008. She soon became co-chair of the Family Activities Committee. In 2012, we suddenly lost the chair and vice chair of the Connecticut Chapter. She had previously agreed to become vice chair at the next

opportunity. She said she wasn't expecting this meteoric rise but agreed to become chair. She served as chair until her term ended, including the first year with no vice chair. In 2017, former president John Judge asked her to become a regional director. She served in that role until a family matter required that she step down after three years. Thereafter, she continued leading family hikes and tracking legislation, working with club conservation staff. (At a point, she not only served on the Clubwide Conservation Committee, but also served as its chair. She stepped down from that role last year after several years of service.) She had joined the chapter Conservation Committee even before she was a hike leader and tracking legislation was her contribution. She says she is especially proud of filing testimony in support of the Passport to the Parks program and in opposition to bills that would weaken it, a threat that remains to this day. Passport to the Parks is the program whereby a registration surcharge on each vehicle supports the parks. She monitors legislation, coordinates testimony submissions with staff, and helps train leaders, focusing on AMC's conservation efforts. In 2014, which also was the end of her term as chapter chair, she became involved with the awards committee. During that year, the selection procedure transitioned from relying on prior recipients to determine outcomes to employing a permanent committee for decision-making.



Nominations for the 2026 Executive Committee

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

Chapter Chair	<i>Jeannine Loughlin</i>
Chapter Vice-Chair	<i>open</i>
Secretary	<i>Mary Anne Hardy</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
Immediate Past Chair	<i>Altina Waller</i>
Appalachian Trail Chair	<i>Adam Lippman</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>NA</i>
Education Chair	<i>Keith Spaar</i>
Excursions Chair	<i>open position</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chair	<i>Fiona Nicholson</i>
Family Activities Chair	<i>Deborah Minor</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair	<i>NA</i>
Member at Large	<i>John Grasso</i>
Member at Large	<i>Phil Wilsey</i>
Member at Large	<i>open position</i>
Membership Chair	<i>Barbara Beckerman</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Chris Granata</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Levi Shmulsky</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>NA</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/20s & 30s Chair	<i>open position</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!

Mary Adams
Walker Burns
Oliver Dann
Thomas Dwyer
Dorothy Dwyer
Sabina Florczak
Gary Gudinkas
Linda Kaminski
Jim Miller
Robert Rollefson
Virginia Rollefson
Lewis Segal
Jennifer Tate
Faith Weidner
Ralph White
Joanne White

25 Year Members

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

Gary Adamson	Lichen Kelly
Anne Adamson	John Laiche
Margaret Altemus	Douglas Levens
Gayle Amato	Jerome Lusa

Lisa Cox	Garry McConville
William Cox	Debra McConville
Beverly Crowther	Dennis McGlynn
Jeffrey Degen	Paul McNamara
Garry Desjardins	Elizabeth Mirabile-Levens
Carol Desjardins	Diane Mischke
James Eddy	Kevin Mischke
Charles Fabian	Thomas Moore
Christine Fabian	Matthew Opel
John Fitzgerald	James Oravetz
Thomas Foley	Catherine Pepe
James Fortnam	Jane Restani
Raymond Fredericksen	Ronald Scardacchi
Charles Gagliardi	Breina Schain
Jennifer Golec	Eric Schulman
Diane Gracewski	Elizabeth Van Gemeren
Phil Hartman	Kathleen Walsh
Daniel Hedden	Joe Wilson
Michael Hiza	Robert Wilson
William Hodges	Donna Wright