



CONNECTICUT CHAPTER
98th Anniversary

Annual Report

November 17, 2019

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
2019 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Chapter Chair	<i>John Grasso</i>
Chapter Vice-Chair	<i>Jocelyn Eppich</i>
Secretary	<i>Martha Cain *</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
Immediate Past Chapter Chair	<i>Cindy Butts</i>
Appalachian Trail Chair	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Mary Ann Gleba</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Susan Grant</i>
Communications	<i>David Roberts</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Russell Charest</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Andrew May</i>
East of the River Chair	<i>Ray Phillips</i>
Education Co-Chair	<i>Keith Spaar</i>
Education Co-Chair	<i>Janet Ainsworth</i>
Excursions Co-Chair	<i>Peg Peterson</i>
Excursions Co-Chair	<i>Phil Wilsey</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Family Activities Chair	<i>open</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair	<i>Barry Gorfain</i>
Member at Large	<i>Bob Guenther</i>
Member at Large	<i>Cindy Butts</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>Alison Terjek</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>open</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>John DeAngelis</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Paul Hayes</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Darcy Witham</i>
Northwest Camp Chair	<i>Rod Parlee</i>
Program Chair	<i>Michelle Baughman</i>
Webmaster/Technology	<i>Keith Spaar *</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Corey Mott</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Alison Terjek</i>

* Elected to position during program year

CHAPTER CHAIR'S REPORT

In preparation for writing this Chair's Report, I reread several Reports of my predecessors. A theme common to each is gratitude and humility regarding the extraordinary contributions of so many key volunteers, whose commitments to our Chapter sum to make us what we are. The variety, the number, and the quality of activities presented by our volunteer leaders and trainers over the course of the past year again place this Chapter in the top tier of the 12 AMC Chapters. Many of our key volunteers also fill the indispensable administrative roles which are the foundation of all else. The dedication of our core group of Appalachian Trail Committee volunteers is humbling. It is well known in the hiking community that the Connecticut section is perhaps the best maintained of the entire AT. Our Chapter volunteer ethos is inspirational. We thrive as a Chapter year after year because so many do so much so well.

This year may be most remembered for the AMC's new logo, which was first seen by many of us when it appeared in the Spring 2019 edition of AMC Outdoors, replacing the familiar logo which had been substantially unchanged for generations. Many of you have spoken to me about this. Though sentiments run the spectrum, many of you have expressed a sense of loss. Whatever our initial impressions, I hope that we all appreciate the good and thoughtful intentions behind the change, and understand that rejection of senior members and of the AMC's heritage is not implied by the change.

AMC Outdoors also took on a new format and shape in 2019. I have heard only favorable comments. Social media continues to play an expanding role in Chapter communications. The Chapter Meetup group now has over 2,600 members. Activity leaders are encouraged to post activities on Meetup, in addition to the AMC activity listing system, and many do. Our Chapter has also upgraded its website. If you have not visited the website lately, please do. It is a work in progress, but I expect that you will be pleasantly surprised.

Again in 2019, for the fourth consecutive year, our Chapter contributed \$10,000 to support the AMC's Youth Opportunity Program (YOP) in New Haven. Our total contribution is now \$40,000, a substantial sum for our Chapter, and a tangible contribution by us all toward the goal of providing urban youth access to outdoor adventure activities. In 2018, the most recent year for which numbers are available, 1,018 New Haven youth participated in AMC-enabled outdoor adventures. This summer our Chapter also sent two New Haven youth to an AMC Teen Wilderness Adventure, utilizing funds from our Connecticut Teen Wilderness Fund (formerly the Duren/Simons Scholarship Fund). An account of their positive experience appears in our autumn 2019 Chapter Newsletter.

Looking ahead, our Chapter will celebrate its centennial in 2021, and we hope to commemorate the occasion by publishing a soft cover book which will present the story of our Chapter and capture some of the recollections and reminiscences of many of our members. To do this well, we must begin at once, and initial preparations are already underway. There are pamphlets published in 1957, 1981, and 1996 which provide a foundation from which to build a more complete presentation. Please speak with me or contact me soon if you wish to participate in this project.

It is an honor to serve as your Chapter Chair. I value your insights, and I welcome your comments.

John Grasso, Connecticut Chapter Chair 2019



CONNECTICUT CHAPTER ANNUAL GATHERING - 2018

The 97th Annual Gathering of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was held on October 13, 2018 at Camp Woodstock in Woodstock, CT during the Fall Gathering hosted by our chapter.

The meeting began at 7:45pm when Cindy Butts, then current Chapter Chair, welcomed everyone to the 97th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Cindy recognized two Past Chairs, Gerry Hardy and Trish Niece, who had passed away since our last Annual Gathering. We then recognized other members who had passed and took a moment of silence to honor the memory of those Chapter members. We then heard how our Chapter was formed in 1921 as our founding members climbed to the top of a mountain for a bonfire and to organize the Chapter.

This year, the Connecticut Chapter's level of activities remains among the highest of the twelve AMC chapters. Many hundreds of hikes, outdoor activities, excursions and programs were conducted by our various committees. Cindy encouraged members to read the activities committees' annual reports which will be posted mid-November online.

Our Chapter finances are in excellent shape under the stewardship of Treasurer Al Puches. Our membership numbers continue to grow with current membership at about 8,300. As active as our members are, there remain ample opportunities to participate – we have a current opening for a Secretary if any members are good at organizing reports and taking minutes.

Janet Ainsworth, Past Chair and current Regional Director was introduced to present awards at the start of our recognition portion of the program. Members have been selected for the two highest awards that the Chapter gives to its members, the Appie of the Year Award and the Lifetime Service Award. The Chapter introduced an Appie of the Year Award in 1997 and added a Lifetime Service Award in 2005. David Roberts, member of the

Excursions Committee, Co-Chair for the Fairfield County Group and our Communications Chair received the Lifetime Achievement Award. Bea Holt, our Member at Large, hike leader and the organizer of this year's Fall Gathering was one of the recipients for the Appie of the Year Award. Keith Spaar, our current Education Chair who has modernize our communications and volunteered to update our website was also recognized for the Appie of the Year Award. Janet then turned the meeting back to Cindy Butts.

This year, more members of our Chapter completed their 50th year of membership in the AMC. None were able to attend but their names are on the last page of the meeting materials. Dave Cullen will be sending these members their 50-year pins. Dave also sends pins to individuals completing their 25th year of membership during the year.

Cindy thanked Bea Holt who did an amazing job coordinating this event along with all the Executive Committee members and others who helped with aspects of the Fall Gathering. The business portion of the 97th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was then called to order. The Minutes from the last Annual Meeting were approved along with the Treasurer's Report.

Bruce Laroche, Chair of the Nominating Committee, was introduced to present the Slate of Nominees and conduct the election. He presented the Slate of Nominees and conducted the election for the 2018-2019 Executive Committee. Bruce read the following names and positions and asked each person to come forward as he read their names:

Chapter Chair	<i>John Grasso</i>
Chapter Vice-Chair	<i>Jocelyn Eppich</i>
Secretary	<i>Open</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
Immediate Past Chair	<i>Cindy Butts</i>
Appalachian Trail Chair	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Mary Ann Gleba</i>

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Fairfield County Group Co-Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Family Activities Chair	<i>Open</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair	<i>Barry Gorfain</i>
Member at Large	<i>Bea Holt</i>
Member at Large	<i>Bob Guenther</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>Alison Terjek</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>Open</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>John DeAngelis</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Paul Hayes</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Darcy Witham</i>
Northwest Camp (*)	<i>Rod Parlee</i>
Program Chair	<i>Michelle Baughman</i>
Webmaster/Technology	<i>Cindy Butts</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Corey Mott</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Alison Terjek</i>

A motion was made to approve the slate. With none opposed, the nomination of the Executive Committee was approved as presented.

Cindy recognized our NW Camp volunteers who have been elected into their roles by AMC. These are as follows:

Chair	<i>Rod Parlee</i>
Vice-Chair	<i>Rich Michna</i>
Treasurer	<i>Paul Thoma</i>
Secretary	<i>Merri Fox</i>
Immediate Past Chair	<i>Tom McGrath</i>

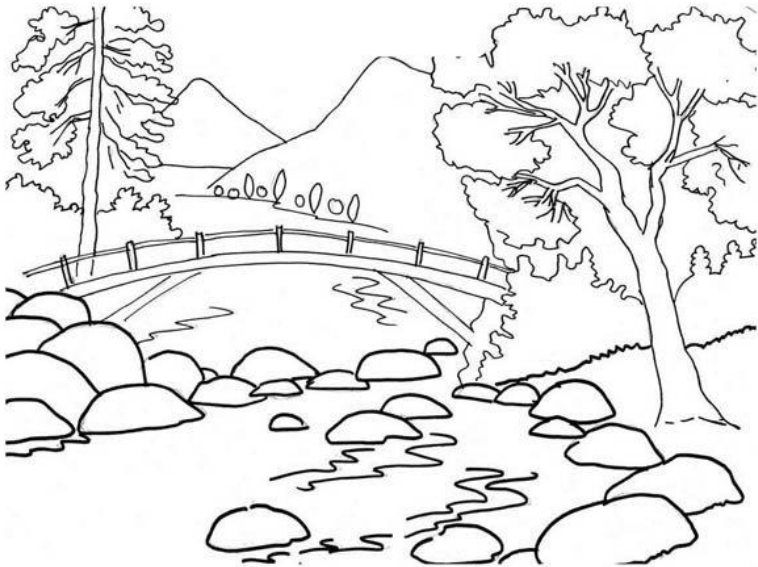
Registrar
Caretaker
Trail Monitor
Cabin Monitors

Craig Kennedy
Don Klein
John Hicks
Art Mauger, Joel Blumert

The tradition of the red hat was explained by Cindy. The Chairs and Past Chairs wear red hats, so members know who the Chairs and past Chairs are. These individuals in attendance were Janet Ainsworth, Ledge Clayton, Dave Cullen, Dale Geslien, Leo Kelly and Glen Parchmann. Cindy then presented a red hat to John Grasso, the incoming Chair.

Without further business, a motion was made to adjourn, this was seconded. The 97th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was adjourned at 7:59pm.

Jocelyn Eppich, Secretary



**TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017 AND 2018**

	2017	2018
Cash at January 1	\$149,415	\$153,357
Revenue Collected:		
Boston dues allocation	28,180	25,612
Program activities	22,357	20,533
Contributions	2,590	4,855
Reserve funds - sources (1)	4,835	6,100
Share of initial memberships	2,150	1,690
Leadership Training	14,293	15,844
Merchandise sales	290	278
Interest and investment income	<u>16,934</u>	<u>12,732</u>
Total revenue collected	\$91,629	\$87,644
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	26,115	24,900
Youth Opportunities Program - New Haven	10,000	10,000
Cost of Merchandise	636	241
Reserve funds - uses (1)	5,970	3,575
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	1,092	628
Conservation	729	101
East of the River	35	0
Education	13,887	16,668
Excursions	226	200
Executive	15,069	14,052
Membership	450	517
Mountaineering	444	1,683
CT AT	12,205	11,478
Whitewater	829	6,046
Young Members	<u>0</u>	<u>50</u>
Total expenditures	\$87,687	\$90,139
Cash at December 31	\$153,357	\$150,862

**TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2018 AND 2019**

	9/30/18	9/30/19
Cash at January 1	\$153,357	\$150,862
Revenue Collected:		
Boston dues allocation	17,187	16,413
Program activities	12,682	12,759
Reserve funds - sources (1)	6,100	1,345
Share of initial memberships	590	890
Leadership training	10,803	7,049
Contributions	3,961	1,320
Merchandise sales	198	20
Interest and investment income	10,865	4,669
Total revenue collected	\$62,386	\$44,465
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	16,944	12,749
Youth Opportunities Program - New Haven	10,000	10,000
Reserve funds - uses (1)	4,845	3,812
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	268	373
Conservation	101	358
Education	13,786	9,123
Excursions	0	123
Executive	8,499	6,164
Membership	517	262
Mountaineering	826	1,300
CT AT	3,834	7,665
Whitewater	5,546	1,509
Young Members	50	0
Total expenditures	\$65,216	\$53,438
Cash at September 30	\$150,527	\$141,889

TREASURER'S REPORT RESERVE FUNDS (1)

Reserve funds are cash set aside by the Chapter for a specific future use or spending objective. Sources of such funds are often grants, gifts, or contributions, but can also include funds set aside from the Chapter's operating budget. A summary of the Chapter's reserve funds is as follows:

	12/31/17	12/31/18	9/30/19
Reserve funds:			
AT Handicap Accessible Project	\$5,176	\$5,176	\$5,176
Other CT-AT Committee Memorials/Grants	5,499	4,324	4,442
Connecticut Teen Wilderness Fund	-49	3,651	1,066
Whitewater Committee reserve	9,757	7,305	6,723
General fund:	132,974	130,406	124,482
Total cash:	\$153,357	\$150,862	\$141,889

Al Puches, Treasurer



Appalachian Trail Committee

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

- 177 individuals contributed 4,071 hours in the field with another 798 hours related to club leadership, administration, communications and outreach. The record number of individuals is attributed to our new relationship with Yale and Trinity College.
- The season got off to a bad start with the federal government "partial" shut-down. The Committee was prohibited from working on the AT, in spite of the Trail being open for public use.
- The Committee assisted archeological consultants hired by NPS to create a report in support of NPS's effort to obtain National Historic Registry status for the Appalachian Trail. This year, applications are being developed for the AT in Connecticut and New York.
- Aaron North was hired as the AMC Southern New England Trails Supervisor. Aaron was formerly the SNE Trail Crew Coordinator. He will work out of the Noble View Center and AMC's Holyoke office. Also hired was Liam Cregan, to be Ridgerunner Coordinator. Liam also comes to us as a former AMC Trail Crew Coordinator.
- Members of the Committee met with counterparts from the NY/NJ Trail Conference, ATC staff, and the developers of the Harlem Valley Homestead in neighboring Wingdale, NY. The meeting was productive, and every opportunity was taken to educate the HVH on how to be good AT neighbors. Their business plan is based on farming eco-tourism, and does not include the AT.
- We were saddened by the passing of Richard Wanderman, one of our most dedicated volunteers, an occasional RETREAD, and devoted section maintainer for Caleb's

Peak/St. John's Ledges. He also maintained for the MA AT Committee Sages Ravine to Race Brook Falls. We lost another stellar volunteer with the passing of Jim Lovelett. Jim was a dedicated volunteer with the Bulls Bridge Task Force, and one of its original members.

- The Committee was awarded a grant from the "LL Bean Grants to AT Clubs" to augment the purchase of additional personal protective equipment. We built a "PPE GO-Kit" which will contain enough protective gear for a crew of 4-6 and will travel to each work party.
- Give-A-Day to the AT 2019 was successful, with 39 attendees. Waterbars were cleaned and rebuilt on the Undermountain Trail, the roof on the Algo shelter was replaced, the gate on River Rd. at St. Johns Ledges was repaired, a relocation was begun on Sharon Mountain, boundary was reclaimed on an easement on the east side of the Housatonic, and pounds of garlic mustard was pulled.
- The Trinity College "Quest" program agreed to adopt the section of Skiff Mountain Rd.-St. Johns Ledges. This complements the "Yale Outdoors" Program adoption of the Hoyt Rd.-Ten Mile Shelter section. Both organizations accomplished much on their respective sections this season.
- Despite several injuries, the Summer Ridgerunner Program successfully educated over 4,000 hikers and protected our AT resources. Our extreme gratitude goes to Ridgerunners Zach Lennett, Matt Grant, and Lizzie Grobel and Ridgerunner Coordinator Liam Cregan.
- The relocation in the Housatonic SF north of Sharon Mtn. campsite which was started on G-A-D, was completed as a CT Trails Day project. The small puncheon bridges crossing the gullies along the "cornfield" near RT 7 & 112 have all been replaced. The roof on the privy at the RT 41 trailhead has been repaired, and the pavilion at Silver Hill has been repaired and painted. A number of nectar plants were planted in the "butterfly field" east of the Housatonic. A joint workparty with Northwest Camp cut back brush on Bear Mountain Rd., a relocation of the AT between Thayer Brook and Schgauticoke campsite was completed, treadway

improvements and stone staircases were installed near Surdan Mountain Rd. by our summer crew “The GreenAgers”, and Trinity College “Quest” leaders began installing waterbars and other improvements on the south side of Caleb’s Peak. A major revegetation zone was established at Riga campsite, a second bear box was also installed at Riga, and more hardware cloth “armor” was attached to the Riga privy in our continuing effort to stop the porkies from eating the walls and door!

- National Public Lands Day was celebrated in great style and cooperation along the CT/NY border on September 28. In conjunction with the Dutchess-Putnam AT Management Committee and the Harlem Valley AT Community, four Treadway improvement projects were conducted on the south side of Ten Mile Hill, one between Hoyt Rd. and RT55 in Connecticut, and another south of Hoyt Rd. in NY. Camaraderie was shared following the event at the Harlem Valley Homestead. The event was coordinated by the National Parks Conservation Foundation, and other participating groups included “Girl Gotta Hike”, the New York/New Jersey Trail Conference, and a group of young veterans known as “The Mission Continues”.

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.

<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>Leo Kelly</i>	<i>Adam Lippman</i>	<i>Russ Waldie</i>
<i>Henry Edmonds</i>	<i>Elaine LaBella</i>	<i>Sue Spring</i>
	<i>Chip Ward</i>	<i>Bernadette Ellegard</i>

Adam Brown, ATC Stewardship Conservation Manager
Aaron North, AMC SNE Trails Supervisor
Dave Boone, CT AT Committee Chairman

Bicycling Committee

Bike Safety:

Bicycle mirrors were purchased by the committee to promote bike safety on our rides through our Ride Leaders. Mirrors will be distributed to Ride Leaders to hand out on AMC rides. Our intent is to raise awareness of the benefits of using a mirror while riding, as it contributes to the safety of the rider as well as the entire ride group.

Ride Leader Training:

Ride Leader Training was held at Hammonasset State Park. Training included classroom instruction and discussion followed by a ride. The event attracted 18 participants and was facilitated by Tom Ebersold and Mary Ann Gleba.

Ride Leader Appreciation:

Ride Leader Appreciation was held on 10/26/19 for all leaders who have led a ride. Two rides were offered (one short, one long) followed by dinner and socializing at a local pizza restaurant.

Bike Ride Leaders:

Several leaders stepped up to lead many of our rides this year: Tony Antonowitz, Judy Borrmann, Tony Calabrese, Mike Ceruzzi, Wayne Chapman, Tom Ebersold, Finlay Ferguson, Mary Ferguson, Mary Ann Gleba, Susan Grant, Mark Henebry, Leslie Henebry, Mark Kiley, Leo Pon, and David Waldburger.

Recurring Rides:

Tuesday Evening Rides out of Manchester continued to attract many participants. Multiple rides with varying paces were offered each week. Ride Leaders included Steve and Judy Borrmann, David Waldburger, Tony Calabrese and Rick Merritt. Judy extends the season for the faster riders from early spring to mid fall.

Thursday Evening Rides were successful again this year with 3 recurring bike rides:

- 2 rides out of Essex (one social, the other more challenging) averaging 10 to 20 riders with many going to dinner after the

ride. Leaders included Finlay and Mary Ferguson, Mark and Leslie Henebry, Susan Grant, Scott Baker, Wayne Chapman, Jannine Farrell and Mary Ann Gleba.

- 1 ride out of South Windsor offered for the more experienced cyclist. This ride lasts well into late fall. Ride Leader is Judy Borrmann.

Bike Trips:

The Hampton Beach, NH trip over Memorial Day weekend attracted 43 participants. The leaders were Bruce Ebbets, Karen Ruddio, Neal Fisher and Susan Grant. This 3-day trip attracts people from CT, MA, RI, NY and NJ.

Special Events:

2019 AT Day at Macedonia in Kent was 10/5/19. Two rides were offered that attracted 18 riders.

Ride Posting:

- Our subscription to “Ride With GPS” has resulted in many new rides added to our database. The AMC account provides Ride Leaders a wide variety of rides and allows them to create new rides from their desktop.
- Challenges exist in competing with Meetup, other clubs and cyclists foregoing the trip system by sending independent email; Bicycle co-chairs have worked to convince leaders to use AMC.
- We are currently experimenting with posting rides on Meetup.
- Kudos to Mark Kiley, our ride coordinator has done a great job this year keeping all rides for our web-site, entering rides in our trip system and leading several rides. Tom Ebersold and Susan Grant have served as back-up.
- Tom Ebersold has also kept our ride leader list up to date.

Susan Grant & Mary Ann Gleba, Co-Chairs

Communications Committee

Communications promotes all of the chapter's regular activities as well as special events including Fairfield County Group's ten speaker dinners each year, Give a Day to the AT, AT Day, Spring Dinner, Annual Gathering, and training events run by the chapter's Education Committee.

Communications continues to produce the chapter's Weekly Upcoming Events list, which goes out each Tuesday to almost 5,000 people and includes all events through the following two weekends. It also features upcoming special events. The Weekly provides readers with a convenient one stop list of events and helps to reduce the number of individual activity notice emails sent.

The main system used by the chapter to promote its events, in addition to the club's activity listing system, is Constant Contact, which is used to create and send out email notices. The chapter now has over 4,800 individual email addresses on Constant Contact, and, in aggregate, its various email lists in Constant Contact have well over 6,000 addresses. To date, we have sent out over 2,700 emails promoting our events using Constant Contact, a huge effort by our group of volunteers.

The chapter's Meetup group now has over 2,600 members. Since inception, we have listed over 830 of our events on Meetup and members of the group have now added over 100 photographs from our activities to our Meetup album.

The Chapter's CT-AMC Facebook Page, administered by Dale Geslien, has 1,896 "likes", an increase of 265 this year, and 2,010 "followers". Member engagement continues to improve, based on an increase in the number of page likes, followers, comments and visitor posts. Trail-related posts continue to garner the most reactions. This year's record-breaking post was the sharing of the Hartford Courant's article in late March, about the expected reopening of Sleeping Giant State Park. The post reached 4,003

people with 468 engagements, 106 reactions, 7 comments and 41 shares. Reminder to all: anyone can post to the Chapter Facebook page. Visitor posts can be viewed by clicking “See All” in the Community section on the right-side panel of the Chapter Facebook page.

The chapter’s Twitter account, administered by Janet Ainsworth, which was created in 2016 but did not actively post until 2017, has 144 followers. It reaches far more people than that with its posts, according to the account’s analytics. The account administrator posts on both outdoor recreation and conservation-related topics. The account’s followers include a number of non-profit organizations engaged in conservation-related activities.

Communications works closely with other committees and particularly with our Webmaster and our Newsletter Editor.

David Roberts, Chair



Conservation Committee

Early in the year, the Conservation Committee hosted a legislative preview with the Connecticut Forest & Park Association. Speakers included CFPA Executive Director Eric Hammerling and Alice Charamut, who spoke regarding the state's first comprehensive water plan, which she helped craft. The committee also offered a showing of "From Paris to Pittsburg", a documentary that shows how state and local governments, activists and small businesses are doing what they can to address climate change, taking up the mantle dropped by the federal government. The committee promoted conservation at a number of events, including Earth Day celebrations, the Connecticut Folk Festival & Green Expo and our own Annual Gathering, and did clean-up work at several locations.

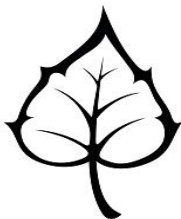
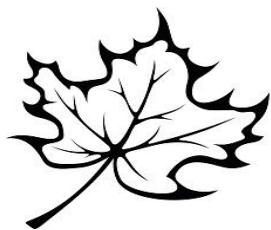
The committee continued monitoring legislation, alerting club conservation staff to bills of interest. These efforts were incorporated into testimony filed by the club opposing any plans to cut back on the successful Passport to the Parks program, which funds the parks with a motor vehicle registration surcharge, in return for free admission by Connecticut residents with Connecticut license plates on their vehicles. The commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Katie Dykes, has said publicly that having a consistent level of funding has allowed the department to plan and even restore programming.

Russ Charest and Andrew May, Co-Chairs

Janet Ainsworth

Robert Andrews

Jamie Lee



East of the River Committee

East-of-the-River remains a very active group of hikers. Tuesday and Thursday hikes are varied and found in all parts of Connecticut with occasional hikes in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Our dedicated hike leaders vary the terrain from urban hikes, beach hikes, rail trails, to many of the higher points in the hills of our state. We continue to explore new trails to add our inventory of hikes.

There are two levels of hikes: one is a more challenging hike and the other is a more moderate hike of under five miles. The more moderate hikes are often called “alternate hikes” by the group. There is both a more challenging hike, as well as an alternate hike on most Tuesdays and Thursdays of each week. Attendance for hikes varies and sometimes consists of small groups but can also be a larger group of as many as 30.

Several of our hike leaders (including Bob Nickels, Phil Wilsey, Steve Braciak, and Zellene Sandler) have had injuries or surgeries this year but are back hiking and leading hikes.

Our hike coordinators Barry Resnick, Bob Nickels, Jill Oneglia and Leigh Knuttel have kept our hiking schedule full every week. We had at least two regular hikes and two alternate hikes every Tuesday and Thursday for most of the year. Our EOR hike leaders have led at least 200 hikes this year.

Come join this friendly group for one or more fun filled hikes.

Ray Phillips, Chair

Education Committee

In April of 2019, the Wilderness First Aid course at White Memorial in Litchfield was attended by 35 people. Training consisted of 16 hours of various first aid topics and scenarios. SOLO provided the instructors for the weekend. Next door our one-day Leadership Training School was going on in the Mott-Van Winkle classroom where 11 new hike leaders learned A to Z on what it means to be a hike leader for the AMC.

The annual June 1-Day LTS this year was at Mansfield Hollow State Park again. This was our 2nd time at the park. The training has been well received in the eastern side of the state. 10 people attended. Class was made up of people from CT, MA, NY and PA.

On November 9th - 10th weekend our fall WFA and 2-day LTS was offered. 30 people attended WFA and 12 participated in LTS. Participants were from PA, MA and NY. The LTS course instructors over the weekend were Keith Spaar, Janet Ainsworth, Phil Wilsey, Barry Black, Barbara Beckerman, Kathryn Martin and Leo Kelly.

Keith Spaar, Education Chair



Excursions Committee

The Excursions Committee is responsible for all AMC hiking, backpacking and skiing events offered by Connecticut leaders. In the twelve months to the end of September 2019, 95 Connecticut Chapter Hike Leaders posted over 580 hikes along with several weekend and other multi-day trips. Six leaders each led over 20 hikes, and 3 leaders each led over 40 hikes. Weekend hikes this year numbered 246, and just 6 leaders offered 75% of them. This year, 43 of our leaders qualified for our chapter Volunteer Stewardship Award, which honors those who have led 5 or more events or contributed 30 or more volunteer hours. All of our leaders deserve much appreciation for their efforts!

Sponsoring groups, which include East of the River (for midweek hikes), the Thursday Western CT Hiking Group, Young Members, and Family Activities again made major contributions. The midweek Hike Leaders continued to offer at least 4 well-attended hikes each week, the Western CT Thursday Hiking Group generally offered at least one hike each week, and our Family Activities group offered several hikes during the year. Sponsoring groups make a major contribution to the success of our hiking program and Excursions values highly the work not only of the leaders who lead offer these events, but also the work done by the group coordinators: Dave Cronin, Barry Resnick, Bob Nickels, Jill Oneglia, and Leigh Knuttel.

Several Hike Leaders led ski trips or backpack trips both within and beyond the state, and Adventure Travel trips. Hike Leaders also strongly supported chapter-wide events such as National Trails Day, where we offered 11 hikes; Give-a-Day to the AT (run by AT Committee); and AT Day (run by Excursions), which is the CT Chapter's largest outdoor event each year. At this year's AT Day in early October, we had over 120 participants for events that included hiking, biking, rock climbing, and trail work. Following the events, nearly 100 people attended the Grand BBQ at Macedonia Brook State Park. Many thanks to our event leaders and AT Day All-Star BBQ Team for making the day a great success.

Once again, the Excursions Committee sponsored AMC's 138th Fall Hiking Week (FHW), as well as supported and provided leaders for August Camp. We thank everyone who organized and led hikes at these great events. This year, FHW was based at the Eagle Mountain House in Jackson, NH. At least 40 planned hikes, as well as several "bootleg" hikes, were offered over the seven-day period to respond to the sellout crowd. Half of the leaders for those FHW hikes were from our CT Chapter. FHW registration opened on April 7 and filled up within 2 weeks. By the week before FHW, the wait list had reached 34 but due to last minute cancellations, 13 of the wait-listed people were able to attend.

Special thanks to Keith Spaar and the Education Committee, composed of mainly Hike Leaders, for organizing the annual Leadership Training weekend in Litchfield and two 1-day Leadership Training Sessions in Litchfield and at Mansfield Hollow State Park. All 3 were very well attended and are extremely important in providing high quality training to candidate leaders.

In June, the Excursions Committee, with help from Susan Zimmerman, hosted a Hike Leader Appreciation Party at the Sprague Grist Mill in Baltic, targeting our leaders in the eastern part of the state.

We thank David Roberts (Communications Chair) for continuing to coordinate and email The Weekly, which is well established not only for advertising our events, but as a key element in promoting all chapter events.

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

Peg Peterson and Phil Wilsey, Co-Chairs
Carol Hassett
Dave Cronin

Fairfield County Group

Fairfield County Group (FCG) had another successful year. In the twelve months to the end of September 2019, FCG organized ten events, consisting of five speaker-dinner meetings in Westport; and five speaker-dinner meetings in Bethel. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, except for a summer break in July and August, and alternate between Bethel and Westport. FCG's meetings feature a wide range of topics, mainly in the armchair travel category.

In Westport, where meetings are held in the Saugatuck Congregational Church, FCG organized five speaker dinners, starting in November 2018 with a presentation by Bernie Perry entitled "Iran – Lifting the Veil". In January 2019, Daryl Hawk presented "Into the Volcano – Travels Through Ecuador"; in March, in Westport, FCG Co-Chair David Roberts presented "Polar Journeys – To the North Pole"; in May, Sam Mehta presented "Trilogy of Nations; Japan, Korea and China"; and, in September, Daryl Hawk returned with a presentation entitled "Colombia: Light at the Edge of the World".

In Bethel, where meetings are held at St Thomas's Church, the October 2018 speaker-dinner featured Marge Nichols with a presentation called "Bicycling Across Cambodia"; in December, Ian Lewis, Conio Sessa and David Roberts joined forces to present "Hiking in the Alps and Dolomites"; in February, past chapter chair Bob Guenther presented "Hiking to Machu Picchu"; in April, Ida Lowe presented "Trekking to Colombia's Lost City" and in June 2019, FCG held one of its popular movie nights featuring two fascinating short movies "Free Falling" and "Against the Wall".

In addition to the Westport and Bethel meetings, FCG Co-Chair David Roberts presented "Polar Journeys – To the North Pole" to the NY-NJ Chapter in Manhattan in May 2019. David also gave presentations to senior groups in Fairfield County and at the chapter's 2018 Annual Gathering. In November 2019, David will present at the chapter's Annual Gathering for the eleventh time.

Attendance levels vary but Bethel meetings attract on average around 50 people and Westport around 70. FCG's events not only help to retain members within the club but have directly resulted in a number of people joining the AMC. FCG continued its communications efforts with posters and press releases for its events and has enjoyed good local media support. All FCG events are listed on the chapter web-site, included in the Weekly, promoted using Constant Contact, and have featured regularly in the chapter newsletters. FCG events are now also featured in the chapter's Meetup group and on Facebook and Twitter.

While FCG's main aim is to promote the AMC in southwestern Connecticut, FCG has also worked to do this in a cost-effective way. All speakers now present for no fee, and other costs are carefully controlled.

FCG enjoys the support of many volunteers, including presenters, who are always willing to help in many ways. FCG Co-Chairs David Roberts and Tom Carruthers wish to thank all of them for their contribution to FCG's success.

Thomas Carruthers & David Roberts, FCG Co-Chairs



Family Activities Committee

For the first time since its creation more than a decade ago, the Family Activities Committee functioned without a chair. Members Janet Ainsworth (former chair) and Corey Mott (Young Members Co-Chair) both led family hikes and participated together in an interchapter hike in New Hampshire with leaders from the Boston, Worcester and Berkshire chapters. Other such activities are in the planning stages. As of this writing, Corey has agreed to step up as co-chair. The committee is actively seeking a second person interested in planning activities for families, whether they be day hikes, weekend excursions or purely social activities.

Committee Members:
Janet Ainsworth
Corey Mott



Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee

Flatwater has been busy this season, offering 21 trips hosting a record number of participants at 198. There were a few new faces, as well as folks from neighboring chapters: New York, Worcester and Narragansett. We've also gotten some ideas for new trips, which we hope to make happen next season. We welcomed Corey Mott as a leader who has great energy and ideas, one of which is to offer some family friendly paddling events.

Our committee was also honored to receive a generous donation of 2 kayaks from Alissa Bumstead. One was a sea kayak, which we gifted to the Narragansett Chapter to be used in their rental program. The other was a whitewater boat, which found a home with the CT Whitewater committee for their rental and instructional programs. We all greatly appreciate her benevolence.

I want to thank all our leaders for their dedication and enthusiasm in putting together a diverse and exciting program. We would love to have more leaders to lead more events to allow more paddlers to have more fun on the water! We've got some good ideas for next season and would appreciate hearing yours. See you on the water!

Barry Gorfain, Chair

Eric Barbour

Tom Ebersold

Corey Mott

Debbie Tedford



Membership Committee

The Membership Committee has been working to expand our chapter's online presence to increase awareness of AMC on social media. Our Annual Spring Hike and Breakfast at Macedonia State Park in Kent, CT was a success and we continue to work with the education committee to offer beginner workshops to help new members safely explore the outdoors.

We are seeking a Membership Co-Chair to help welcome new members to the Chapter for 2020. You will fit well in this role if you love AMC and want to spread the word about the great work our chapter does. Responsibilities include attending monthly Committee meetings in Middlefield, CT (September – June; meetings include a pizza social and come with great company!) and organizing occasional weekend or weeknight socials and/or intro outings or workshops in or near Eastern Connecticut (you choose the day, time, location).

If interested, please email Alison Terjek (membership@ct-amc.org).

Alison Terjek, Co-Chair



Mountaineering Committee

Community Service/Outreach: Six committee members participated in an annual clean-up effort at one of our most popular climbing areas. Many of our local climbing crags attract other users, which results in accumulating trash and wear on these areas. These clean-up efforts help maintain the climbing area for all to enjoy.

The Committee also organized and conducted two “Try-A-Climb” events, one in central and one in western Connecticut. These events enabled first time climbers to experience our sport and the thrill of ascending a rock face with their hands and feet. The committee provided all the necessary equipment, basic instruction and coaching as well as experienced belayers for each participant. This year about 42 participated in these events.

Leader Training and Development: To qualify as a leader, participants must demonstrate specific skills applicable to the activity they wish to lead. Our activities are organized into the following categories: top rope rock climbing, trad lead rock climbing, sport climbing, top rope ice climbing, lead ice climbing, and mountaineering. This year the committee qualified 3 new top rope rock climbing leaders. We also had two of our leaders complete the Wilderness First Aid training program.

Member Climbing Skills Training and Development: 73 members participated in one or more of our 11 training programs designed to help our members reach their climbing goals. These programs were designed to help our members develop more advanced skills for rock and ice climbing and mountaineering. This year, only our beginner ice climbing class was taught by a professional guide service. The remainder of our skill classes were taught by our new SPI certified instructor, and other experienced committee leaders.

Climbing Events: The Committee continued a regular program of climbing events for our members. These included the popular

Thursday evening top rope climbs during the spring, summer, and fall at various crags around the state. In prior years, these Thursday climbs were becoming overcrowded with often 30+ people attending. This year we only identified the climbing sites to the members via e-mail at the beginning of the year. Non-members needed to contact the leader via our CT-AMC website and were vetted by the leader for that week's climb. This new method resulted in lower attendance (and less environmental impact) averaging about 10 – 15 climbers. Additional events included both rock and ice climbing day and weekend trips within and outside of Connecticut.

Weekly Tuesday indoor climbing gatherings continued at Central Rock Gym. Most of the committee's meetings were held at the gym on the first Tuesday of the month. The gym provided a good way for our members to stay in climbing shape, socialize, and bring in new AMC members. The gym graciously offers AMC members a 25% off gym membership.

Holiday Party in December: The committee had our first holiday party in Middletown, hosted by one of our members. In addition to handing out appreciation awards to some of our committee members, the evening included a pot luck dinner, raffle prizes and a slide show highlighting the club's climbing activities throughout the year. Approximately 30 people attended, which resulted in a great evening with friends.

Climbing/Mountaineering Committee:

John DeAngelis and Paul Hayes, Co-Chairs

Leaders:

Chuck Boyd (TRR, TLR)

Dave Berggren (TRR)

Bobby Buchan (TRR, TLR)

Nicholas Coco (TRR)

Chris Granata (TRR)

Robert Gregory (TRR, TRI, LI)

Mike LaChapelle (TRR)

Tim Linehan (TRR, TRI, LI)

Art Morenz (TRR, TRI, LI)

Gini Kramer (TRR, SR, TRI)

Carol Peckham (TRR)

Bart Ruggiero (TRR)

Jason Smith (TRR)

Steve Wall (M)

Paula Zimbrian (TRR)

Legend: TRR = top rope rock; SR = sport rock; TLR = trad lead rock;

TRI = tope rope ice; M = mountaineering



Newsletter

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

Each newsletter is always a group effort. Committee leaders and members are all encouraged to submit and promote their activities, upcoming events, and experiences. This publication works to inform members, introduce new activities, and encourage members to participate, recruit, and give of their time.

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

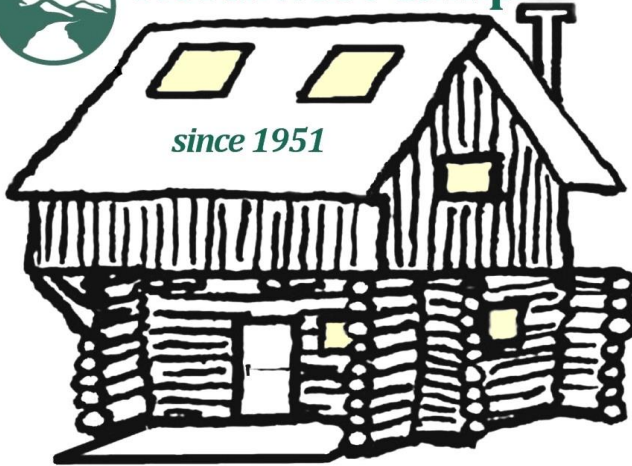
Darcy Witham is editor and producer of the publication. As a volunteer, she manages all aspects of production, including preparing initial content outlines/editorial calendars, writing, editing, and providing her highly reactive, colorful design and layout skills. Darcy also puts together several additional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

Darcy Witham, Chair

Northwest Camp Committee



Northwest Camp



The NW Camp Committee had a successful year managing the cabin and its surrounding 125-acres high on the Taconic Plateau below the summit of Bear Mountain. The rustic but cozy cabin is constructed of native American chestnut logs, tucked away under an old-growth Eastern hemlock forest canopy in the remote and environmentally diverse northwest corner of Connecticut. The Committee volunteers managing this self-service facility continue to balance the needs of its guests with a safe and environmentally responsible self-service camping experience.

The pristine stream adjacent to the cabin drains to Sages ravine and is part of the rare Schenob brook watershed drainage basin. It consists of a 600-foot ravine, cascading waterfalls and a stand of Connecticut's largest 100-acre plus, old-growth ancient forest. Pockets of up to 350-year old eastern hemlock straddle the border of Connecticut and Massachusetts. Beyond providing essential biodiversity, the oldest trees in a forest capture the most carbon. Increased carbon sequestration by forests such as these are required now more than ever to help stabilize CO₂ levels. This

watershed has over 40 rare and endangered species of flora and fauna and has been the target of protection for many years by numerous local, state and national environmental organizations and public agencies. In recognition of this protection the Committee is seeking professionals that would volunteer their services by conducting an inventory of native flora, invasives, wildlife, herpetology, avi-fauna, old-growth forest ecology, mycology, ichthyology, vernal pools, geology, GIS, natural history, hydrology, climate change impacts, storm water run-off, etc. Continuously learning what makes this fragile and vulnerable property and watershed so rare is a high priority of the Northwest Camp Committee. The results of these inventories will help us manage the property sustainably and heighten the awareness of its guests.

Many productive Northwest Camp Committee, Volunteer Camp & Cabin Committee (VCC) and CT Chapter meetings took place throughout the year. In addition to the Annual Summit, Annual Gathering and Appalachian Trail Day the two-annual NW Camp workparties (first Saturday in May & November) resulted in the completion of numerous tasks. The Executive board of the Northwest Camp Committee also contributed a great deal of time and energy to the VCC throughout the year.

In early March the Committee hosted its first ever “Snowshoe Frolic” which consisted of a 2-mile trek in fresh powder around the canopy of an old-growth Hemlock grove. Afterwards, everyone was treated to Hot Chocolate with peppermint sticks around the campfire.

Some improvements to NW Camp took place during the summer. A new wood box was added with the cabin roof extended above it and a new bridge was placed over Bog brook. Bear encounters around Bear Mountain and the cabin area increased. The Committee encouraged registered users to carry with them a whistle, bear bells or maybe even bear spray. Packing food securely inside the cabin with the door

latched is now a necessity. The Committee will be installing two Bear Boxes, one by the cabin and one by the tent platform with the assistance of the Chapter's Trails Committee. Conflicts with wildlife are primarily caused by inappropriate human behavior.

The 2019 Perseid Meteor Shower Extravaganza had clear skies each night. Prior to the meteor shower the group hiked to a classic fen on the way up to Brace Mountain loaded with lush grasses, sedges, rushes, wildflowers, salmonberries and cranberries. Our special guest a Botanist and Lichenologist, Steve Messier identified numerous plants and lichens. After a tasty cookout and our ceremonious annual \$200 donation to the Ridgerunners, the group hiked up Mt Riga and even though the Moon was bright, 5 streaking meteors and 3 satellites were observed. One satellite puzzled everyone, because it didn't move, it just stayed in the same position and flashed. On the way down from Mt Riga Steve Messier pointed out many glowing (in the dark) lichens found at the bottom of certain trees. The day hike down to Brassie Brook Shelter the group learned that we were overshadowed by a very large and unique canopy of Sassafras on both sides of Bear Mt Road and the AT. Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) is a member of the laurel family having both ovate and lobed aromatic leaves. The next night of the extravaganza after another tasty cookout with loads of watermelon for dessert, our special guest Steve Messier put on his PowerPoint presentation and enlightened us with lichen slides and real samples of the colorful lichen we had seen along the trail. That night, on the summit we counted 13 bright meteors and 6 satellites and there was that same geosynchronous satellite we saw the night before. A geosynchronous satellite is a satellite in geosynchronous orbit, with an orbital period the same as the Earth's rotation period. Such a satellite returns to the same position in the sky after each sidereal day, and over the course of a day traces out a path in the sky that is typically some form of analemma. Steve Messier also inventoried plants and mapped out sections under the dense hemlock within the heavily impacted zone near the cabin where revegetation areas may be cordoned off. The Committee is

grateful to Steve for time he spent at NW Camp during the Perseid Meteor Shower Extravaganza.

For twelve consecutive years the Committee has donated funds to the AMC/ATC Ridgerunners because they value the program, especially how they closely monitor the AT and cabin area and promote the very important “Leave No Trace principles”. The Committee continues to observe the 2017 Memorandum of Understanding that requires that they visit and monitor the camp when possible. While at the Camp the Ridgerunners run through a detailed checklist of items that help the Committee monitor the cabin and surrounding property. The Committee is very thankful that in 2019 the Ridgerunner season began in May and ended in early September but in the future, extending the program to November would be most beneficial.

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

2019 Committee Roster with Volunteers

*Rod Parlee, Chair, Conservation Director **

*Art Mauger, Secretary **

*Craig Kennedy, Registrar **

*Donald Klein, Caretaker **

*Paul Thoma, Treasurer **

*Tom McGrath, Outgoing Co-Chair **

*Al Puches, Chapter Treasurer **

*John Hicks, Past Chair/Caretaker/Registrar **

*Carol Langley, Cabin Monitor **

*John Rek, Past Chair/Caretaker/Registrar **

Roy Hoffman, Past Chair/Caretaker/Registrar

Trent Link, Past Chair/Caretaker/Registrar

Joel Hoffman, Cabin Monitor

*Greg York **

*Ethan Rain **

Eric Harvey

Tom O’Connor

Joe Parenteau

* denotes Stewardship Award with more than 30 volunteer hours. Thanks

Program Committee

On March 22, I met with Barry Gorfain, AMC Flatwater Chairman and Keynote Speaker for the Roast Beef Spring Dinner in Willimantic, where we did a guest appearance on WILL 1080 AM radio's *The Wayne Norman Morning Show* to talk about the upcoming event and presentation.

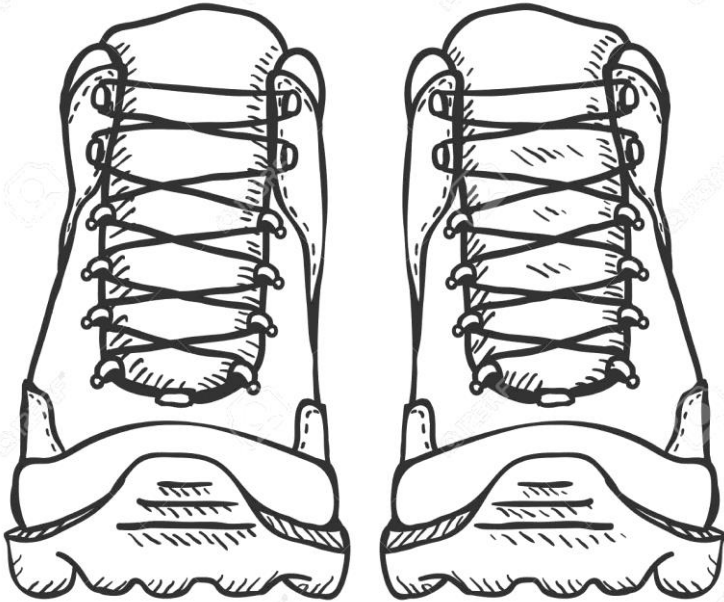
The Roast Beef Spring Dinner was held on April 13 at the Cheshire Grange, 44 Wallingford Rd. in Cheshire, CT, and sixty-four people attended. Barry Gorfain's presentation *Counting Eagles on The Connecticut River* entertained, amused, and informed the audience with tales of a recent kayaking adventure that he led a group of fun-loving, enthusiastic, and dedicated paddlers down the long tidal Connecticut River. His presentation was rife with beautiful photographs depicting the various flora, fauna, and architecture visible from the water from Enfield to Old Lyme. Barry informed the audience of different landing and launch sites along the route, as well as identified wildlife, and other interesting sites. He also entertained and enlightened us about the history, folklore, and other charming stories of the Connecticut River. A good time was had by all.

The 2019 CT Chapter Annual Gathering will be held Sunday, November 17 at Saint Clement's Castle, 1931 Portland-Cobalt Rd. (Route 66), Portland, CT. The Keynote Speaker will be Susan A. Masino, Ph.D., who is the Vernon Roosa Professor of Applied Science at Trinity College in Hartford, CT and holds a Ph.D. in Biology. She spent the past year as a Charles Bullard Fellow at Harvard Forest, working on a research project on forests and brain health in collaboration with Harvard Medical School. She is also the Hartford County Coordinator for the Old Growth Forest Network and a member of the Town of Simsbury Open Space Commission. Ms. Masino's presentation *Forests and Brain Health: Translating Science into Policy* focuses on the relationship between metabolism, brain activity, and behavior. She is most interested in opportunities and polices that promote and restore brain health, and in addition to laboratory-based research, she is

involved in environmental issues. Recently, she was awarded the Charles Bullard Fellowship in Forest Research at Harvard Forest as a collaboration with Harvard Medical School. Her project focused on forests and brain health, and Dr. Masino has a special interest in New England's forests for their benefits for brain health and as a source for new medicines.

In addition to the nine workshop presentations that run for the three consecutive hours between 1:15 and 4:45, there will be a meeting at 5:00pm during the Social Hour portion of the Gathering in Prince Edward Ballroom B to discuss the formation of a committee to archive the Connecticut Chapter's history for the upcoming 100th Anniversary.

Michelle Baughman, Chair



Young Members Committee

The Young Members started the New England Trail hiking series in February. We've been hiking year round, enjoying all types of hiking conditions as we continue our trek north. We hike the NET the 2nd of every month. Our plan is to finish the Connecticut portion in early spring, then continue north into Massachusetts! We continue to partner with neighboring chapters to plan inter-chapter hikes and weekends. In the spring, we partnered with Berkshire and Worcester Chapter for a weekend of hiking and skiing at Nobel View. In late summer, members from our chapter attended the annual Barnes Field Inter-chapter Weekend. Members from several chapters got together for hiking, camping, socializing, and swimming. In October, we enjoyed taking part in the annual AT Day where we hiked 12 miles of the AT!

We are pleased to welcome a new hike leader and have another hike leader in training! We look forward to offering more northern hikes with weekend trips as two of our Young Member leaders have been promoted to Level 2 Hike Leader status! We will also look forward to some Young Member kayaking trips when the weather gets warmer.

Coming up, we will continue hiking the New England Trail Hiking Series on the 2nd Saturday of each month. We will be having our annual Holiday Hike December 28th!

Corey Mott and Alison Terjek, Co-Chairs



Nominations for the 2020 Executive Committee

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

Chapter Chair	<i>John Grasso</i>
Chapter Vice Chair	<i>Jocelyn Eppich</i>
Secretary	<i>Martha Cain</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
Immediate Past Chair	<i>Cindy Butts</i>
Appalachian Trail Chair	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Mary Ann Gleba</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Susan Grant</i>
Communications	<i>David Roberts</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Russell Charest</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Andrew May</i>
East of the River Chair	<i>Ray Phillips</i>
Education Co-Chair	<i>Keith Spaar</i>
Education Co-Chair	<i>Janet Ainsworth</i>
Excursions Co-Chair	<i>Peg Peterson</i>
Excursions Co-Chair	<i>Phil Wilsey</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Family Activities Co-Chair	<i>Corey Mott</i>
Family Activities Co-Chair	<i>Open</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair	<i>Barry Gorfain</i>
Member at Large	<i>Bea Holt</i>
Member at Large	<i>Bob Guenther</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>Alison Terjek</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>Open</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>John DeAngelis</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Paul Hayes</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Darcy Witham</i>
Northwest Camp (*)	<i>Rod Parlee</i>
Program Chair	<i>Michelle Baughman</i>
Webmaster/Technology	<i>Keith Spaar</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Corey Mott</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Alison Terjek</i>
(*) by AMC Appointment	

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!

J. Cobrain of West Hartford, Connecticut

Suzanne & Stephen Davis of Bloomfield, Connecticut

Marilyn & Mac Harper of Glastonbury, Connecticut

Richard Holloway of Chester, Connecticut

Jacqueline Kirby of Rocky Hill, Connecticut

Richard Ruddick of Shelton, Connecticut

Karen & George Wolf of Trumbull, Connecticut

