

**APPALACHIAN  
MOUNTAIN  
CLUB**

**CONNECTICUT CHAPTER**



85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Annual Report**  
December 2, 2006

## 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

**APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB  
CONNECTICUT CHAPTER  
2006 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Chapter Chair	<i>Beth Bryan Critton</i>
Vice Chair	<i>Sue Lach</i>
Secretary	<i>Carol Hassett</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
Bicycling Committee Chair	<i>Rick Merritt</i>
Conservation Committee Co-Chairs	<i>John Crist Jim O'Rourke</i>
East of the River Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Doug Atwell Gene Grayson</i>
Education Committee Chair	<i>Dale Geslien</i>
Excursions Committee Chairs	<i>David Roberts</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chairs	<i>Tom Carruthers David Roberts</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee Chair	<i>Jean Trapani</i>
Membership Committee Chair	<i>Sue Lach</i>
Mountaineering Committee Chair	<i>Mark Sondeen</i>
Program Committee Chair	<i>David Bellemare</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Mike House</i>
Northwest Camp Committee Chair	<i>Chuck Doll</i>
Trails Committee Chair	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Webmaster/Technology Chair	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Whitewater Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Mark Schappert Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Jamie Howland Mirela Postelnicu</i>
Regional Director	<i>Norm Sims</i>

**CHAPTER CHAIR'S REPORT**

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve as Connecticut Chapter Chair in 2006. I have been ably assisted by a strong and dedicated Executive Committee to whom the entire CT-AMC membership and I owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude. When you read their individual reports, I believe you will be moved, as I was, by the incredible accomplishments of each Committee and by the thousands of volunteer hours that these accomplishments reflect.

At the beginning of my tenure, I set three primary goals for myself and the Chapter:

- To continue CT-AMC's commitment to the high ideals embodied by the Chapter's Mission Statement:

Central to CT-AMC's Mission Statement is the objective of encouraging people to enjoy and appreciate the natural world through a broad range of activities and programs. This year, CT-AMC offered hundreds of activities from the highly physical (i.e. a 2-day Appalachian Trail hiking challenge and Ottawa Kayak School) to the comfortably low-key (i.e. storyteller Beth Dugger Kanell's Spring Dinner presentation at the Cheshire Grange and armchair adventure at the Fairfield County Group's dinner socials). As stewards of Connecticut's environment, our Chapter's efforts have covered a broad range from taking positions on legislation affecting the environment to hands-on river clean-ups and trail maintenance.

CT-AMC continues its commitment to education, including leadership training and wilderness first aid sponsored by the Education Committee and introductions to activities as diverse as rock climbing (through our growing Mountaineering Committee), "Eskimo rolling" at Flatwater and Whitewater indoor pool sessions, and legislative activism.

- To be a facilitator and a resource to our Chapter's Committees in their identification and achievement of their goals; to promote inter-Committee interaction; and to be an intermediary between the Chapter and Club:

Each Executive Committee set goals for 2006 and, as their reports show, made substantial progress toward attaining these objectives. I enjoyed attending meetings and activities across a wide spectrum of Committees and meeting with many Committee Chairs, both active and prospective. Committee descriptions were updated this year. Inter-Committee cooperation increased – with more Executive Committee members and other volunteers participating in the Trails Committee's annual "Give-A-Day to Trails" and more multi-Committee efforts (i.e. Flatwater and Conservation teaming up for river clean-ups; scheduling the New Members Dinner to coordinate with the FCG picnic; teaching

leave-no-trace principles at Northwest Camp; participation of Chairs and volunteers from many Committees at the Eagle Festival in Essex).

My role as intermediary between the Chapter and Club has been made much easier both by the excellent volunteer relations staff and other responsive personnel at the Club (also known as "Joy Street") and by the active role that many Connecticut members play in Club activities, including Major Excursions, the Outdoor Leadership Development Committee (OLDC), Trails, Conservation, Facilities, and others.

- To work with the Executive Committee to increase membership by increasing Chapter visibility and to retain members by involving them in AMC activities and objectives and responding to the changing needs, interests, and demographics of our membership.

Each member of the Executive Committee has contributed to the Chapter's increased visibility and to member retention efforts in 2006. For example, an excellent newspaper article on AMC hiking opportunities grew out of East of the River (EOR) Committee Co-Chair Doug Atwell's taking a New Haven reporter along on a late winter hike. FCG Co-Chairs David Roberts and Tom Carruthers have developed a network of newspapers to which they provides press releases for FCG activities. CT-AMC has had a presence at events including the Hartford Boat Show, Essex Eagle Festival, Earth Day celebrations, Banff Mountain film festival, and Hike for the Cure. With the guidance of the Club's risk manager, we have begun to co-sponsor more activities with other environmental organizations (Ragged Mountain Foundation, local land trusts, and others) and outdoor retailers. CT-AMC was a major leader of activities for National Trails Day, sponsored in Connecticut by the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association (CFPA). Our Trails Committee, which maintains the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut, continues its long-standing, mutually supportive relationship with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC). CT-AMC continues to be the sponsoring Chapter for Fall Hiking Week, which enjoyed increased participation this year.

Blessed with an extremely talented Webmaster, Jim Scheef, our website has recently been completely revamped and improved. Northwest Camp now has its own webpage. Web maintainers from the individual Committees keep their respective web pages up-to-date. Through the efforts of Jim and the Chapter's outstanding treasurer, Al Puches, we are on the verge of providing AMC memberships, paid for by credit card, on the CT-AMC website.

Both the Chapter newsletter (ably edited by Mike House) and *AMCyclist* reach large numbers of members. Over a thousand outdoor enthusiasts have signed up for the short notice "hike" list (which has expanded beyond just hikes to a myriad of outdoor activities), maintained by the Excursions Committee. The on-line trip listing system makes it easier for leaders to submit activities with

less than the three month lead time required for listings in *AMC Outdoors*. Many individual Committees maintain their own e-mail lists, and Dale Geslien coordinates the Chapter Announcement Yahoo list.

Mailings to New Members were updated this year, and the Chapter has taken advantage of a special New Member "wrapper" on *AMC Outdoors* magazine to publicize CT-AMC events. The Young Members (YM) Committee has developed its own full color brochure, which has generated both new members and a surge in the number of people signing up for its e-mail list. Through contributions from various Committees, CT-AMC has been regularly featured in the Club Chair's monthly Executive Update. The very energetic Conservation Committee was featured in *AMC Outdoors*.

We have tried new approaches to increase attendance at key events, such as New Member Day, which this year involved both a New Member Activities Day and, the following weekend, a New Members Day dinner. The Executive Committee has involved itself in short and long-range planning both at the Chapter level and as part of the Club's planning process.

In sum, 2006 has been an exciting and productive year for CT-AMC. I sincerely thank each of you for your contributions as members and volunteers. I invite each of you to become more involved in 2007.

Best wishes to all for a happy and healthy 2007!

Beth Bryan Critton  
Connecticut Chapter Chair

## CONNECTICUT CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING – 2005

The 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) was held on November 5, 2005 at Northeast Utilities in Berlin, Connecticut.

Dave Bellemare, Program Committee Chair, introduced Chapter Chair Dale Geslien.

Dale welcomed everyone attending the meeting. She thanked Dave and the Program Committee for putting together the day's events. She asked Program Committee members to stand. The audience gave them a round of applause.

Dale said she'd really enjoyed serving as the AMC Connecticut Chapter Chair for the last three years. While it had been a lot of work, it had proven to be a labor of love to lead Connecticut in its pursuit of conservation, education and recreation.

Dale shared some of her most memorable AMC experiences from the past year. While instructing at AMC's Mountain Leadership School (MLS) in the White Mountains last summer, she participated in the staging of a mountain bike accident. It was great fun to strategically place a lot of fake blood, including the simulation of a bloody nose. It was a great learning experience for the MLS students. Dale, covered in blood, took great pleasure in riding past a half dozen rangers on the way to the Lincoln Woods Visitor Center via the Wilderness Trail. She said the looks on their faces were priceless. Another of her memorable experiences was meeting an interesting couple on the summit of Bear Mountain in August. It was the woman's first hike and all she wanted do was go home and take a shower. He, on the other hand, was enjoying the moment. As they chatted, Dale learned he was a student at the Connecticut Center for Massage Therapy. Dale said she could really use a massage. The fellow said he needed the practice and would be happy to give her a massage. While the thought of a massage on the summit of Bear Mountain was pretty tempting to Dale, she decided to move on. She said we all had great experiences to share with one another as members of a great organization, the AMC.

Before recapping the highlights of the Chapter's year, Dale reminded the audience why they belong to the Appalachian Mountain Club by reading the Club's mission statement.

Dale said 2005 was another productive year for the Connecticut Chapter. A dedicated and enthusiastic Executive Committee led groups of volunteers to provide educational, conservation related, and recreational opportunities for our membership. She went on to highlight some of the milestones of the past year.

Dale felt the Chapter's most significant accomplishment of the year was the establishment of advanced leadership criteria for leading hikes at elevations of 4,000 feet or higher and for backpacking. She said that education has been the theme of her term as Chapter Chair. She stressed that without education, there is no recreation in the AMC way. She said that education has two main focuses. First, educating leaders to lead activities safely provides a benefit to the Club's membership by allowing them, as outdoor enthusiasts, to enjoy the outdoors. The Club's leaders are well trained in accordance with the Club's Outdoor Leadership Development Committee's (OLDC) Leadership Requirements and Guidelines (LRGs). Many of them also have wilderness first aid training. Secondly, by educating our leaders to follow and pass on Leave No Trace outdoor ethics we do our part to conserve natural wonders.

The Education Committee conducted its annual SOLO Wilderness First Aid (WFA) Training, Leadership Training Session and Leadership Training School. A Leave No Trace Train the Trainer Course, co-sponsored by Eastern Mountain Sports (EMS), and taught by CT Chapter LNT Master Educators, was new this year. The Whitewater Committee expanded its traditional pool sessions and repeated its instructional week at Ottawa Kayak School. They also offered a swift-water training class and a SOLO WFA class. The Flatwater Committee also continued its pool sessions and helped organize a "paddlesmart" safety event. Our Mountaineering Committee conducted vertical ice instruction and enlisted the assistance of a professional guide for its beginner climber program. They also held a self-rescue workshop. Our Trails Committee organized maintainer, guide and monitor workshops and also encouraged chain saw certification. The proof positive results of these efforts were evidenced by 28 new hike leaders and several new paddling and mountaineering leaders this year!

The Excursions Committee coordinated hike leader applications and approved several advanced leaders. They have been instrumental in converting hike listings to the new online database and ensuring that we have a wide variety of activities throughout the state.

Our Trails Committee, responsible for the 53 miles of the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut and its side trails, has the reputation for some of the best maintained miles on the AT. They welcomed a new AMC regional Trails Coordinator this year and are coordinating the Chapter Trails Challenge. The Chapter has been challenged by the Club to take on an additional five miles of trail to maintain. The Trails Committee also represented the Chapter at the biennial meeting of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in Johnson City, Tennessee last July. Closer to home, the Trails Committee installed bear-proof lockers at campgrounds along the AT.

The Executive Committee got its jump start on the year with a membership themed December retreat which led to its March retreat. The March retreat's significant accomplishment was establishing a Chapter activity financial policy. Presentations were also made by the Education, Flatwater and Trails Committees.

Another milestone for the Chapter this year was the online activities database. All activities are being entered into the club-wide database which can be queried by all. Efforts have been made to facilitate the manner in which leaders submit their activities.

The membership benefits by decreased lead time for publishing activities. Members can find out what's happening in a specific area, on a specific date, for activities happening throughout the entire Club. The Bicycling Committee started a short notice list this year, with a shorter lead time, in order to offer more rides to members.

The Membership Committee reviewed and revised the new member packet which is sent out to new members each month. They also represented the Chapter at various vendors and club/demo days throughout the year. Organizing activities throughout the state, including a special evening presentation, for New Member Day, was the highlight of its year.

The Conservation Committee received a Special Projects Grant from the Club to purchase and prepare a panel display board which they have brought to several Chapter activities. The Newsletter Committee introduced an online newsletter to bring more in-depth articles which can be expanded upon from the hardcopy issue. In continuing our efforts to communicate to the membership, a new Connecticut Chapter Announcement Yahoo Group was established to remind members of upcoming Chapter events.

The Chapter had many volunteers represent the Club at the Banff Mountain Film Festival, held at several locations throughout the state. The East of the River Committee and the Fairfield County Group (FCG) continued their popular social events and the FCG also co-sponsored "5 Days of Sustainable Trail Education and Awareness in Fairfield County." The Young Members, Whitewater and FCG held picnics, a new tradition in the making.

NW Camp continued its efforts to offer its facilities to the membership with an educational component. Re-vegetation areas have been established along with an informational kiosk. Efforts are underway to incorporate Chapter activities at the Club destination.

The Chapter continued its practice of granting two Teen Wilderness Adventure Scholarships to outdoors oriented and financially challenged teens. These scholarships are possible thanks to the generosity of our members.

The Program Committee completed the successful migration of our annual meeting to a more cost effective location at Northeast Utilities, no easy task! Dale offered sincere thanks to Northeast Utilities for its generosity in providing us the use of its facility in which to hold, now three, of our Chapter events.

Dale thanked the Executive Committee, especially the support team of Vice Chair Beth Critton; Secretary, Carol Hassett; Treasurer, Al Puches; and Member At Large, Doug McKain. She said she couldn't have done it without them.

Dale said she'd enjoyed serving the Connecticut Chapter as Chapter Chair, and was very honored and humbled to receive the Club's 2005 Distinguished Service Award for her additional work on the Outdoor Leadership Development Committee, Mountain Leadership School and as a Master Educator of Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics. She said it had been a rewarding experience and she encouraged everyone to get more involved with the Chapter. She said she felt very comfortable passing the Chapter Chair red hat to Beth Critton, who shares her enthusiasm for the outdoors and the Club.

She wished the audience a happy and healthy 2006.

A moment of silence was then observed as members stood to honor the memory of Connecticut Chapter members who passed away since the last Annual Meeting.

<i>Cornelius Agnew, Jr.</i>	<i>Timothy N. Buffum</i>
<i>Dorothy Arrison</i>	<i>Donald McDonald</i>
<i>Carol D. Carroll</i>	<i>Priscilla Spencer</i>
<i>William Barnard</i>	<i>Niels Willem van Gemeren</i>
<i>Irving S. Banquer</i>	<i>Niels "Willem" van Gemeren, II</i>

Dale asked if anyone knew of any other members who had passed away and asked that their names be called out so that they may also be honored.

Dale called upon Vice Chair, Beth Bryan Critton, to announce the recipients of 2005 Chapter Volunteer Stewardship Awards. The awards are given to volunteers who have contributed thirty hours of their time or led five or more activities throughout the past year.

<i>Maria Athanasiou</i>	<i>Gene Grayson</i>	<i>Jenifer Nadeau</i>
<i>Scott Banker</i>	<i>Danny Greene</i>	<i>Brandon Neupaver</i>
<i>John Barry</i>	<i>Paul Griese</i>	<i>Tom Nichols</i>
<i>Luella Bartes</i>	<i>Carol Hassett</i>	<i>Fiona Nicholson</i>
<i>Dave Bellemare</i>	<i>Larry Hayden</i>	<i>Bob Nickels</i>
<i>Len Berton</i>	<i>Ray Helie</i>	<i>Bill Novoa</i>
<i>Dick Blake</i>	<i>Ken Henneberry</i>	<i>Jim O'Rourke</i>
<i>Terry Bludeau</i>	<i>John Hicks</i>	<i>Paul Palmer</i>
<i>Dave Boone</i>	<i>Ed Holowenko</i>	<i>Rod Parlee</i>
<i>Brian Booth</i>	<i>Mike House</i>	<i>Nick Pasquariello</i>
<i>Melanie Bowers</i>	<i>Jamie Howland</i>	<i>Ruth Penfield</i>
<i>Steve Braciak</i>	<i>Fred Iannotti</i>	<i>Bob Poitras</i>
<i>Elizabeth Caffrey</i>	<i>Paul Ives</i>	<i>Mirela Postelnicu</i>
<i>Webb Carnes</i>	<i>Jeri Jaminet</i>	<i>Al Puches</i>
<i>Tom Carruthers</i>	<i>Harlan Jessup</i>	<i>John Rek</i>
<i>Doug Christie</i>	<i>Joan Kafka</i>	<i>Barry Resnick</i>
<i>Jim Christie</i>	<i>Darron Kannenberg</i>	<i>David Roberts</i>
<i>Ledge Clayton</i>	<i>Brian Keers</i>	<i>Betty Robinson</i>
<i>Hugh Cobrain</i>	<i>Leo Kelly</i>	<i>Dick Roethlein</i>
<i>Steve Collins</i>	<i>Ana Ketch</i>	<i>Connie Rokicki</i>
<i>Ted Cowles</i>	<i>Vinnie Kiernian</i>	<i>Bruce Ross</i>
<i>John Crist</i>	<i>Jim Kilkenny</i>	<i>Barbara Rutigliano</i>
<i>Beth Bryan Critton</i>	<i>MaryAnn Kouyoumjian</i>	<i>Aimee Santeler</i>
<i>Dave Cronin</i>	<i>Vic Labarre</i>	<i>Keith Santeler</i>
<i>David Cullen</i>	<i>Elaine LaBella</i>	<i>Eleanor Sasso</i>
<i>John Cunningham</i>	<i>Sue Lach</i>	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
<i>Nijole Currie</i>	<i>Sandy Lee</i>	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
<i>Walt Daniels</i>	<i>Trent Link</i>	<i>Bill Shaffer</i>
<i>Birge Dayton</i>	<i>Christa Lubatkin</i>	<i>Jack Shea</i>
<i>Frank DeFazio</i>	<i>Jim Malumphy</i>	<i>Marianne Sheldon</i>
<i>Chuck Doll</i>	<i>Nancy Mann</i>	<i>Don Shildneck</i>
<i>Carmen Donofrio</i>	<i>Tom Mann</i>	<i>Dave Shoup</i>
<i>Sandy Dunn</i>	<i>Carol Marchion</i>	<i>Barry Smith</i>
<i>Tom Ebersold</i>	<i>David Marklinsky</i>	<i>Jay Smith</i>
<i>Henry Edmonds</i>	<i>Dennis Marklinsky</i>	<i>Mark Sondeen</i>
<i>Jim Edwin</i>	<i>John Marren</i>	<i>Jim St. Amand</i>
<i>Peter Engel</i>	<i>Andrew May</i>	<i>Moe Sylvestre-Craig</i>
<i>Dean Fenton</i>	<i>Jim Mays</i>	<i>Jean Trapani</i>
<i>Finlay Ferguson</i>	<i>Dennis McGlynn</i>	<i>Kristin Violette</i>
<i>Wayne Fogg</i>	<i>Ellen McGuire</i>	<i>John Virtue</i>
<i>Barbara Frey</i>	<i>Doug McKain</i>	<i>Russ Waldie</i>
<i>Bobbie Frobelt</i>	<i>Rick Merritt</i>	<i>Susan Wallen</i>
<i>Paul Garbarino</i>	<i>Lisa Meunier</i>	<i>Dana Warner</i>
<i>Mindy Gates</i>	<i>Dave Mihalek</i>	<i>Robert S. White</i>
<i>Dale Geslien</i>	<i>Geri Mihalek</i>	<i>Dennis Wigg</i>
<i>Sonya Gill</i>	<i>Rob Munro</i>	<i>Pamela Young</i>

Beth presented red roses to Dale whom she referred to as the "ultimate volunteer."

Dale then called on Dave Boone to present Trails Committee Awards. Dave commented that 94 volunteers had contributed a total of 2,308 hours for an average of 24 hours/person. He congratulated Dick Blake upon receiving Volunteer of the Year Award from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy New England Regional Partnership and Walt Daniels for his 3000 hours of service.

Pychowska Award  
(96 Hours Trails Stewardship)

<i>Dick Blake</i>	<i>Birge Dayton</i>
<i>Dave Boone</i>	<i>Henry Edmonds</i>
<i>Doug Christie</i>	<i>Ann Sherwood</i>

Hart Award  
(224 hours Trails Stewardship)

<i>Walt Daniels</i>	<i>Elaine LaBella</i>
<i>Fred Iannotti</i>	

Trails Committee Cumulative Hours Award:

<i>Hugh Broughel, Jim Christie, Alan Palmer</i>	<i>100 hours</i>
<i>Dave Boone</i>	<i>1000 hours</i>

Dale introduced Dave Cullen, Past Chair, and Chair of the Appie of the Year Committee. He presented this year's Appie of the Year Award to Doug McKain. Doug served as the Chapter's Secretary for many years. He has also been active on the Bicycling Committee as the Committee Co-Chair and a trip leader. His most recent position on the Executive Committee was Member-at-Large.

Ann Sherwood presented the newly established Lifetime Service Award to Henry Edmonds. Henry is a long time AT maintainer, monitor, and Trails Committee member, and a former Chair of the Chapter Trails Committee. He has also chaired the AMC Club-wide Trails Committee. He continues to be an active member of the Chapter Trails Committee, and currently serves as the Overseer of Trails.

Dale read the names of this year's fifty year members.

Mr. G.E. Anderson of East Madison, CT  
Mr. Daniels Weaver of Stratford, CT

Mr. Anderson and Mr. Weaver were not able to attend, but Dale asked the audience to recognize them with a round of applause. The Membership Committee will send them their 50 year pins.

Dale asked those who had been members for 25 years or more to stand. They were applauded by the audience.

Dale introduced Nicole Jabaily, AMC's Conservation Outreach Coordinator. She invited Nicole up to the podium to say a few words. Nicole lauded the accomplishments of the Connecticut Chapter, citing the Conservation Committee, implementation of the Activity Database, and Appalachian Trail maintenance.

Dale introduced another special guest, Henry Schreiber, Chair of the New York/North Jersey Chapter.

Dale called upon Dick Don, Chairman of the Harry Duren Scholarship Committee, to take the podium. Dick told the audience that the Chapter awarded Teen Wilderness Adventure Scholarships to two recipients. He read their amusing thank-you letters.

Dale thanked the members of the 2005 Executive Committee who had served in the past year and asked them to stand as she called their names. The following members were recognized:

Doug Atwell – East of the River Co-Chair  
John Barry – Excursions Co-Chair  
David Bellemare – Program Chair and YM Co-Chair  
Dave Boone – Trails Chair  
Tom Carruthers – Fairfield County Co-Chair  
Steve Collins – Membership Co-Chair  
Beth Bryan Critton – Chapter Vice Chair  
Chuck Doll – Northwest Camp Chair  
Dale Geslien – Chapter Chair  
Gene Grayson – East of the River Co-Chair  
Carol Hassett – Chapter Secretary  
Mike House – Newsletter Editor  
Fred Iannotti – *AMC Outdoors* Liaison  
Darron Kannenberg – Young Members Co-Chair  
Brian Keers – Mountaineering Co-Chair  
Leo Kelly – Education Chair  
Sue Lach – Membership Co-Chair  
Doug McKain – Member-at-Large  
Jim Mays – Bicycling Co-Chair  
Rick Merritt – Bicycling Co-Chair  
Jim O'Rourke – Conservation Chair  
Al Puches – Chapter Treasurer  
David Roberts – FCG and Excursions Co-Chair  
Mark Schappert – Whitewater Co-Chair  
Jim Scheef – Webmaster  
Norm Sims – Regional Director  
Mark Sondeen – Mountaineering Co-Chair

Jean Trapani – Flatwater Co-Chair  
Dennis Wigg – Whitewater Co-Chair  
Diane Worden – Flatwater Co-Chair

At 8:34 p.m. Dale called to order the business portion of the 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Dale called for a motion to accept the Secretary's Report as presented in the 2005 Annual Report, which was received, seconded, and passed. Dale then called for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented in the 2005 Annual Report, which was received, seconded, and passed.

The next business in order was the proposed revision of the bylaws. Dale said if there was no objection, the revision would be considered by paragraphs. Each article would be considered and discussed separately at which time it may be amended with one vote taken at the end.

There were no objections and the amendments were considered by paragraphs.

By the direction of the Executive Committee, Dale made a motion to adopt the following revisions of the bylaws. (A second motion was not required as the motion comes from a committee.)

ARTICLE V - ELECTION AND TERMS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS: TERMINATION FOR CAUSE Section 2: Add after the second paragraph, first sentence, (except the chair of the Northwest Camp Committee, who will be approved in accordance with the Northwest Camp committee bylaws and accordingly become a member of the Chapter Executive Committee).

Dale explained this proposed change comes as a result of a change in the Northwest Camp Committee's bylaws effective June 19, 2002. The Northwest Camp Committee was then established as a sub-committee of the AMC Board of Directors Facilities Committee. Their bylaws state that the committee chair must be nominated by the Northwest Camp Committee and approved by the Connecticut Chapter Executive Committee and the Facility Director of the AMC. These bylaws supersede those of the CT Chapter. This proposed change will put the CT Chapter bylaws in sync with the Club bylaws.

Dale asked if there was any discussion of the proposed article V, section 2, second paragraph, first sentence. There was none.

Dale read:

ARTICLE V - ELECTION AND TERMS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS: TERMINATION FOR CAUSE Section 2: Delete after eighth sentence: except that if any nominee should for any reason become unable or unwilling to serve, nomination may be made from the floor with the consent of the



person so nominated or for any Executive Committee positions currently vacant and without a nominee.

Dale said the second proposed change removes the ability to nominate Executive Committee members from the floor at the Chapter's Annual Meeting. Nominations from the floor do not afford the opportunity to interview prospective candidates, give them copies of the job description or validate membership. Since nominees can be appointed to the Executive Committee by the Executive Committee at any time there is a vacancy, it is in the Chapter's best interest to fill vacancies with the most qualified candidates.

Dale asked if there was any discussion of the proposed article V, section 2, eighth sentence. There was none.

Dale repeated that the question is on the adoption of the proposed revision of the bylaws. She asked if the audience was ready for the question. She asked all in favor of the adoption of the proposed revision to acknowledge by saying aye. She asked if anyone was opposed and thanked the audience. The revision was unanimously adopted.

Dale asked Bruce LaRoche of the Nominating Committee to present the 2006 slate of nominees. She asked each nominee to come forward as his/her name was called.

Chapter Chair	Beth Bryan Critton
Chapter Vice Chair	Sue Lach
Secretary	Carol Hassett
Treasurer	Al Puches
Bicycling Co-Chair	Jim Mays
Bicycling Co-Chair	Rick Merritt
Conservation Co-Chair	John Crist
Conservation Co-Chair	Jim O'Rourke
Editor, CT Backcountry <i>AMC Outdoors</i>	open
East of the River Co-Chair	Doug Atwell
East of the River Co-Chair	Gene Grayson
Education Chair	Dale Geslien
Excursions Chair	David Roberts
Fairfield County Co-Chair	Tom Carruthers
Fairfield County Co-Chair	David Roberts
Flatwater/Coastal Paddlers Chair	Jean Trapani
Membership Chair	Sue Lach
Mountaineering Chair	Mark Sondeen
Member-at-Large (2)	open
Newsletter Editor	Mike House
Northwest Camp Chair	Chuck Doll
Program Chair	Dave Bellemare
Trails Chair	Dave Boone
Webmaster/Technology Chair	Jim Scheef

Whitewater Co-Chair  
Whitewater Co-Chair  
Young Members Co-Chair  
Young Members Co-Chair  
Regional Director

Mark Schappert  
Dennis Wigg  
Jamie Howland  
Mirela Postelnicu  
Norm Sims

Dale recounted that in 1951, John Herr, the Chapter Chair, felt the Chapter was growing so large that not everyone knew who the Chair was. After all, there were 500 Chapter members – vs. 8,394 today – and thus the origin of the tradition of the Chair's "red hat." She said Beth Bryan Critton will be the new Chair in 2006. Beth has been an active hike leader, served as Chapter Vice-Chair for two years, and is well prepared to assume the Chapter Chair responsibilities.

Dale then asked the Past Chapter Chairs to don their red hats and come up to the podium. In attendance were:

John B. ("JB") Gardner	1965-1966
Ledge Clayton	1975-1976
Gerry Hardy	1979-1980
Sue Hardy	1981-1982
Judy Bescanon	1983-1984
Anne Bailey	1985-1986
Mary Dorpalen	1993-1994
Dave Cullen	1995-1996
Paula Burton	1997-1998
And now, Dale Geslien	2003-2005

With great pleasure, Dale awarded Beth Critton her red hat. She called for a round of applause for the Chairs Past and Present.

Dale asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Upon a motion made, seconded, and passed, the business meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Dave Bellemare introduced the evening's speaker, Kouros Mahboubian, who presented *An Aquatic Exploration of the Amazon Rainforest*.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Hassett, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004 AND 2005

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
Cash at January 1	\$39,966	\$43,364
Revenue Collected:		
Joy Street dues allocation	35,777	33,272
Program activities	22,399	20,399
Contributions	0	140
Reserve funds – sources <sup>(1)</sup>	24,783	417
Local sale of memberships	3,970	3,475
Leadership training	8,010	7,480
Subscriptions/Advertising to <i>THE HIKER</i>	1,777	2,143
Merchandise sales	912	983
Interest income	<u>2444</u>	<u>2,806</u>
Total revenue collected	\$100,072	\$71,115
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	\$27,642	\$19,411
Cost of merchandise	420	537
Reserve funds – uses <sup>(1)</sup>	24,766	3,231
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	1,928	1,607
Conservation	0	393
East of the River	1,446	2,038
Education	7,017	6,142
Excursions	448	172
Executive	9,836	10,173
Fairfield County	2,569	2,795
Flatwater	40	0
Membership	2,073	2,242
Mountaineering	926	1,460
Newsletter	10,315	9,942
Northwest Camp	999	211
Program	31	24
Trails	4,514	4,261
Whitewater	1,266	535
Young Members	<u>438</u>	<u>438</u>
Total expenditures	\$96,674	\$65,495
Cash at December 31	<u>\$43,364</u>	<u>\$48,984</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT  
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2005 AND 2006

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Cash at January 1	\$43,364	\$48,984
Revenue collected:		
Joy Street dues allocation	\$22,472	\$21,872
Program activities	16,495	13,992
Reserve funds – sources <sup>(1)</sup>	110	1,849
Local sale of memberships	2,825	1,600
Leadership training	6,680	6,455
Subscriptions/Advertising to <i>THE HIKER</i>	2,071	2,133
Contributions	100	2,100
Merchandise sales	8	112
Interest income	<u>430</u>	<u>648</u>
Total revenue collected	\$51,191	\$50,761
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	\$14,122	\$13,415
Reserve funds – uses <sup>(1)</sup>	3,083	2,368
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	1,480	1,310
Conservation	53	118
East of the River	1,998	1,773
Education	4,784	5,516
Excursions	172	9
Executive	4,856	3,448
Fairfield County	1,693	1,023
Flatwater	0	321
Membership	3,466	1,614
Mountaineering	1,460	827
Newsletter	7,820	7,796
Northwest Camp	140	197
Program	0	45
Trails	3,426	1,588
Whitewater	<u>895</u>	<u>2,150</u>
Total expenditures	\$49,448	\$43,518
Cash at September 30	<u>\$45,107</u>	<u>\$43,518</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT  
RESERVE FUNDS

<sup>(1)</sup> 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:

	<u>12/31/04</u>	<u>12/31/05</u>	<u>9/30/06</u>
Reserve funds:			
American Ref-fuel grant	\$200	\$0	\$0
AT Handicap Accessible project	13,136	12,869	12,869
Duren Memorial Scholarships	2,429	2,554	3,113
Jim Wright Memorial	264	264	264
Stanley Grant Reserve	3,450	3,050	2,472
Stephen Meyers Memorial	1,895	1,895	1,895
Whitewater reserve	3,981	5,425	6,163
Fall 2004 Gathering	952	0	0
General fund	<u>17,057</u>	<u>22,926</u>	<u>29,451</u>
Total cash	<u>\$43,364</u>	<u>\$48,983</u>	<u>\$56,227</u>

*Al Puches* – Treasurer

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## Bicycling Committee

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Terry Pappagallo published seven issues of our monthly *AMCYCLIST* newsletter in a timely fashion. It was Terry's second year as the newsletter editor.

Jo Ann Hewett assumed the duties of ride coordinator. She also maintained the Bicycling website. Thanks to Jo Ann's efforts, the Bicycling Committee's activities are now part of the AMC on-line trip listing system.

Tom Ebersold moderated the Yahoo short notice ride email list used for announcing rides that are planned too late for our newsletter. The list has about 200 members.

The Monday morning ride program was very successful this year with rides every Monday from April through November 11. Judy Kunkel is taking over the Monday program next year. She has a monthly ride coordinator lined up for each month except one.

Patricia Faerber, Rick Merritt, and Glen Orcutt led most of the Tuesday night rides which started in Manchester. We had a great turnout with an average of 35 to 50 cyclists each night for rides of 15-40 miles at all levels of expertise.

The Wednesday night rides, new this year, were led by Arthur Morenz, a strong bike rider, in the hilly Litchfield area. The turnout was disappointing but hopefully he will try again next year.

Barbara Rutigliano and Finlay Ferguson successfully continued the Thursday night rides in Essex, with 15-20 riders doing mostly hilly rides of 20 to 30 miles. Most of the riders went out to dinner after the rides and the group bonded very well. The rides ran from May through August.

There were five weekend trips to Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Cape Cod. All of the trips were very successful with no incidents. Thanks to Ruth Penfield and Doug McKain, Jeri Jaminet, Joann and Gary Carlson, Judy Kunkel, Terry Bludeau and Susan Wallen (who led two Cape Cod trips), Rick Merritt and Wally Inkpen.

Many weekend rides were offered on Saturday and Sunday from April to November in various Connecticut locations. Hopefully next year we can encourage more rides from our bike leaders. It was not a good year for recruiting new leaders.

The Committee would like to thank everyone who led rides and weekend trips. It is these people who make our biking year a success

## BICYCLING COMMITTEE

*Terry Pappagallo*



*Rick Merritt - Chair*

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## Conservation Committee

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The Conservation Committee accomplished a lot in 2006 and expects to do so again in 2007.

With money from AMC's Special Project Fund, we held a workshop on February 4th entitled, "Fighting for Connecticut's Environment." The 45 or so attendees heard from both experts on environmental issues and seasoned political pros.

Members of the Conservation Committee initiated and planned the Chapter's participation as exhibitors at the 7th Annual Connecticut Audubon Society Eagle Festival, held in February in Essex. The Conservation Committee's display as well as displays from the Whitewater and Education Committees drew in many visitors. Benefits of AMC membership were highlighted to festival attendees. Conservation Action Network Cards (CAN Cards) and Highlands Coalition information were distributed.

The Committee participated in Earth Day Celebrations at Eastern Connecticut State University, the East Hartford Library, and in Naugatuck. Our Earth Day efforts were recognized by AMC's President.

At the Club wide Conservation Committee meeting in Lake George, New York on April 29, the CT-AMC's February "Fighting for Connecticut's Environment" Workshop was a topic of discussion. Eric Stones, Faith Salter and Kristen Sykes (among others) recognized the efforts of the committee and the success of the workshop.

In May, Committee members participated in "Give-a-Day-to-Trails." We also participated in the Still River Greenway and Waterway Cleanup. More

four dumpsters were filled with garbage and debris collected as the teams walked portions of the greenway along the banks of the Still River.

Each month during the spring we also had guest speakers attend our monthly committee meetings.

We implemented a number of significant changes to help raise awareness of our Committee: A boiler plate was created for each issue of *AMC Outdoors* to lead a Conservation section for Connecticut activities; we redesigned our webpage to be more aesthetic and user friendly; "Conservation Action" was chosen as the name of a recurring newsletter space for our Committee; we updated the Conservation Committee job description.

Beth Critton submitted a modified version of our monthly report as the Connecticut Chapter Executive Update. The committee was invited to and participated in the AMC "Think Tank" on how to proceed in the New England, Connecticut, and southwest Massachusetts Highlands and the CFCRC multi-use trails meetings. A CAN Announcement went out regarding The Clean Diesel & Bottle Bill extension legislation. An e-mail announcement went out regarding Sunday hunting which stirred extensive debate and action in the Chapter.

We led two Vis Vol conservation hikes in Meriden and a hike in the Western Connecticut Highlands with Eric Stones. Also, two members represented the Committee at the "Listen to the River" conference. A committee member contributed a wonderful article about global warming for the CT-AM Fall Newsletter. Our most recent activity was leading a conservation workshop at the 2006 New Member Day dinner in Bethel.

Throughout the year we have attempted to raise awareness through our table events and e-mail distributions regarding important advocacy campaigns such as the Highlands Initiative, the MMM Trail, and ATV use in Connecticut. For these and other efforts our committee was written up in the profile section of *AMC Outdoors*.

### CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

<i>Bob Andrews</i>	<i>Beth Bryon</i>	<i>Russ Charest</i>
<i>Birge Dayton</i>	<i>Adriana Gabarron</i>	<i>Mindy Gates</i>
<i>Andrew May</i>	<i>Aimee Santeler</i>	<i>Keith Santeler</i>
<i>Jean Trapani</i>	<i>Trish Urso</i>	<i>Sophie Zyla</i>

*John Crist - Co-Chair*  
*Jim O'Rourke - Co-Chair*

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## East of the River Committee

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Our hikes were well attended throughout the year and covered many scenic venues.

The Spring dinner in May was so successful that Dick Don led a Program Committee effort to have another similar one in October.

The EOR group was well represented with three students attending leadership training in March.

There is a change for the better in hiking. We will now have four weekday hikes. Bob Nickels and Barry Resnick continue to do a stellar job in arranging the regular Tuesday and Thursday hikes. Frank Junga will continue his good work to line up alternate hikes which will now occur on Thursdays, instead of Tuesdays. Phyllis Freeman with Carolyn Olsen are leading and recruiting others to lead alternate Tuesday hikes bringing our number of weekday hikes to four per week. This is working beautifully as we have had two EOR meetings to address speed, spacing and difficulty of EOR hikes.

Additionally, Phyllis Freeman has done a wonderful job of assembling annual photo albums of EOR hikes and activities.

### EAST OF THE RIVER COMMITTEE

<i>John Cunningham</i>	<i>Linda Cunningham</i>	<i>Nola Currie</i>
<i>Dot Davis</i>	<i>Dick Don</i>	<i>Phyllis Freeman</i>
<i>Rob Funk</i>	<i>Carol Hassett</i>	<i>Ruth Griffin</i>
<i>Frank Junga</i>	<i>Mary Ann Kouyoumjian</i>	<i>Pam Lewis</i>
<i>Carolyn Olsen</i>	<i>Bob Nickels</i>	<i>Barry Resnick</i>
<i>Betty Robinson</i>		

*Doug Atwell – Co-Chair*  
*Gene Grayson – Co-Chair*



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## Education Committee

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The Education Committee conducted its annual Leadership Training School November 18-20, 2005 at the White Memorial Conservation Center in Litchfield. Eighteen participants successfully completed the training. The Map & Compass portion of the school was greatly enhanced this year by the committee's purchase of a Suunto compass training kit containing 30 compasses, and a new Powerpoint presentation created by Aaron Gorban, AMC's Leadership Training and Risk Management Manager. Leo Kelly developed a new presentation for the Accident Scene Management segment and we used a new Leave No Trace (LNT) Powerpoint presentation I had prepared for Mountain Leadership School (MLS). Merri Fox, Jan Taylor and John Crist rounded out this year's staff, along with Dean Fenton who did his usual phenomenal job in the kitchen. Committee members who are on the Outdoor Leadership Development Committee (OLDC) and MLS staff, attended meetings of those committees at the Fall Gathering in Newry, Maine. A LNT workshop was held at the Chapter annual meeting.

A LNT Awareness Workshop was conducted for about 40 leaders of the Boy Scout Council's Mad River District at their February 6 District Round Table at the Waterbury Arts Magnet School. The Education Committee brought its display to the Chapter booth at the Eagle Festival on February 18. I was able to speak to several people about Club and Chapter educational opportunities. We welcomed Nate Shedd, a LNT Master Educator, and interpretive guide for the state of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), to our committee. Nate was able to attend the Chapter retreat and get acquainted with other Executive Committee members and volunteers. The Education Committee conducted a Leadership Training Session on Thursday, March 30 at Quinnipiac University and Sleeping Giant State Park. Sixteen participants completed the program. Instructors Merri Fox, Leo Kelly and David Roberts assisted me with the training. Our largest training of the year, Wilderness First Aid (WFA), was held at White Memorial in Litchfield, CT, April 8-9. Half the class also attended CPR training. We had 40 participants and the class sold out early again this year. We welcomed Kristin Violette to the committee. She joined us after attending this event. Kristin maintains the Education Committee web page.

The Education Committee was represented at the Fairfield County Group Social on May 10 and Give A Day to Trails on May 13. Despite the less than perfect weather over the Trails Day weekend, LNT Master Educators of the Education Committee conducted a highly successful LNT Trainer Course at our own Northwest Camp (NW Camp) for three enthusiastic participants. The course ran from 9:00 am on Saturday, June 3 through 5:00 pm on Sunday, June 4. LNT principles and teaching methods were discussed at length with accompanying activities. We were warm and dry in the cozy cabin with its wood burning stove as rain fell outside on Saturday. Sunday was dry in our neck of

the woods and we were able to include an extensive tour and analysis of the Sages Ravine Campground during our course. We now have three new AMC LNT Trainers among our ranks, including Rod Parlee, Conservation Director of NW Camp. Education Committee members were among the Club-wide MLS staff for June School held June 14-18, which was based out of the Highland Center in Crawford Notch, New Hampshire.

We conducted a Leadership Training Session at NW Camp on Saturday, July 8, 2006. Twelve participants completed the training under sunny skies. Everyone seemed to enjoy the new venue, even though it was a bit of a trek. It gave our new prospective leaders exposure to an AMC destination close to home. Thanks to David Roberts, Excursions Chair, for his assistance with this training.

The Education Committee, representing the Connecticut Chapter, joined the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Eastern Mountain Sports and Backcountry Outfitters on Thursday, July 27 in Kent to welcome thru hikers Chad Anderson and Daane DeBoer to Connecticut. They were hiking the AT in honor of Anderson's mother and her fight against breast cancer. Tagged "Hike 4 the Cure," they hoped to raise awareness of breast cancer and funds for the Foundation. An estimated 90 people attended the event where AMC information on membership, activities and destinations was available. Several prospective new members were surprised to learn that the AMC has much more to offer than they realized! The Education Committee set up its display and provided LNT plastic reference cards to participants at the New Member Day dinner, held September 23. LNT Master Educator Nathaniel Shedd conducted a LNT workshop on Thursday, October 5. It was co-sponsored by the Suffield Park and Recreation Department.

Many thanks to our dedicated committee volunteers who made it possible to offer quality training to our membership and the general public, which resulted in another successful year for the Education Committee.

#### EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*Dean Fenton*  
*Nate Shedd*

*Merri Fox*  
*Kristin Violette*

*Jeff Hogan*

*Dale Ges-*

*lien – Chair*

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## Excursions Committee

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The Excursions Committee had another very productive year. Our Hike Leaders advertised over 500 hikes, led by 91 different Hike Leaders, during the year ending September 30, 2006. Many of our longer serving Hike Leaders made a major contribution to these efforts but in addition many hikes were led by Hike Leaders who have qualified in the past year or two, which is a positive sign for the future. We very much appreciate all of their efforts and thank them for their major contribution to the Club's success.

EOR Midweek Hiking, Thursday Western CT Hiking, and Young Members continued to sponsor a significant number of hikes within the Excursions Committee. EOR recently decided to increase the number of mid-week hikes it sponsors each week from three to four; the Thursday Western Hiking group continued to sponsor its regular Thursday hike; Young Members sponsored almost 40 hikes during the year; and our first ever Gay and Lesbian sponsored hike took place this summer. Hike Leaders strongly supported chapter-wide events with 9 hikes listed for National Trails Day in June and 10 for New Members Activity Day in September.

The Excursions Committee also sponsored the AMC's 123<sup>rd</sup> Fall Hiking Week, which took place in the White Mountains in the second week of September.

During the year the Education Committee organized the weekend-long Annual Leadership Training School and in addition two one-day Leadership Training Sessions. All were well attended and as result we qualified 13 new Day Hike Leaders during the year. In addition, many of our leaders attended WFA and other courses organized by the Education Committee.

Last year, together with the Education Committee, we established new qualifications for Hike Leaders wishing to lead hikes at elevations over 4,000 ft and high elevation winter hikes. Several leaders were approved in these advanced categories during the year.

Over the past few years we have worked to bring all of the hikes led by CT Chapter Hike Leaders into a single streamlined system for approval and advertising. This past effort has helped us a great deal during the year and allowed us to approve hikes very quickly and distribute them to a growing number of people. All of our hikes are listed in the AMC's Activity Listing System and on our CT Chapter web-site. We continue to encourage Leaders who can plan ahead to list hikes in *AMC Outdoors* but around 70% of our hikes are now advertised only electronically. Several significant improvements were made to the Activity Listing System during the year, which give us welcome increased control over our listings in the system.

In my last report I told you that our Short Notice email list had almost 800 names on it and only a year later I am pleased to be able to tell you that we have now very close to 1,000 names. Our EOR Mid-Week Hiking and Thursday Western CT email list also continue to grow and now have 427 and 487 email address names respectively. We have also continued to develop our Hike Leaders Yahoo list, which allows us to communicate easily with our leaders.

The Excursions Committee would like to thank all of the Hike Leaders for their wonderful contributions during the year. We also thank Jim Scheef, our Webmaster, and Dale Geslien, Education Chair, and the Education Committee for their valuable support.

#### EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE

*John Barry      Dave Cronin      Carol Hassett*  
*Elaine Labella      Fiona Nicholson*

*David Roberts-Chair*

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### Fairfield County Group

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The Fairfield County Group (FCG) enjoyed a very successful year.

Our speaker meetings continued not only with our regular five meetings in Westport but with our new schedule in Bethel where we decided to increase the number of speaker meetings from two each year to four.

Our Westport schedule opened with "Hiking in Nepal" in September followed by "A Life in the Mountains" in November, "To the Far Side of the World" in January, "Hiking Highlights of Europe" in March and "Kayak Odysseys in the South Pacific" in May. In Bethel "Hiking in Switzerland" in October was followed by "Wild Wyoming" in February and "Egypt – Beyond the Pyramids" in April. A total of some 500 people attended our speaker meetings this year, compared to 370 in the previous year. These events take a huge amount of work in finding speakers, advertising, buying, preparing and serving food, setting up the hall and cleaning up. We appreciate the efforts of all of the volunteers who have made these events such a success.

Our efforts to increase the visibility of our speaker meetings through press releases, posters, web advertising etc. seem to be paying off and we have been successful in attracting some excellent speakers including several members of the prestigious Explorers Club. We thank our speakers for their support.

We held our third Annual Picnic in September which again was a great success despite having been postponed because of rain and then taking place on a day which was a little chilly for a picnic. We had hikes and a bike ride in the morning followed by a BBQ lunch at Putnam Park in Redding.

We also had the pleasure of co-sponsoring a meeting in Bethel where Gina McCarthy, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, presented her "No Child Left Inside" initiative to promote more family involvement in outdoor activities.

Our newsletter *The HIKER* had another very successful year, supported by our advertisers EMS and Outdoor Sports of Wilton. We thank all of our production team, our distributors and our advertisers for their support. Despite the success of *The HIKER* we have decided to stop production. As we have moved more and more to electronic distribution for our hikes and other activities, the information in *The HIKER* has become increasingly dated and emails and web-sites provide a much more efficient and lower cost method of communicating with our members and prospective members. We will be developing a longer life flyer to replace *The HIKER* in due course.

We have continued to expand our email lists. Our FCG members-only Yahoo discussion group now has 160 members up from about 120 one year ago and our new FCG non-members email list already has about 400 names.

FCG Co-Chairs David Roberts and Tom Carruthers wish to thank all of the many volunteers who contributed so much to FCG's success.

#### FAIRFIELD COUNTY GROUP COMMITTEE

*Dave Cronin      Paul Garborino      Fiona Nicholson*  
*Al Puches      Eleanor Sasso*

*Tom Carruthers – Co-Chair*  
*David Roberts – Co-Chair*



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## Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee

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This was a successful year with many events of various types held all over the state for flatwater and sea kayaking paddlers. I'd like to extend my sincere appreciation and admiration for the leaders and committee members who managed to volunteer in the midst of numerous other pressing commitments.

Kirt Mayland from Trout Unlimited gave an excellent talk about Connecticut's water laws at the 2005 CT-AMC annual meeting.

Pool sessions were held again at the Greenwich YWCA. Ten were planned. Two were cancelled due to inclement weather. We very much appreciate the cooperation and professional expertise of Bruce Semer, the Aquatics Director, who also did a program for us called "Open Water Swimming for Boaters." Michele Sorensen, an American Canoe Association certified kayak instructor, donated her time again for the fifth year in a row, and many other skilled paddlers assisted newcomers learning to roll, self-rescue, and practice strokes such as bracing. Mike Paoletto was the leader for one pool session in January.

Two in-water training sessions for sea kayak leaders were held; one in June with Michele Sorensen and the other in August with Jerry Wylie. We started our first sea kayaking trips with rescue practice as part of the trip. A level 1 trip was done in Guilford and a level 2 in Mystic. Two handheld VHF radios were purchased with the money awarded by an AMC supplemental dues application.

In April, May, September and October Flatwater was represented at demo days held by three retailers for a total of seven days in all.

Trips were planned for nineteen different places in Connecticut, spanning the entire state. It was a stormy year, with June being particularly rainy, so some trips were cancelled. We showcased three different watershed groups in Westport, Cromwell, and Southbury on our paddles. We did one paddle in conjunction with our Conservation Committee at Bigelow Hollow State Park, followed immediately by a cleanup with them.

Jean led an interchapter excursion trip in Vermont and also in Maine. She also helped the New York/North Jersey Chapter with a paddle in the Thimble Islands in Branford.

We welcomed back Barry Gorfain as a leader and scout, and were very happy that Tom Ebersold, Jenifer Nadeau, Bruce Ross, and Robert S. White contributed scouting as well as leading efforts for locations that were both near and far away, in all kinds of weather. Their generosity and persistence greatly benefited the club! In particular Bob's work towards sea kayaking trips was much appreciated, as was the participation of Bruce with the Pomperaug paddle and Barry with the Mystic trip.

Hope to see you all on the water in 2007!

## FLATWATER/COASTAL PADDLING COMMITTEE

*Lisa Spencer*

*Robert S. White*

*Jean Trapani - Chair*



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## Membership Committee

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The total count for CT membership as of October 1, 2006 was 8,826. The Committee continues to recruit new members through a variety of activities through out the year.

The main focus for the Committee for 2006 was the restructuring of New Member Day. In the past the day consisted of activities throughout the state during the day followed by a pasta dinner at Northeast Utilities in the evening. It was decided that the activities would be held on the Saturday of one weekend and the dinner the following Saturday. The intent was to give more people the opportunity to participate in both activities. Feedback recommended that this would work out better for people. The new format was implemented in 2006 and participation at the dinner increased slightly. The dinner was held in Bethel; food was provided by a local caterer. Sue Lach presented her Major Excursion journey to Patagonia and Chile .

New Member mailings continued to be sent out on a monthly basis. They averaged 200 per month. The package has been reviewed for updating and this project is still in process and will continue into 2007. Various emails and phone calls were handled to introduce people to the Club and address membership questions.

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

*Patricia Carroll*

*Dave Cullen*

*Jennifer Decker*

*Mary Ann Kouyoumjian*

*Fiona Nicholson*

*Betty Robinson*



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## Mountaineering Committee

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The Mountaineering Committee enjoyed a successful year in 2006. Activities were held year round. In the winter months, the committee sponsored several recreational and instructional events. Throughout the winter months, Tuesday evenings were spent indoor rock climbing at the Prime Climb Gym. In December 2005, two avalanche awareness and beacon search practice sessions were held. Participants learned how to organize rescue efforts and use locating beacons, and joined discussions about safe travel practices in avalanche terrain. An instruction based overnight winter hiking and camping trip to the White Mountains was conducted in January. Participants spent one night camping at 4,000 feet and then summited Mt. Adams and Mt. Madison, all while learning winter camping and hiking skills.

In April, the Committee ran its annual Rock Climbing Instruction program. It was executed similarly to the prior year's program. The Committee subcontracted a portion of this instruction to a professional mountaineering guide to improve the quality of the experience for the students and to reduce liability risk to the AMC leaders. The cost was kept very competitive for the students as AMC leaders assisted in organizing and instructing the program. The Committee's collection of climbing equipment was provided to the students for use during the program.

In the summer months, outdoor rock climbing events were held weekly on Thursday evenings. In addition, a few weekend rock climbing outings were also held. Destinations included Ragged Mountain, Chatfield Hollow State Park, and Chapel Ledges, Massachusetts. Several participants who joined these outings were students in our Rock Climbing Instructional Program.

For the year ahead, the Committee has nominated two volunteers to take the role of Committee Co-Chairs. One nominee, Tim Linehan, is a veteran AMC Mountaineering Leader and Committee Chair from years past who recently became active again in the Committee. The second nominee, Gini Kramer, is relatively new to the sport of mountaineering. However, she will bring enthusiasm and many years of outdoors experience to the Committee. The year ahead looks like a period of growth for the Mountaineering Committee.

### MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE

*Ron Curtis      Rebecca Ford      Brian Keers*  
*Gustavo Nava      Carol Parker      Carole Phalen*  
*Bill Walters*

*Mark Sondeen - Chair*

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## Newsletter Committee

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During 2006, three issues of *The AMC In Connecticut* newsletter were distributed to approximately 7,000 Connecticut member households. Bonnie Riedinger has done a very creative and professional looking job with the newsletter layout and design. Bonnie and Mike House (Editor) will be moving on in 2007. Darcy Barzarian has been nominated as the new Newsletter Editor.

As we look forward to 2007 and beyond, I anticipate that the Newsletter Committee will continue its commitment to communicating the need for member volunteers and publishing relevant and engaging topics for our members. I believe the goal should be to continue providing a steady flow of information and articles representing all committees. Recruitment of editorial staffers from each committee continues to be critical to this success.

### NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

*Mike House - Editor*  
*Bonnie Riedinger - Publisher*  
*Kristin Violette - Online Editor*



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## Northwest Camp Committee

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The Northwest Camp (NW Camp) Conservation Director, Rod Parlee, arranged a "Lighten Up" backpacking workshop along with three Eastern Mountain Sports (EMS) experts. Fourteen people attended on Feb. 25 amidst wintry conditions. Some of the latest equipment was on hand for use.

The spring work party was held on Saturday, May 6. Fourteen volunteers finished waterproofing the exterior of the log cabin. Water bars were installed in front of the cabin. John Hicks, past NW Camp Committee Chair, led a property boundary walk.

Dale Geslien led a Leadership Training Session and an LNT Trainer course at the cabin this year. Rod Parlee attended the latter, representing the NW Camp Committee. He is now an official Leave No Trace trainer.

On August 19 Jim St. Amand led a meteor shower watch atop Bear Mountain.

On New Member Day Rod Parlee, with EMS experts, arranged another "Lighten Up" workshop demonstrating the latest techniques. Fifteen people attended the workshop which was followed by a hike to Bear Rock Falls led by Merri Fox.

Our fall work party was in October. We stacked two cords of wood. Probably due to a mild winter, there was wood left over from last season. We rearranged some bunks in the loft.

### NORTHWEST CAMP COMMITTEE

*Jim Edwin*

*Paul Ives*

*David Marlinsky*

*Tom Nichols*

*Jim St. Amand*

*Dan Greene*

*Sue Ives*

*Dennis Marlinsky*

*Rod Parlee*

*Joni Kafka*

*Trent Link*

*Brandon Neupaver*

*John Rek*

*Chuck Doll - Chair*



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## Program Committee

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The Program Committee ran the Chapter's Spring Dinner, Trails Day Potluck, New Member Day Dinner, and the Annual Meeting.

The Chapter's 2005 Annual Meeting was held in November at Northeast Utilities (NU) in Berlin. The facility was great for the workshops, Committee displays, used equipment sale, book sale, etc. Our Guest Speaker, Kourosh Mahboubian, gave an interesting presentation on "An Aquatic Exploration of the Amazon Rainforest." The dinner was less successful as NU had neither the staff nor the facilities to provide the kind of sit-down dinner we've had in the past several years. The event showed a profit of \$16 compared to a \$5,811 loss the previous year.

The Spring Dinner was held at the Cheshire Grange on Saturday, April 8, 2006. The Grange served a fantastic dinner once again. Following the dinner, Beth Dugger Kanell, guest speaker, entertained the audience with a program about Vermont's Northeast Kingdom.

Trails Day takes place on the first Saturday of June each year. The Program Committee and Connecticut Forest and Parks Association (CFPA) co-sponsor a Potluck Dinner at NU. The facility works out well for the event. The event consists of a social hour, a potluck dinner, and a presentation. Our guest speaker was Gary St. Amand, a member of AMC and CFPA. He serves as registrar and caretaker of NW Camp. Gary is the former Director of the Ragged Mountain Foundation. The topic of his presentation was how small changes in lifestyle can improve overall cardiovascular health.

The New Member Day Dinner was held on Saturday, September 23 at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Bethel. The event went well. Tom Carruthers lined up a very good caterer. Prior to the dinner, the Conservation Committee ran a workshop which was followed by a social hour. Sue Lach, Chapter Vice-Chair and Membership Chair, presented an interesting program, "Hiking Chile," about her experience backpacking in the southernmost point of South America.

Three members, Luella Bartes, Colleen Barry, and Maria Athanasiou, resigned from the Committee this year. We welcomed Lori Stethers and Jennifer Decker to the Committee.

I'd like to thank the Program Committee members who volunteered during the past year. Program Committee events wouldn't be possible without their help.

## PROGRAM COMMITTEE

*Maria Athanasiou  
Frank DeFazio  
Lori Stethers*

*Colleen Barry  
Ellen McGuire  
Wilda Wyse*

*Luella Bartes  
Wilford Parker*

*David Bellemare - Program Chair*



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## Trails Committee

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The Trails Committee is responsible for the maintenance and management of the Appalachian Trail (AT) and its side trails in Connecticut, as well as the adjoining public lands, in partnership with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the National Park Service (NPS). Our accomplishments this past year included:

- A new mouldering privy was constructed at Brassie Brook campsite. The remote location was challenging and several extra work parties became necessary to move materials in to the job site.
- Heavy rains in October of 2005 washed out three bridges on the AT. The Committee moved expeditiously. With the help of the CT DEP and the AMC Berkshire Trail Crew, the bridges were repaired or replaced, including a new bridge across Sages Ravine Brook.
- The Committee bade farewell to two staff: Jon Szalewicz, our AMC Southern New England Regional Trails Coordinator, and Val Stori, ATC Associate Field Representative. We welcomed Sara Sheehy as the new AMC Regional Trails Coordinator. Sara jumped right into the action with the summer ridgerunner and trail crew seasons.
- A Student Conservation Association trail crew made improvements to the Sages Ravine campsite including new stone steps at the brook crossing, a great complement to the new bridge!

- The Committee worked with the CT Department of Transportation to develop “hiker friendly” improvements to the new Route 7 bridge plans in Falls Village.
- The summer ridgerunner program was a success, with no major incidents occurring. A highlight of the season was a “ridgerunner picnic” organized by Sara Sheehy, where both seasonal, weekend and volunteer ridgerunners had the opportunity to socialize and trade experiences.
- The Committee received the final “Resource Management Recommendations” report for the Bulls Bridge area. This location is home to numerous rare, threatened, and endangered species, and it is the Committee’s intention to initiate some of the recommendations in the coming year.
- The annual “Give A Day To Trails” event was well attended with over thirty participants and four projects going out that day.
- Meeting with senior DEP staff and DEP Environmental Conservation Police to discuss law enforcement matters involving the AT and ridgerunner support.
- Restructuring the job responsibilities for the position of Overseer of Land/Monitor Coordinator.
- Several other committee positions and maintainer/monitor assignments saw transition.

Trail improvement efforts occur nearly every weekend—please consider coming out, getting dirty, and having fun!

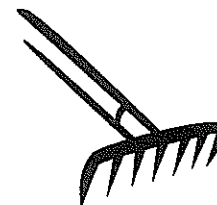
## TRAILS COMMITTEE

*Dick Blake  
Hugh Cobrain  
Birge Dayton  
Gene Grayson  
Gary Nasiatka  
Bob Poitras  
Brian Sears  
Sue Spring*

*Hugh Broughel  
Ted Cowles  
Henry Edmonds  
Ian McCunn  
Paul Palmer  
Walt Rinehart  
Ann Sherwood*

*Doug Christie  
Walt Daniels  
Harlan Jessup  
Elaine LaBella  
Peg Peterson  
Brigitte Rothman  
Norm Sills*

*Dave Boone – Chair*



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## Webmaster/Technology Committee

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This year the AMC Activity Database system has been our primary means to publish activities. It is now used by nearly all committees to publish activities both on the web and in *AMC Outdoors*. The Connecticut Chapter has been in the forefront of this project from the very beginning.

Activities in support of this project:

- Worked with several committees to help them use the system to manage and publicize their activities.
- Worked with AMC staff and other webmasters to guide the ongoing enhancement of the system.

The new system is still not perfect but is continually improving. This can be seen as more chapters adopt the system.

2007 Goals

- Continue to help AMC improve the Activities Database system.
- Provide guidance to AMC on a new membership database.
- Host Activity Database training sessions as needed to help our committees use the new system to best advantage.

I want to thank those who maintain the sections of the web site devoted to specific committees:

### COMMITTEE WEB PAGE MAINTAINERS

Bicycling	<i>Jo Ann Hewett</i>
Conservation	<i>Aimee Santeler</i>
Conservation	<i>Mindy Gates</i>
Education, Online Newsletter	<i>Kristin Violette</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling	<i>Bob White</i>
Mountaineering	<i>Carol Phelan</i>
Trails	<i>Peg Peterson</i>
Whitewater, Young Members	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
All other committees	<i>Jim Scheef</i>

*Jim Scheef* – Chair



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## Whitewater Committee

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The Whitewater Committee started off the year with a New Year's Day run, lead by Jim Kilkenny. We ran whitewater pool sessions in January and February in Middletown and in July and August we had lake sessions. The pool and lake sessions are for anyone looking to learn the basics of Whitewater kayaking, learn the Eskimo roll, or just wanting to keep the rust off his/her paddling skills. There are volunteer instructors at every session. Instruction is generally one on one, in a very casual and friendly atmosphere.

The Hudson rafting and kayaking trip is a special trip to many and is sponsored yearly in conjunction with Young Members.

The Whitewater Committee also sponsored a WFA Class, coordinated by Dave Shoup, and a River Rescue class coordinated by Webb Carnes.

We sponsored our annual trip to the Ottawa Kayak School in Canada. Thirty-five participants, from beginners to advanced, took on the week-long challenge that the Ottawa River has to offer. A great time was had by all.

In September we held our Annual Whitewater Picnic and Leaders Appreciation day. The Picnic is to show our trip leaders as well as those individuals who have helped out throughout the year that they are appreciated by the Whitewater Committee and the participants in trips and events sponsored by the Whitewater Committee. We would also like to thank all the individuals and businesses who have donated to the Annual Whitewater Picnic and Leaders Appreciation day and our other events throughout the year.

Due to a shortage of qualified leaders, the Whitewater Committee had some difficulties scheduling trips this year. We've succeeded in adding two new trip leaders and we hope to attract more.

The CT-AMC Whitewater Committee would like to give special thanks to Robert and Andrea Forster, and family for their generous donation.

We would also like to thank all the trip leaders and other volunteers who helped out throughout the year.

### WHITEWATER COMMITTEE

<i>Melanie Bowers</i>	<i>Webb Carnes</i>	<i>Ed Chase</i>
<i>Larry Cook</i>	<i>Carmen Donofrio</i>	<i>Paul Griese</i>
<i>Jim Kilkenny</i>	<i>Ian Scott</i>	<i>Barry Smith</i>
<i>Mike Thomas</i>	<i>Dana Warner</i>	<i>John Virtue</i>

*Mark Schappert* - Co-Chair  
*Dennis Wigg*—Co-Chair

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## Young Members Committee

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The YM group had a busy year. Our veteran leaders continued to lead hikes throughout Connecticut, the northeast and beyond. We hiked at Sleeping Giant, West Rock Park, Wadsworth, Rocky Neck S.P., Chatfield Hollow, Gay City, Mashamoquet Brook, Squantz Pond, Black Rock S.P., Castle Craig, McLean Game Refuge, Pequonnock valley, and Southford Falls.

Beyond Connecticut, we hiked Mt. Moosilauke, Mt. Hancock, Mt. Monadnock, Mt. Tripyramid, Ontario, Mt. Greylock, Adirondack Park and a backpacking trip through Vermont and New Hampshire. Thank you to David Bellemare, Erik Madsen, John Crist and Tom Salvini for these adventurous trips. Thanks to Erik Madsen for leading an eleven day Major Excursions adventure through Utah's National Parks.

We also went cross country skiing at White Memorial with Jamie Howland and in the White Mountains of New Hampshire with Mark Schappert.

The joint rafting and kayaking annual trip with the Whitewater Committee on the Hudson River was led by Mark Schappert.

Our annual picnic was organized by Sue Bartley and co-led by our new social leader Jaime Alessandrine.

This year we have started advertising our group via brochures placed at various locations in the state such as outdoor sports stores, local colleges and gyms. Thank you to Jamie Howland for designing these brochures and to everyone who have distributed them.

Thank you to all our leaders for a great year: Bill Wheeler, Lisa Meunier, Jamie Howland, Mindy Gates, Mark Schappert, Nina Levenduski, Erik Madsen, Tom Salvini, Ana Ketch, and Darron Kammenberg.

*Jamie Howland - Co-Chair*  
*Mirela Postelnicu - Co-Chair*



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## Nominating Committee

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The Nominating Committee's charge is to fill any open chair or co-chair positions with qualified volunteers. We are always on the look out for folks who are willing to give their time to AMC. There are several open positions on the 2007 Executive Committee. Please consider volunteering to fill one of these spots. One doesn't need to be an "expert" to be a committee chair. Executive Committee members are always on hand with support and guidance.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

*Barbara Beckerman*      *Patricia Huff*      *Bruce LaRoche*  
*Julie Lindberg*



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## Nominations for the 2007 Executive Committee

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In accordance with the Chapter Bylaws, the Nominating Committee is pleased to

Chapter Chair	Beth Bryan Critton
Chapter Vice Chair	Leo G. Kelly
Secretary	Carol Hassett
Treasurer	Al Puches
Backcountry Editor	Jim Scheef
Bicycling Chair	Rick Merritt
Conservation Co-Chair	John Crist
Conservation Co-Chair	Jim O'Rourke
East of the River Chair	Doug Atwell
Education Chair	Dale Geslien
Excursions Chair	David Roberts
Fairfield County Co-Chair	Tom Carruthers
Fairfield County Co-Chair	David Roberts
Flatwater/Coastal Paddlers Chair	Jean Trapani
Member-at-Large	Gene Grayson
Member-at-Large	open
Membership Chair	open
Mountaineering Co-Chair	Gini Kramer
Mountaineering Co-Chair	Tim Linehan
Newsletter Editor	Darcy W. Batzarian
Northwest Camp Chair	open
Program Chair	Dave Bellemare
Trails Chair	Dave Boone
Webmaster/Technology Chair	Jim Scheef
Whitewater Co-Chair	Mark Schappert
Whitewater Co-Chair	Dennis Wigg
Young Members Co-Chair	Jamie Howland
Young Members Co-Chair	Mirela Postelnicu
Regional Director	Dale Geslien

## 50-YEAR MEMBERS

Congratulations and best wishes to the following Connecticut Chapter members who we are honoring for their 50 years of membership in the Appalachian Mountain Club! They have been invited to attend the Annual Meeting and banquet as guests of the Chapter.

*Mrs. Steffi K. Jones of Ridgefield, CT*

*Mr. David Preston of Old Lyme, CT*

