

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER



86th Anniversary

Annual Report

December 1, 2007

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

Correction:

The AMC in Connecticut reaches nearly 7000 households, not 700 as reported on page 36.

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB
CONNECTICUT CHAPTER
2007 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chapter Chair	<i>Beth Bryan Critton</i>
Chapter Vice Chair	<i>Leo G. Kelly</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</i> <i>Jim O'Rourke</i>
East of the River Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Doug Atwell</i> <i>Steve Braciak</i>
Education Committee Chair	<i>Dale Geslien</i>
Excursions Committee Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chairs	<i>Tom Carruthers</i> <i>David Roberts</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee Chair	<i>Jean Trapani</i>
Member at Large	<i>Gene Grayson</i>
Membership Committee Chair	<i>Joanne Shortell</i>
Mountaineering Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Gini Kramer</i> <i>Tim Linehan</i>
Program Committee Chair	<i>David Bellemare</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Darcy Batzarian</i>
Interim Northwest Camp Committee Chair	<i>Rod Parlee</i>
Trails Committee Chair	<i>David Boone</i>
Webmaster/AMC Outdoors Liaison	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Whitewater Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Mark Schappert</i> <i>Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Jamie Howland</i> <i>Mirela Postelnicu</i>
Regional Director	<i>Dale Geslien</i>

CHAPTER CHAIR'S REPORT

The Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club (CT-AMC) is vibrant and strong as 2007 draws to a close. Membership remains steady at slightly under 9000 members, and the past month has seen a surge in new memberships. Through the efforts of its dedicated volunteers, the Chapter excels in attracting, involving and retaining members.

This spring, the Chapter received a \$2000 award for having the second greatest improvement in conversion rate (based on the number of new members who renew at the end of the first year) of all twelve Chapters in 2006. The Chapter will spend this award on the purchase of two top quality display boards, which are needed as, more and more frequently, we "take our show on the road."

For example, this year, our cadre of "able tablers" (volunteers who enjoy telling the public about AMC) were on hand at the Banff Mountain Film Festival (all four venues), the Essex Eagle Festival, the Willimantic River Fest, Country Sports' canoe and kayak expo, the cafeteria of General Electric, EMS club days, and the openings of the new L.L.Bean store in South Windsor and the new REI in West Hartford. The Conservation Committee also staffed tables for Earth Day and other events.

Representatives of our Education, Conservation, Flatwater/Coastal Paddling and Mountaineering Committees either gave or coordinated presentations to groups as diverse as the Nava Ski Club, Camp Courant, and Envirothon.

Outreach to our members and the general public is exemplified not only by tabling and presentations, but by an ever improving, user-friendly and maneuverable website, coordinated by Webmaster extraordinaire, Jim Scheef. This year, we began offering Membership in a Bottle (MIB) on our website (with MIB fulfillment coordinated by Marilyn Atwell) and recently have started making new memberships available (at a reduced introductory price) through a "web portal" that takes prospective members from our Chapter website to the Club's website, but lets us retain a greater share of the membership revenue.

The AMC in Connecticut, our Chapter newsletter, reaches over 6000 households. Darcy Batzanian, our new Newsletter Editor, has not only revamped the newsletter stylistically (and solicited more advertising), she has stepped up to design our beautiful "CT-AT Day" poster, flyers, and the program for this year's Annual Gathering. Multi-talented Dale Geslien created an eye-catching Chapter brochure, and many of our Committees (Young Members, Mountaineering, Whitewater, Fairfield County Group) have developed their own brochures and flyers.

The Chapter increasingly shares information on activities and events through e-mail lists, for which recipients affirmatively sign up. The largest, the Short Notice hike list (which also includes Trail work parties, Conservation, Mountaineering, Education, Flatwater/Coastal Paddling and other selected events) has 1099 names. Excursions' Thursday Western CT hiking list has 541 names and its hike leader list 188 names.

Separate lists include Young Members 371; Whitewater 260; Mountaineering 132; Bicycling 298 (with a list of 45 leaders and a separate Bicycling Forum of 35 where members can contact each other for informal rides); Sea Kayaking 105; Flatwater 45; East of the River (EOR) 444 for midweek hikes; FCG 177 (members-only discussion list) and 411 (open to all e-mail list). Our general notice e-mail list has grown to 260 members.

Through the efforts of David Roberts, the Chapter has developed an extensive list of newspaper and media contacts, through which we share news of upcoming AMC events. This year Vice Chair Leo Kelly gave a local radio interview about AMC, sharing air time with author Bill Bryson. Incoming Member at Large, Maggie Grayson, has volunteered to serve as our Chapter's first official publicist.

Each CT-AMC Committee has been very busy in 2007 providing a diverse range of activities to advance the Club's and Chapter's mission of recreation, conservation and education. When you read their individual reports, I believe that you will be moved, as I continue to be, by the incredible accomplishments of each Committee and by the thousands of volunteer hours that these accomplishments collectively reflect.

In addition to the accomplishments I've already mentioned, other highlights of 2007 include:

- The Executive Committee's evening retreat on March 12 that focused on "The Face of CT-AMC - How We Present Our Chapter to the Public";
- A full house at the Spring Dinner on April 21 at the Cheshire Grange (with kudos to the Program Committee);
- For the Trails Committee, record-breaking participation by over 60 volunteers in "Give A Day to Trails" on May 12; completion of the new well at 10 Mile River campsite and repair of the well at Silver Hill (as Dave Boone said, "Drink Up"); and 2,332 field hours, 735 administrative hours, and 1,331 travel hours by 116 volunteers;
- East of the River's midweek hiking excursion to Cardigan Lodge May 21 to 23 and its doubling of the number of mid-week hike offerings;

- Participation (including Leave No Trace education) in the Capitol Campout for Hartford youth at Bushnell Park on June 21, coordinated by Diane Joy of CT's "No Child Left Inside" program;
- Working with the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association (CFPA) to establish a coordinated online system for reporting trail conditions and to support National Trails Day on June 2, including sponsoring a Trails Day Picnic at Hubbard Park in Meriden;
- New Member Activity Day on September 15 and Dinner Presentation on September 29;
- Sponsorship of the 124th Annual Fall Hiking Week at Eagle Mountain House, in Jackson, New Hampshire, September 14 to 21, with 99 attendees from as far away as Arizona and Ottawa;
- CT-AT Day on October 20 where over 100 hikers participated in hikes of varying lengths covering the entire 53-mile Appalachian Trail (AT) in Connecticut and over 100 other outdoor lovers took part in a variety of other activities near the AT, including rock-climbing, bicycling, work at Northwest Camp, trail maintenance and monitoring, Flatwater paddling, and a Housatonic River clean-up. Over 120 people attended the post-activity BBQ at Macedonia Brook State Park;
- The broad array of outdoor paddles by the Whitewater and Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committees (plus indoor winter pool sessions by both Committees);
- 549 hikes led by 101 different leaders, coordinated by the Excursions Committee;
- Weekly Monday day, Tuesday evening, Thursday evening, and weekend bike rides spring through fall, plus successful multiday trips throughout New England coordinated by the Bicycling Committee;
- YM's increasing number of socials and hikes;
- Year-round outdoor and indoor climbs, advocacy and social and educational events, sponsored by the Mountaineering Committee including its 2-day Introduction to Rock climbing sessions, so popular that a second session had to be added;
- Top notch, well attended Leadership and Wilderness First Aid training sessions provided by the Education Committee;
- Fund-raising by the Conservation Committee for the Club's Maine Woods Initiative, including a Blueberry Pancake Breakfast and setting the goal of raising \$5000 (to be matched dollar for dollar by Chapter funds) for MWI in 2008;
- Updating of the New Member materials package by the Membership Committee;

- FCG's increased programming in Bethel and continuing high attendance at its 10 monthly gatherings in Westport and Bethel, its Holiday Bash, and Fall Picnic; and
- A new record of 169 recipients of Volunteer Stewardship Awards, given to members who have led at least five activities or contributed over 30 hours of volunteer service.

Our Chapter's many accomplishments are a tribute to our hard-working and dedicated Executive Committee, to the efforts of our leaders and volunteers, and to the loyalty and involvement of our members. I owe a special debt of gratitude to Carol Hassett, who compiled this Annual Report and who has efficiently performed countless (and sometimes thankless) responsibilities as Chapter Secretary, and to Al Puches, our Chapter Treasurer.

It has been an honor and a genuine pleasure to serve as Chair of CT-AMC in 2006 and 2007. Thank you all for your support of and commitment to CT-AMC.

Our Chapter currently has great positive momentum - please be part of our continuing success by becoming more active members in 2008.

Best wishes to all for a happy and healthy 2008!

Beth Bryan Critton

Connecticut Chapter Chair

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING – 2006

The 85th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club (CT-AMC) was held on December 2, 2006, at Mountainside in Wallingford, Connecticut.

Program Committee Chair David Bellemare introduced Chapter Chair Beth Critton.

Beth asked the audience if they could feel the electricity generated when 150 outdoor-loving individuals, who have worked and played together, had a chance to celebrate their individual and collective accomplishments.

Beth thanked Dave Bellemare and his committee for their work in putting together the evening's program. She extended special thanks to Jeri Jaminet for handling the registration for the event. Beth said Jeri was following in the footsteps of former registrar, Luella Bartes, who recently retired from the Program Committee after serving for 32 years. Beth asked Dave, Jeri, Luella and the rest of the members of the Program Committee to stand for a round of applause.

Beth asked the audience to fill out the Annual Meeting Questionnaire to help the Program Committee to plan next year's Annual Meeting. She said all completed questionnaires would be entered into a drawing for a copy of the new "West of the River" CT Walk Book.

Beth took a moment to thank her four children, three of whom were present – her sons Ben and Bryan, her daughter Mindy and Mindy's husband Paul - for their support.

Beth said Mindy introduced her to the wonders of nature by her propensity as a toddler to eat brightly colored flowers without regard for their toxicity.

Beth recounted the tale of Bryan's through hike of the Appalachian Trail (AT) ten years ago when he was 18. As his supply person, she was absolutely awestruck by the idea that someone could walk from Georgia to Maine. Bryan was joined for the Connecticut section by his little brother Ben, who according to family legend complained all the way from Kent to the Massachusetts line. It was Bryan and Ben and their AT adventures that inspired her to begin hiking, which ultimately led her to the CT-AMC.

Her children also opened her eyes to the wonders of nature and have heightened her sense of the need to protect our environment for future generations. She said our role as steward is well-expressed by our Chapter's Mission Statement, found in the preface to the Annual Report. Beth read the Mission Statement with the audience.

Beth highlighted the Chapter's achievements.

- Chapter membership remained steady at just shy of 9000.
- The e-mail lists of every committee grew in 2006. The largest of these, the short notice hike list, just added its 1000th subscriber. This list now includes events for committees in addition to Excursions and serves as the Chapter's premier medium for highlighting key events.
- The Bicycling Committee offered successful programs of rides on Monday morning, Tuesday night, Wednesday night (new this year) and Thursday night and weekends and offered weekend trips to Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Cape Cod.
- The Chapter's Conservation Committee is one of the most active in the Club. The Committee held a very successful "Fighting for Connecticut's Environment" workshop in February and led conservation-oriented hikes and river clean-ups. Tapping into the Club wide Conservation Action network (CAN), the Committee involved conservation-oriented members in contacting their legislators about the Clean Diesel and Bottle Bill extension legislation.
- Conservation Committee members contributed over 872 volunteer hours (21 full time employee weeks) to the Chapter's conservation objectives.
- East of the River (EOR) increased its number of weekly hikes to four, drawing large groups of Tuesday and Thursday hikers, and sponsored two successful potluck dinners.
- The Education Committee conducted successful leadership and Leave No Trace (LNT) training sessions throughout the state, represented our Chapter at the Susan G. Komen Hike for the Cure event and was actively involved in public outreach activities.
- Excursions Committee volunteers conducted over 500 hikes and supported the Education Committee with three leadership training events – more than ever before – training close to 50 people.
- The Excursions Committee implemented a system of reimbursement of half the cost of Wilderness First Aid (WFA) training and Mountain Leadership School (MLS) for active leaders. The first recipient – Bill Wheeler – was present. Excursions also recruited the Chapter's first backpacking coordinator – Elaine LaBella.
- The Fairfield County Group (FCG) attracted large numbers to dinner presentations in Westport and Bethel, where armchair travelers visited destinations as diverse as Belize and Cambodia. FCG increased the number of Bethel meetings from two to four per year

and held its third successful Picnic. On December 5, FCG will hold its first "Holiday Bash" in Bethel.

- The Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee conducted indoor pool sessions during the winter months, provided many outdoor paddling opportunities, and offered the Chapter's first sea kayaking activities.
- The Chapter, under the guidance of the Membership Committee expanded New Member Day (NMD) to two days – a New Member activity day and a New Member workshop and dinner event the following Saturday night.
- The Mountaineering Committee's year-round activities included indoor rock-climbing in the winter months, two avalanche awareness and beacon search practice sessions this past December, an instruction-based overnight winter hiking and camping trip to the White Mountains in January, its annual rock climbing instruction program in April, and outdoor rock climbing events during the summer.
- Under the guidance of Mike House, we produced three excellent Chapter newsletters, reaching 7000 households.
- Northwest Camp now has its own dedicated Web page and has been the base of successful LNT, light hiking, and New Member Day activities.
- The Program Committee organized the delightful Spring Dinner with storyteller Beth Digger Canell, the Trails Day Potluck, the NMD Dinner, and the Annual Meeting.
- 108 Trails Committee volunteers contributed 4653 "Volunteers in Park" hours related to their maintenance of 55 miles of the Connecticut section of the AT and additional miles on connecting side trails.
- Give-A-Day to Trails had its largest participation to date.
- Among their many projects, Trails Committee volunteers constructed a new moldering privy at Brassie Brook campsite, helped repair and replace three bridges washed out by spring rains, including a new bridge across Sages Ravine Brook, and collaborated with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) to develop "hiker friendly" improvements to the new Route 7 bridge plans in Falls Village.
- Webmaster Jim Scheef completely revamped the Chapter Web site from the inside out. He has been instrumental in the Club's development and our Chapter's use of the AMC Activity Database.
- The Chapter sold its first Membership in a Bottle (MIB) on line on our Chapter Web site.

- The Whitewater Committee kicked off 2006 with a New Year's Day run and did not slow down. The Committee ran instructional indoor pool sessions in January and February and outdoor lake sessions in July and August, conducted WFA and River Rescue classes, and sponsored their annual Hudson rafting and kayaking and Ottawa Kayak School trips.
- The Young Member (YM) Committee offered numerous hikes, added a new social leader, and developed and distributed an exciting new full color brochure, which has yielded new members and increased interest and involvement in YM activities.
- The Chapter's finances remain sound, thanks to the fiscal guidance of Al Puches, our Treasurer.
- CT-AMC and its various Committees were visible representatives at events ranging from the Eagle Festival in Essex to the Boat Show in Hartford to the Banff Mountain Film Festival to Earth Day activities.
- CT-AMC continued to be the sponsoring Chapter for Fall Hiking Week, which saw its participation grow in 2006 its 123rd year.
- Dave Boone and Beth met with Connecticut Forest and Park Association (CFPA) Executive Director Adam Moore to promote continued and enhanced cooperation with CFPA and with the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT-DEP) Commissioner Gina McCarthy to introduce her to the AMC and explore how we might support the much-acclaimed "No Child Left Inside" initiative.
- And (this is the statistic that Beth was most thrilled by) the number of volunteers who received Chapter Stewardship Awards reflected a record high of 163.

Beth thanked everyone for making 2006 a productive and successful year.

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>Wendy Clark</i>	<i>John Figucia</i>	<i>Robert Geithner</i>
<i>Marjorie Hartman</i>	<i>John Hull</i>	<i>Mary Mills Humprey</i>
<i>Douglas K. Johnson</i>	<i>Jim Mays</i>	<i>Peter Noyes</i>
<i>Paul Pakula</i>	<i>William Reese</i>	<i>Arthur T. Safford</i>
<i>William Thorne</i>	<i>Rev. Henry K. Yorden</i>	

Beth reminded the audience that Jim Mays was Co-Chair of our Bicycling Committee and a much-loved bike ride leader.

Beth 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.

Beth called upon Excursions Chair David Roberts to announce the recipients of 2006 Chapter Volunteer Stewardship Awards.

<i>Doug Atwell</i>	<i>Barry Gorfain</i>	<i>Nick Pasquariello</i>
<i>Tom Baker</i>	<i>Gene Grayson</i>	<i>Peter Passeck</i>
<i>Leon Barkman</i>	<i>Ben Hager</i>	<i>Ruth Penfield</i>
<i>John Barry</i>	<i>Carol Hassett</i>	<i>Peg Peterson</i>
<i>Luella Bartes</i>	<i>Nancy Hatfield</i>	<i>Carole Phelan</i>
<i>Barbara Beckerman</i>	<i>Ray Helie</i>	<i>Jeff Phelon</i>
<i>Dave Bellemare</i>	<i>Ken Henneberry</i>	<i>Bob Poitras</i>
<i>Len Berton</i>	<i>Peter Herrmann</i>	<i>Mirela Postelnicu</i>
<i>Dick Blake</i>	<i>Jo Ann Hewett</i>	<i>Al Puches</i>
<i>Terry Bludeau</i>	<i>Ed Holowenko</i>	<i>Mark Puglisi</i>
<i>Dave Boone</i>	<i>Mike House</i>	<i>Lynn Reid</i>
<i>Brian Booth</i>	<i>Jamie Howland</i>	<i>Bonnie Reidinger</i>
<i>Steve Braciak</i>	<i>Bob Iannucci</i>	<i>Barry Resnick</i>
<i>Hugh Broughel</i>	<i>Wally Inkpen</i>	<i>Ed Richardson</i>
<i>Phil Capaldo</i>	<i>Paul Ives</i>	<i>Walt Rinehart</i>
<i>Al Carilli</i>	<i>Sue Ives</i>	<i>David Roberts</i>
<i>Jo-Ann Carlson</i>	<i>Jeri Jaminet</i>	<i>Betty Robinson</i>
<i>Webb Carnes</i>	<i>Harlan Jessup</i>	<i>Dick Roethlein</i>
<i>Tom Carruthers</i>	<i>Frank Junga</i>	<i>Connie Rokicki</i>
<i>Russ Charest</i>	<i>Jonie Kafka</i>	<i>Bruce Ross</i>
<i>Doug Christie</i>	<i>Jonathan Katz</i>	<i>Richard Rouse</i>
<i>Jim Christie</i>	<i>Leo Kelly</i>	<i>Barbara Rutigliano</i>
<i>Cory Clark</i>	<i>Vinnie Kernian</i>	<i>Chuck Sack</i>
<i>Hugh Cobrain</i>	<i>Jim Kilkenny</i>	<i>Zellene Sandler</i>
<i>Larry Cook</i>	<i>Judy Kunkel</i>	<i>Aimee Santeler</i>
<i>Ted Cowles</i>	<i>Elaine LaBella</i>	<i>Keith Santeler</i>
<i>John Crist</i>	<i>Bruce Laroche</i>	<i>Eleanor Sasso</i>
<i>Beth Bryan Critton</i>	<i>Sue Lach</i>	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
<i>Dave Cronin</i>	<i>Nina Levenduski</i>	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
<i>Lorraine Cronson</i>	<i>Jim Liptack</i>	<i>Jim Schreiber</i>
<i>David Cullen</i>	<i>Erik Madsen</i>	<i>Brian Sears</i>
<i>Mike Cunningham</i>	<i>Jim Malumphy</i>	<i>Jack Shea</i>
<i>Ron Curtis</i>	<i>Nancy Mann</i>	<i>Nathaniel Shedd</i>
<i>Walt Daniels</i>	<i>Tom Mann</i>	<i>Ann Sherwood</i>
<i>Birge Dayton</i>	<i>Carol Marchion</i>	<i>Don Shildneck</i>
<i>Jennifer Decker</i>	<i>Andrew May</i>	<i>Dave Shoup</i>
<i>Frank DeFazio</i>	<i>Ellen McGuire</i>	<i>Beth Siegalman</i>
<i>Chuck Doll</i>	<i>Doug McKain</i>	<i>Pete Sofman</i>
<i>Dick Don</i>	<i>Rick Merritt</i>	<i>Mark Sondeen</i>
<i>Carmen D'Onofrio</i>	<i>Lisa Meunier</i>	<i>Jim St. Amand</i>
<i>Sandy Dunn</i>	<i>Dave Mihalek</i>	<i>Jerry Stage</i>
<i>Tom Ebersold</i>	<i>Geri Mihalek</i>	<i>Lori Stethers</i>

<i>Henry Edmonds</i>	<i>Art Morenz</i>	<i>Eric Stones</i>
<i>Dean Fenton</i>	<i>Jenifer Nadeau</i>	<i>Debra Tedford</i>
<i>Finlay Ferguson</i>	<i>Gustavo Nava</i>	<i>Jean Trapani</i>
<i>Jane Ferrall</i>	<i>Fiona Nicholson</i>	<i>Trish Urso</i>
<i>Wayne Fogg</i>	<i>Bob Nickels</i>	<i>Kristin Violette</i>
<i>Robert Forster</i>	<i>Bill Novoa</i>	<i>Russ Waldie</i>
<i>Merri Fox</i>	<i>Carolyn Olsen</i>	<i>Susan Wallen</i>
<i>Phyllis Freeman</i>	<i>Glen Orcutt</i>	<i>Dana Warner</i>
<i>Paul Garbarino</i>	<i>Jim O'Rourke</i>	<i>Bill Wheeler</i>
<i>Mindy Gates</i>	<i>Paul Palmer</i>	<i>Robert S. White</i>
<i>Dale Geslien</i>	<i>Terri Pappagallo</i>	<i>Dennis Wigg</i>
<i>Jim Gleba</i>	<i>Rod Parlee</i>	<i>Wilda Wyse</i>
		<i>Bob Youle</i>

Beth thanked David and asked the honorees to stand for a well-deserved round of applause. Beth added that recognized volunteers would receive a Recognition gift – an award-winning Sea to Summit Dry Sack.

Beth then asked Trails Committee Chair Dave Boone to describe and present the Trails Committee awards.

Pychowska Award (96 Hours Trails Stewardship)

<i>Dick Blake</i>	<i>Dave Boone</i>	<i>Hugh Broughel</i>
<i>Henry Edmond</i>	<i>Ann Sherwood</i>	

Hart Award (224 Hours Trails Stewardship)

<i>Doug Christie</i>	<i>Jim Christie</i>	<i>Walt Daniels</i>
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Trails Committee Cumulative Hours Award:

12 hours

<i>Beth Critton</i>	<i>Pete Herrmann</i>	<i>Mary Kayley</i>
<i>Jackie Kuhn</i>	<i>Rick LaDue</i>	<i>Robert Oliver</i>
<i>Terry Baldwin</i>	<i>Lina Pakalnis</i>	<i>Bob Youle</i>

50 hours

<i>Phil Capaldo</i>	<i>Roger Dietlin</i>	<i>Gene Grayson</i>
<i>Terry Ryan</i>	<i>James Saunders</i>	<i>Bob Youle</i>

100 hours

<i>Tom Lawton</i>	<i>Bob Youle</i>
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250 hours

<i>Hugh Broughel</i>	<i>Ben Hager</i>
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500 hours

<i>Jim Christ</i>

1000 hours

<i>Bill Engstrom</i>

Not only does the Trails Committee maintain the AT and feeder trails in Connecticut, it provides invaluable advice to scores AT hikers and wannabees. Of the questions Dave fielded this year, Beth's favorite was:

"I am planning to get married on the AT on October 14. Are there any rules I should know about?"

Beth told the audience that the Chapter has two awards for members who have made substantial contributions to CT-AMC. She called on past Chapter Chair and past "Appie of the Year" award winner Dave Cullen to describe and present the Appie of the Year Award and the Lifetime Service Award.

The Appie of the Year Award was presented to Education Chair and past Chapter Chair Dale Geslien, who has served and continues to serve the Chapter and the Club in many ways.

The Lifetime Service Award was presented to Ledge Clayton. In addition to tenure as Chapter Chair, Ledge has been an active contributor to many CT-AMC Committees. He was a member of the Club's Major Excursions Committee for many years and continues to participate in August Camp.

Beth then recognized those who became fifty-year Club members.

Mrs. Steffi K. Jones of Ridgefield, CT

Mr. David Preston of Old Lyme, CT

Although these dedicated members were unable to be present, the audience gave them a round of applause.

Beth invited those 25 or more year members to stand and be recognized.

Beth welcomed and thanked Henry Schreiber of the New York/North Jersey Chapter for attending. She noted that Henry was in the final days of his distinguished tenure as Chair of that Chapter and it was his third CT-AMC Annual Meeting. Henry, joined by past Chapter Chair and August Camp registrar Trish Niece, told members about the 2007 August Camp. It will be held in the California Sierras.

Beth then introduced another special guest, AMC Director of Volunteer Relations Roger Scholl. She told the audience that Roger is a hiker, climber, kayaker, and served as the New Hampshire Chapter Chair before joining the Club staff. Roger addressed the audience.

Beth called upon Dick Don, Chair of the Harry Duren Scholarship Committee, to read letters from this year's recipients. Beth then asked the audience to make a tax-deductible contribution to this worthwhile fund, a CT-AMC tradition.

Beth thanked members of the 2006 Executive Committee who served over the past year. She asked them to stand and be recognized as she called their names.

Doug Atwell – East of the River Co-Chair

Dave Bellemare – Program Chair

Dave Boone – Trails Chair

Tom Carruthers – Fairfield County Group Co-Chair

John Crist – Conservation Co-Chair

Beth Bryan Critton – Chapter Chair

Chuck Doll – Northwest Camp Chair

Dale Geslien – Education Chair

Gene Grayson – East of the River Co-Chair

Carol Hassett – Secretary

Mike House – Newsletter Editor

Jamie Howland – Young Member Co-Chair

Sue Lach – Vice Chair and Membership Chair

Rick Merritt – Bicycling Chair

Jim O'Rourke – Conservation Co-Chair

Mirela Postelnicu – Young Member Co-Chair

Al Puches – Treasurer

David Roberts – Excursions Chair and Fairfield County Group Co-Chair

Mark Schappert – Whitewater Co-Chair

Jim Scheef – Webmaster/Technology Chair

Norm Sims – Regional Director

Jean Trapani – Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair

Dennis Wigg – Whitewater Co-Chair

Beth said she owed an incredible debt of gratitude to each of these individuals but she especially wanted to thank:

Mark Sondeen, who led the rebuilding of the Mountaineering Committee

Mike House, who improved both the content and layout of the Chapter Newsletter.

Chuck Doll, who literally put Northwest Camp on the map and our Web site.

Gene Grayson, who is leaving his position as EOR Co-Chair to become Member at Large.

Norm Sims, our Regional Director, who is completing his term in that position.

Carol Hassett, for her work in compiling the Annual report and coordinating the list of volunteers for recognition.

At 8:09 p.m., Beth called to order the business portion of the 85th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Beth called for a motion to accept the Secretary's Report as presented in the 2006 Annual Report, which was received, seconded, and passed. Beth then called for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented in the 2006 Annual Report, which was received, seconded, and passed.

The next order of business was the proposed revision of the bylaws. Beth explained that the proposed revision adds the word "Sunday" to the bylaws, giving our Chapter the option to explore alternative venues for the Annual Meeting, with the goal of reducing the cost of the Annual Meeting for our membership.

Beth made a motion to adopt the following revision of the bylaws. (A second motion was not required as the motion comes from a committee).

ARTICLE VI - MEETINGS Section 1. In the first sentence, change from "... shall be held on any Saturday..." to "...shall be held on any Saturday or Sunday..."

Beth asked if there was any discussion on the proposed amendment of Article VI. There was none.

Beth 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. There being two-thirds in favor of the revision, the revision was adopted.

The next item of business was the election of the 2007 Executive Committee.

Beth explained that Joanne Shortell offered to become Membership Chair several days prior to the meeting, too late to be published in advance. She'd discussed Joanne's candidacy with the Nominating Committee. She asked Barbara Beckerman and Bruce Laroche, members of the committee, to stand. They endorsed Joanne Shortell for inclusion on the 2007 slate as Chair of the Membership Committee.

Beth then asked the permission of all CT-AMC members in attendance to add the endorsed candidate for Membership Committee Chair to the slate. No one was opposed and Joanne Shortell was added to the 2007 slate.

Beth called upon Bruce Laroche of the Nominating Committee to present the slate of nominees for 2007. She asked each nominee to come forward as his/ her name was called.

Chapter Chair	Beth Bryan Critton
Chapter Vice Chair	Leo G. Kelly
Secretary	Carol Hassett
Treasurer	Al Puches
AMC <i>Outdoors</i> Liaison	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 Paddling Chair	Jean Trapani
Member at Large	Gene Grayson
Member at Large	open
Membership Chair	Joanne Shortell
Mountaineering Co-Chair	Gini Kramer
Mountaineering Co-Chair	Tim Linehan
Newsletter Editor	Darcy 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

A motion was made for the secretary to cast one ballot for the slate as presented. The motion passed.

Beth then paid tribute to five former Chapter Chairs in attendance. She asked that they stand as she called their names.

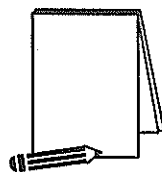
Dale Geslien: 2003-2005
Dave Cullen: 1995-1996
Mary Dorpalen: 1993-1994
Trish Niece: 1987-1988
Ledge Clayton: 1975-1976

Beth asked for a motion to be made to adjourn the meeting. At 8:16 p.m. a motion to adjourn the business meeting was made, seconded, and passed.

Dave Bellemare, Program Committee Chair, then introduced the program speaker, Richard Wiese, host of the TV show *Exploration with Richard Wiese*, who presented *New Techniques for High Altitude Training*.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Hassett,
Secretary



TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2005 AND 2006

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Cash at January 1	<u>\$43,364</u>	<u>\$48,984</u>
Revenue Collected:		
Joy Street dues allocation	33,272	32,425
Program activities	20,399	20,438
Contributions	140	3,200
Reserve funds – sources ⁽¹⁾	417	2,643
Local sale of memberships	3,475	2,045
Leadership training	7,480	7,460
Subscriptions and Advertising	2,143	1,729
Merchandise sales	983	141
Interest income	<u>2,806</u>	<u>3,044</u>
Total revenue collected	\$71,115	\$73,125
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	\$19,411	18,859
Cost of merchandise	537	95
Reserve funds – uses ⁽¹⁾	3,231	2,368
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	1,607	1,624
Conservation	393	1,140
East of the River	2,038	1,812
Education	6,142	7,371
Excursions	172	9
Executive	10,173	8,968
Fairfield County	2,795	1,143
Flatwater	0	321
Membership	2,242	1,930
Mountaineering	1,460	1,263
Newsletter	9,942	9,936
Northwest Camp	211	223
Program	24	56
Trails	4,261	2,443
Whitewater	535	1,195
Young Members	<u>321</u>	<u>535</u>
Total expenditures	\$65,495	\$61,291
Cash at December 31	<u>\$48,984</u>	<u>\$60,818</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2006 AND 2007

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Cash at January 1	<u>\$48,984</u>	<u>\$60,818</u>
Revenue collected:		
Joy Street dues allocation	\$21,872	\$21,426
Program activities	13,182	12,506
Reserve funds – sources ⁽¹⁾	1,849	7,090
Local sale of memberships	1,600	2,402
Leadership training	6,455	5,655
Subscriptions and Advertising	2,133	2,234
Contributions	2,100	0
Merchandise sales	112	50
Interest income	<u>603</u>	<u>5,495</u>
Total revenue collected	\$49,906	\$56,858
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	\$13,415	14,022
Reserve funds – uses ⁽¹⁾	2,368	1,186
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	1,310	1,412
Conservation	118	333
East of the River	1,773	1,337
Education	5,516	3,747
Excursions	9	14
Executive	3,434	4,066
Fairfield County	1,023	368
Flatwater	321	0
Membership	1,614	2,904
Mountaineering	827	543
Newsletter	7,796	6,651
Northwest Camp	197	0
Program	45	0
Trails	1,588	3,543
Whitewater	2,150	987
Young Members	<u>0</u>	<u>279</u>
Total expenditures	\$43,504	\$41,392
Cash at September 30	<u>\$55,386</u>	<u>\$76,284</u>

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:

	<u>12/31/05</u>	<u>12/31/06</u>	<u>9/30/07</u>
Reserve funds:			
AT Handicap Accessible project	12,869	12,869	11,683
Duren Memorial Scholarships	2,554	3,907	5,097
Jim Wright Memorial	264	264	264
Stanley Grant Reserve	3,050	2,472	2,472
Stephen Meyers Memorial	1,895	1,895	1,895
Whitewater reserve	5,425	8,118	6,677
Menke Reserve	0	0	1,800
Maine Initiative Fund	0	0	450
AMC Grants	0	0	3,650
General fund	<u>22,926</u>	<u>31,293</u>	<u>42,296</u>
Total cash	<u>\$48,983</u>	<u>\$60,818</u>	<u>\$76,265</u>

Al Puches – Treasurer

Bicycling Committee

Terri Pappagallo, in her third year on the job, successfully published seven issues of the newsletter, *AMC Cyclist*. Terri distributed some of the newsletters electronically, reducing costs.

JoAnn Hewett, in her second year as Ride Coordinator, did a great job keeping track of all the rides and posting them online.

Tom Ebersold continued to moderate the ctamc-bicycling Yahoo group that consists of about 300 names. Many leaders submitted short notice rides that were publicized through the e-mail list.

Judy Kunkel, in charge of the Monday program, had a very successful season. She recruited monthly coordinators who scheduled rides for each Monday from April 1 through November 11.

The Tuesday night rides ended on September 6. The rides ranged from 15-40 miles and an average of 35-50 cyclists of all ability levels turned out each week. With the help of a few other bike leaders, Anna Dobbs, Rick Merritt, and Glen Orcutt led most of the rides.

From May through August, Finlay Ferguson and Barbara Rutigliano led the Thursday night rides, which were very successful. The number of cyclists averaged 15-25 each week. The rides were mostly hilly, with no cue sheet, and averaged 18-20 miles. Most of the participants had dinner together after the rides and they bonded very well.

Weekend trips, all well attended and incident-free, were held in the following locations: Bar Harbor, Maine, Fairlee, Vermont, Hampton Beach, New Hampshire, Gloucester, Massachusetts, and Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Many thanks to leaders Ruth Penfield, Doug McKain, Jeri Jaminet, Jerry Jaminet, Joann Carlson, Gary Carlson, Judy Kunkel, Susan Wallen, Terry Bludeau, Rick Merritt, Jim Gleba, and Agatha Porholyo.

A ride was scheduled each Saturday and Sunday throughout the season.

We need to find more volunteers to step forward to lead rides. It was not a good year for recruiting or finding AMC members to lead rides. Hopefully over the winter months we can find some people to answer our call for help.

BICYCLING COMMITTEE:

Jo Ann Hewett - Ride Coordinator
Terri Pappagallo - Newsletter Editor

Rick Merritt - Chair

Conservation Committee

The Conservation Committee accomplished a lot in 2007 and expects to do so again in 2008. Through October our 16 dedicated volunteers have accumulated up over 700 volunteer hours on numerous projects and activities on behalf of the CT-AMC.

We began the "AMC Year 2007" (in October of 2006) with the 2nd annual Housatonic River shore and Appalachian Trail clean up at Bulls Bridge. Thanks to the planning of Aimee and Keith Santeler, it was a huge success. We tabled at the CT-AMC Annual Meeting where our table displays received many compliments and interest from Chapter members and leaders. Keith Santeler's updates to ct-amc.org\conservation Web site for 2007 look great. We purchased *An Inconvenient Truth*, which can be shared with the Committee and Chapter. We also bought four beautiful roadside signs for our cleanups that will let passersby know that CT-AMC volunteers are at work.

Three committee members attended the Club wide Annual Meeting in Massachusetts. Russ Charest explained the energy saving devices on our display, answered many questions and attended the Club wide conservation meeting with Andrew May. Chelsea Creekmore explained our current activities advertised on our tri-fold display to the masses. Eric Stones unveiled an initiative across chapters to have the different conservation committees give out compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs and calculate the reduction in carbon gasses emitted. In December we purchased 180 bulbs for distribution, so we were a month ahead of Eric's initiative. Through October we have distributed over 160 of the CFL bulbs. If someone replaces a 60 watt incandescent bulb with a 15 watt CFL, and uses it for 6 hours a day, the energy savings equates to \$40 over the four year life of the bulb. For the 160 bulbs we distributed there is a total potential savings of up to \$6400. More importantly, using 60 watt incandescent bulbs to generate 10,000 hours of light generates an estimated 960 lb of the greenhouse gas CO₂. Using CFLs to generate 10,000 hours of light only generates 240 lb of CO₂, a reduction of 740 lb. Applied across the 160 bulbs we distributed, **our efforts equate to a reduction in CO₂ emissions of up to 103,000 lb!** (based on 1 cfl used 6 hours a day for 4 years = reduction of 648 lb of CO₂). Also in January Bob Andrews wrote a Conservation Action Network (CAN) e-mail regarding upcoming important ATV legislation and has been very busy staying on top of the issue at the state capitol in Hartford. Andrew May worked with Bob Wall on the Smart Power partnership with area environmental groups to enlist clean energy purchasers in Connecticut and earn solar panels for the Connecticut Audubon Society.

On February 7th, 2007 we held a "Bring a dish and have a great time networking with the CT-AMC Conservation Committee and other environmental experts" pot luck dinner with creative and organic or locally produced food. We watched a 56 minute DVD of *The Dimming Sun*, which explores new evidence that air pollution has masked the full impact of global warming. We also had our first clean energy sign up sheet out while set up as exhibitors at the 8th Annual Connecticut Audubon Society Eagle Festival in Essex.

In March, Bob Andrews continued working hard at the state capitol in support of specific legislative issues HB 7277 and the ATV bill. Andrew May kept us moving forward with Environmental NGO Clean Energy Promotion campaign. Online sign up on http://www.ct-amc.org/conservation/clean_energy_form.pdf is now available for this campaign. Andrew and Chelsea Creekmore spoke to a group of geocachers on behalf of the CT-AMC. They were greeted with enthusiasm and interest in local conservation issues and handed out many CFL bulbs.

In April 2007 Andrew May tabled before and after Congressman Larson's panel discussion on global warming on April 10. Committee leaders, including Beth Byron, attended and tabled at the *Step It Up*, while Andrew went to Eastern Connecticut State University. Trish Urso represented AMC at the East Hartford Library and others went to Hartford Earth Day events.

May brought many successes. For example, we held a fun-filled Conservation Committee picnic in Hubbard Park where we raised \$110 for the Maine Woods Initiative (MWI). We had games, activities, hikes and great food. Committee leaders attended and tabled at the Railway Museum while John Crist and Russ Charest spent a full day at the Naugatuck Green Earth Day Festivals where additional funds were raised for the MWI. Committee leaders worked at Give a Day to Trails and the annual Eastern Mountain Sports (EMS) Still River cleanup. On Trails Day, the Conservation Committee participated in a hike with 5th District U.S. Congressman Chris Murphy to thank him on behalf of the CT-AMC. We also participated in the Trails Day picnic in Hubbard Park. At our May and June events we continued to distribute CFL bulbs. In late May, thanks to committee members' personal donations, we reached the halfway point in our goal of raising \$1000 to save one acre of Maine woods.

Over the summer Dr. Charlotte Pyle spoke to our committee about the many invasive plants found in Connecticut. We took a short field trip on the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association (CFPA) property identifying invasive plants (better known as non-native plants). Jamie Lee organized an "Invasive Species" hike with Dr. Pyle around the Bluff Point State Park in Groton, Connecticut. Bob Andrews, Jamie Lee, Andrew May and Beth Critton also tabled at the Willimantic River Festival, championing conservation and outdoor recreation. On August 4, committee members and volunteers spent a day cleaning up trash and pulling up non-native plants along the Farmington River. We also helped represent the face of the AMC at the LL Bean grand opening in South Windsor, Connecticut.

At our monthly Conservation Committee meeting on September 5, we selected two new committee co-chairs for 2008, Jamie Lee and Andrew May. Both bring a passion for the environment, an enjoyment of outdoor recreation, strong leadership and many other skills that will be valuable to both the Conservation Committee and the Chapter. On September 8, Conservation Committee members tabled at the Green Expo at Southern Connecticut State University. On Sunday, September 23, twenty people feasted on delicious homemade blueberry pancakes as they enjoyed the camaraderie of Conservation Committee members Adriana Gabarron, Diana Desnoyers and Jim O'Rourke while learning about AMC's thrilling plans for the MWI. This exciting project is the largest investment in conservation and recreation in AMC's 130 year history. With the \$300 raised for the AMC's MWI at the breakfast, the Conservation Committee reached 80% of its 2007 goal of raising \$1000 to permanently protect one acre of land in the Maine Woods. Special thanks go to Alan Spier who graciously shared his time and experience in the Maine Woods. On September 29 the Conservation Committee tabled at the New Member Day dinner in Berlin.

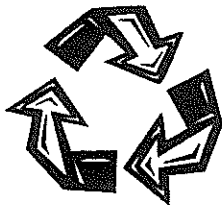
Looking back and looking ahead - between the CT-AMC Conservation Committee's May 5 picnic and the end of September we reached our 2007 fund raising goal of \$1000 to save an acre of the Maine Woods. Having reached our \$1000 goal, we will issue a challenge to the rest of the 12 AMC Chapters at the Fall Gathering in Crawford Notch, New Hampshire, to equal our feat. This success has raised our enthusiasm for this very worthy effort to the point that we increased our fund raising goal for the MWI from \$1000 in 2007 to a total of \$10,000 by October, 2008. More to come.

Throughout the year we submitted articles to the "Conservation Action" section of the Chapter newsletter. Important information for our members (i.e. the bottle bill) was shared there and in numerous e-mail communications to the Chapter Conservation Yahoo! Group. Not all of our committee members are named in this Annual Report. However, each and every one of our committee members and onetime volunteers contribute to our ability to handle such a diverse array of conservation minded tasks. The amount of time, effort and passion given by the CT-AMC Conservation is difficult to represent in this report. Additional thanks to Birge Dayton, Jean Trapani, Ceila Robbins and the many volunteers who support our efforts.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE:

<i>Bob Andrews</i>	<i>Beth Byron</i>	<i>Russ Charest</i>
<i>Chelsea Creekmore</i>	<i>Birge Dayton</i>	<i>Diana Desnoyers</i>
<i>Adriana Gabarron</i>	<i>Jamie Lee</i>	<i>Andrew May</i>
<i>Ceila Robbins</i>	<i>Aimee Santeler</i>	<i>Keith Santeler</i>
<i>Trish Urso</i>		

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



East of the River Committee

Gene Grayson resigned as East of the River (EOR) co-chair in 2006 to fill a member-at-large position on the CT-AMC Executive Committee. Steve Braciak replaced Gene as EOR co-chair on February 12 by voice vote of the Executive Committee.

We continued to schedule two hikes each Tuesday and Thursday throughout the year. The hikes starting at 10:00 a.m. were shorter and easier while the 9:30 a.m. hikes provided more of a challenge. Approximately 16 hikes were scheduled each month. Betty Robinson led a work party June 7, repainting blazes on the newly "adopted" Spring Manor Trail in Mansfield as part of the AMC's Chapter Trail Challenge. Barry Resnick led 10 hikers on his annual Boston Freedom Trail hike July 10 and 12 hikers on his annual Boston Emerald Necklace hike May 10.

Dick Don, our Program Committee Chair, organized two potluck dinners this past year at the Rockville United Methodist Church in Rockville. The fall dinner was held on Saturday, October 28. Martin Dinep presented slides of his Switzerland travels. A spring potluck was held on Saturday, May 19. Jeff Feldman presented a slide show on *Views of Nature from a Kayak*.

An EOR subsection (similar to the Bicycling, Conservation, Education, etc. subsections) will be added to the Connecticut Chapter section of *AMC Outdoors* beginning with the October, 2007 issue. This subsection will provide an overview of our group's activities.

The EOR group sponsored an Interchapter Excursion to Cardigan Lodge May 21 - 24 with 26 hikers in attendance. Due to the success of this trip we will be sponsoring another trip to Cardigan Lodge May 19 - 22, 2008. We made reservations for 35 participants. This year's trip was self-service. Next year we are planning to have the Lodge provide all meals.

We distributed our newsletter three times this past year. This newsletter is similar to the CT-AMC newsletter but contains material specifically designed for EOR members.

A special note of thanks is extended to Phyllis Freeman, Bob Nickels, Carolyn Olsen, Barry Resnick, and Zellene Sandler for organizing all of hikes and to Carol Hassett for assembling the hikes into one list and sending the list to everyone on our e-mail list. We also want to thank Betty Robinson, our newsletter editor, for all of the volunteer work she has done over the years to make the EOR group a huge success.

EAST OF THE RIVER COMMITTEE:

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

Doug Atwell - Co-Chair
Steve Braciak - Co-Chair



Education Committee

The Education Committee conducted its annual Leadership Training School (LTS) November 17 - 19, 2006 at White Memorial Conservation Center in Litchfield, Connecticut. Twenty participants successfully completed the training. Eight instructors conducted the training and we welcomed new staff assistant Danny Twilley, who presented a new approach in teaching map and compass skills. I was ably assisted by veteran instructors John Crist, Merri Fox, Aaron Gorban, Jeff Hogan, Leo Kelly and David Roberts. Also new this year was a role play skit conducted by instructors to better prepare participants for their role plays. Leo Kelly's commanding performance was a big hit and surprised a few instructors too! As a result, this year's role play scenarios proved to be a better learning experience for participants. In addition, new laminated role play cards were created in an effort to facilitate materials preparation for future trainings.

Leave No Trace (LNT) Master Educators Dale Geslien and Leo Kelly presented an awareness workshop at the Club-wide Annual Meeting on January 27 in Marlborough, Massachusetts that was attended by close to 25 people. One participant requested a supply of LNT cards to bring back to her Chapter's Conservation Committee, of which she was a member. Another participant requested an awareness workshop for their Chapter.

Dale completed the Chapter Youth Program (CYP) training which is designed to facilitate partnering between the AMC and youth organizations. The Education Committee display was presented at the Eagle Festival in Essex, Connecticut on February 17. Visitors learned about AMC activities and LNT Principles.

The annual SOLO Wilderness First Aid (WFA) training took place April 14 - 15 at the White Memorial Foundation. Thirty-seven enthusiastic participants completed the training and persevered through snow, sleet and rain while practicing scenarios. They were highly motivated by volunteer Laurie Kommritz's home cooking which included homemade soup and freshly baked chocolate chip cookies!

The Education Committee participated in Give A Day to Trails on May 12. Dale served as lead base camp instructor and LNT presenter at the June session of AMC's Mountain Leadership School (MLS). Education Committee instructor John Crist also participated in the MLS June School as a field instructor and led the role-play workshop.

On June 21, Dale presented a LNT workshop, ably assisted by Chapter Chair Beth Critton, at the CT-DEP's *Leave No Child Inside* event, which was part of the *Capitol Camp-Out*. The Education Committee conducted a *Soft Skills Workshop* on June 23, which was attended by four enthusiastic leaders. Positive feedback was received on this new workshop and regional workshops are being considered for 2008. A leadership training session was conducted on July 8 at Sleeping Giant State Park in Hamden, Connecticut. Thirteen participants completed the training and nearly half have already completed the requirements to become new hike leaders. Many thanks to Leo Kelly for assisting with these trainings.

On September 22 the Education Committee led a "critical treasure" hike in the Highlands Region and informed participants about the Highlands Coalition, of which the AMC is a member, and its mission to give the region an identity and protect special places from development. The hike to Candlewood Mt. on the Housatonic Range Trail, in New Milford, Connecticut, is currently being threatened by development. Scrambling through the corkscrew, visiting a cave and climbing Kelly's Slide were some of the attractions experienced that define this place as a critical treasure. A family LNT Workshop, co-sponsored by the Redding Park and Recreation Department, was held on Saturday, September 29. Nine participants completed the training under glorious sunny skies. The committee exhibit was displayed at the New Member Day dinner in Berlin later that same day. The Committee is making plans for its annual Leadership Training School to be held November 16-18, 2007 at the White Memorial Foundation.

My sincere thanks to the committee members and others who volunteered their time and expertise to offer quality experiences for volunteers, members and the general public.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

<i>John Crist</i>	<i>Merri Fox</i>	<i>Jeff Hogan</i>
<i>Leo Kelly</i>	<i>Laurie Kommritz</i>	<i>David Roberts</i>
<i>Kristin Violette</i>		
		<i>Dale Geslien – Chair</i>

Excursions Committee

The Excursions Committee has had a record-breaking year.

Our Hike Leaders listed 549 hikes in the year to the end of September 2007 compared with 503 hikes in the previous year and 101 different Hike Leaders led at least one hike during the year compared with 91 Hike Leaders last year. Over 60 of our Leaders and volunteers have qualified for Chapter "recognition" awards this year as a result of leading 5 or more hikes or contributing 30 or more hours to support our efforts. Many of our longer serving Hike Leaders continued to make a major contribution but many hikes were also led by Hike Leaders who have qualified in the past year or two, which is very encouraging for the future.

EOR Midweek Hiking sponsored four well-attended hikes each week this year, a successful increase from the three weekly hikes they sponsored in the previous year; the Western CT Thursday group continued to sponsor one hike each week; and our Young Members group sponsored 28 hikes during the year. Once again our Hike Leaders strongly supported Chapter-wide events with numerous hikes listed for National Trails Day, New Member Activity Day and our new AT Day event.

The Excursions Committee also sponsored the AMC's 124th Fall Hiking Week, which attracted 99 participants. Congratulations to all those who made this such a successful event.

During the year the Education Committee organized the weekend-long Annual Leadership Training School in Litchfield in November and a one-day Leadership Training Session at Sleeping Giant, which were very well attended. These sessions are critically important to the Excursions Committee in providing potential leaders with a high level of training and help us to add a significant number of new Hike Leaders each year.

Over the past few years the Excursions Committee has led the Chapter in adopting electronic methods for hikes to be submitted, approved and advertised. All of our hikes are now being processed electronically, which allows us far greater flexibility and speed than we had in the past and has been a major factor in increasing the number of our hikes. Our main e-mail list for distributing hike notices now has around 1100 names and adding the Western CT Thursday, EOR Midweek and Young Members e-mail lists takes the total number of names receiving our hike notices to well over 2,000. In addition to advertising hikes we have been able to help other committees to promote their events by including them in our Weekly Upcoming Hikes List e-mail.

The Excursions Committee would like to thank all of the Hike Leaders for their wonderful contribution during the year as well as the volunteers who maintain our ever-growing e-mail lists. We would also like to thank Jim Scheef, our Webmaster, and Dale Geslien, Education Chair, for their valuable support.

EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE:

Dave Cronin

Carol Hassett

Fiona Nicholson

David Roberts – Chair



Fairfield County Group

The Fairfield County Group (FCG) had a very successful year in fulfilling its aim of developing the AMC in southwestern Connecticut by hosting social events and by distributing promotional material.

Our speaker meeting program in Westport in the year to end September consisted of five meetings, which attracted a total crowd of 403 and revenues of \$3,587, a slight increase from the previous year. Topics included South East Asia, Borneo, sea kayaking, and adventure photography from around the world.

During 2006 we decided to increase the number of our speaker meetings in Bethel from two to four each year with three meetings held in 2006. As a result of this change total attendance at our Bethel meetings increased by almost 70% in the year to the end of September 2007 compared with the previous year and our revenues increased to almost \$1,200. Topics included Belize, Ethiopia, Tibet, and Cycling Route 66.

In December 2006 we hosted our first Holiday Bash in Bethel with seasonal music, great food and a “visual extravaganza.” Around 50 people attended and this will now be an annual event.

Our 2007 Annual Hike, Bike and BBQ Picnic suffered from cold and wet weather but despite that almost 50 people braved the weather and enjoyed our activities and our BBQ at Putnam Park in Redding.

We decided to stop production of our long running newsletter *The Hiker* because of rising costs and our ability to communicate with our members much more cheaply and effectively by e-mail and through our Web site. In place of *The Hiker* we have produced rack cards with details of our events, e-mail lists and Web site. These are now being distributed throughout our area.

We have continued to add members to our FCG Yahoo discussion group which now has almost 200 members. We also introduced an FCG e-mail list for non-members that already has almost 400 names. In addition, all of our events are listed on the AMC’s Activity Listing System, on the Club and Chapter Web sites, in *AMC Outdoors* magazine and the Chapter newsletter. All of our events are also promoted through press releases to local media.

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

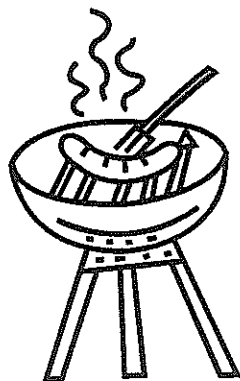
FAIRFIELD COUNTY GROUP COMMITTEE

Darcy Batzarian
Fiona Nicholson

Lorraine Cronson
Al Puches

Paul Garbarino
Eleanor Sasso

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



Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee

Thanks to committed leaders, we scheduled the following 35 events in 2007: 17 flatwater trips, 6 sea kayaking trips, 1 instructional day, 1 interchapter event in Canada, 9 pool sessions and several on land programs.

We increased the number of sea kayaking trips and did our first Level III paddle. The number of flatwater trips increased, as did the diversity of places we paddled. Our first instructional event was Barry Gorfain's "Fun with Canoes!" and our first multi-day international interchapter excursion was Bob White's canoe camping trip to Algonquin Provincial Park in Canada. We also added a new type of trip, Jean's Adventure Paddle on the Still River, which required five hours of paddling, lining, and portaging of boats.

We continued our commitment to highlight the local work done by conservation groups by having speakers from the Nature Conservancy, the Norwalk River Watershed Association, and the Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC) on our paddles. We organized a dinner program to celebrate the updating of the CRWC boating guide to the Connecticut River. We held several meetings on the topic of water trails in Connecticut. To encourage recognition of aquatic invasive species we also had a speaker from the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.

Participation in on land events included the opening of LL Bean in South Windsor, a table at the demo days of the Trading Post in Danbury, Collinsville Canoe & Kayak, and North Cove Outfitters in Chester. Jean was at the New Member Day dinner and paddles were scheduled for the New Member Day event and the Appalachian Trail Day.

Bob White continued to upgrade our webpage by adding trip descriptions and photographs. Our e-mail list for flatwater increased to 105 and for sea kayaking to 43 members.

Barry Gorfain became an official member of the committee early in the year. We greatly appreciate his efforts, as well as the efforts of leaders Bob White, Tom Ebersold, and Bruce Ross in continuing our paddle offerings. Please join us paddling. We're having a great time!

FLATWATER/COASTAL PADDLING COMMITTEE:

Barry Gorfain

Lisa Spencer

Robert White

Jean Trapani - Chair

Membership Committee

The total count for CT-AMC membership as of November 5, 2007 was 8778.

New Member mailings were sent out on a monthly basis. The package was updated at the beginning of the year to a pamphlet format. Various e-mails and phone calls were handled to introduce people to CT-AMC and address membership questions.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Marilyn Atwell
Betty Robinson

Dave Cullen

Fiona Nicholson

Joanne Shortell – Membership Chair

WELCOME

Mountaineering Committee

Recreation: A slow start to the winter (something really *must* be done about global warming!) forced cancellation of our initial ice climbing trip to the White Mountains and delayed our Introduction To Ice Climbing class. We continued our regular gym climbing activities while waiting for temperatures to return to normal. Eventually the ice formed and snow fell. We sponsored several ice climbing outings in Connecticut as well as weekend ice climbing trips to the White Mountains and the Adirondacks. Later in the season we hosted a backcountry ski trip to Cardigan Lodge.

Spring brought warmer temperatures and we restarted our weeknight and weekend rock climbing program at Connecticut crags. This was augmented through the summer by day trips to New York (Gunks) and Massachusetts, as well as climbing trips to the Adirondacks in New York, Acadia National Park, Maine, and the White Mountains, New Hampshire.

Education: We conducted a number of training sessions that introduced Club members to our activities or enhanced the climbing and safety skills of our committee members. These included the following: Avalanche Transceiver Workshop, Introduction To Ice Climbing, Introduction to Winter Backpacking, Climbing Self Rescue, Introduction to Rock Climbing (two sessions), and Top Rope Anchor Workshop (2 sessions). We also collaborated with the Narragansett Chapter to sponsor a Lead Climbing Workshop that was led by Peter Barlow, who co-chairs the RI AMC Technical Climbing Committee. We assisted our Chapter's Youth Program Coordinator, Gene Grayson, and AMC member and Mount Everest climber Sophia Dannenberg with a presentation about mountaineering at Camp Courant.

Conservation: Residential and commercial development in Connecticut continues to encroach on the areas where we climb. The Mountaineering Committee worked with individuals from The Access Fund, Ragged Mountain Foundation, and area climbing professionals to raise awareness of this concern on the part of State and local officials. We partnered with our Chapter's Conservation Committee to 'work' with CT-DEP on these issues. We met informally with officials from the Town of Meriden and the Town of Farmington. We also assisted with marking and maintaining access trails at our local crags. We sponsored several glass and trash removal efforts at one of our favorite climbing areas.

Our Plans: With the help of the committee leaders and volunteers – we could not have accomplished anything without *them* – we believe your Mountaineering Committee has established a solid base for the future. Our plan for 2008 seeks to build on that base in three ways:

First, we will continue to introduce new climbers to the sport through our introductory courses and weekly activities.

Second, we will work to enhance our ability to support multi-pitch rock and ice climbing activities by developing the intermediate and advanced level skills of our members. We will direct some of our 2008 educational efforts to that end.

Third, our winter 2007/2008 activity schedule has been enhanced to support a growing interest on the committee for what we refer to as “general mountaineering” – the activity that is not quite “hiking,” but isn’t quite technical rock climbing either; it’s something of a mix of all those skills and is a pre-requisite for those who wish to take on “bigger” mountains – such as the glaciated peaks of the North Cascades or the Alps. In addition to programming activities to meet this interest we may also sponsor a Glacier Travel and Crevasse Safety Workshop.

MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE:

Mike Adelson
Ron Curtis
Skip Frey
Art Morenz
Sohan Pavuluri
Steve Wall
Paula Zimbrea

Sandy Bartell
John DeAngelis
Joe Luppino
Carol Morenz
Carole Phelan
James Wolff

Vicki Cain
Rebecca Ford
Jere Meredith
Gustavo Nava
Mark Sondeen
Gary Zempel

Gini Kramer – Co-Chair
Tim Linehan – Co-Chair



Newsletter

The AMC in Connecticut, published three times yearly, reaches almost 700 households.

CT-AMC news has been generously offered by most committees this year. Thank you everyone.

The overall outcome of each letter was also a group effort and all comments were greatly appreciated. The plan to bring in more participants for upcoming events and recruiting old and new members alike to try something new and keep themselves involved throughout the year seems to be working.

The addition of a smaller winter letter will hopefully fill the gap for the winter season. Ideally we will keep members on the go and more than ready for the spring activities.

Advertising was good. Pequot has been a loyal contributor and will continue to be so for the year 2008. They do find satisfaction publishing with us. Hopefully other advertisers will find the same with repeated efforts.

Darcy Batzarian – Newsletter Editor



Northwest Camp Committee

Change comes slowly on the northwest shoulder of Bear Mountain although the challenges remain great.

The 125 acre Northwest Camp (NW Camp) is Connecticut's only volunteer managed facility and has endured 56 years of lodging and management in its rustic structure made from American chestnut.

Hardworking and dedicated volunteers who have a passion for their work make it all possible.

Chuck Doll stepped down as Chair of the NW Camp Committee, after serving seven years in that position. At a NW Camp Committee meeting in October, Rod Parlee presented him with a wooden plaque shaped like a map of the state of Connecticut with the NW Camp patch logo etched in the northwest corner. Chuck was Chair during challenging times when the cabin went through a major restoration project. It was closed temporarily and opened with a new highly structured staircase. The committee also grew to be the largest ever and dealt with many safety issues both swiftly and successfully. Special thanks to Chuck Doll for all his hard and continuous work!

In January, NW Camp Committee members attended the AMC Annual Meeting in Massachusetts with a very effective tabletop display promoting the committee and proper use of NW Camp. They also attended a Volunteer Managed Facilities subcommittee meeting and learned about marketing and safety issues.

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of former caretaker Dan Greene in a sailboat accident on Wednesday, March 21, in Long Island Sound. As a tribute to "Danny Boy," and at the request of the committee, nationally known arborist Matt "Twig" Largess planted an 8-foot tall yellow birch during a ceremony attended by many members of Dan's family and members of the committee.

At the fall work party, Matt Largess dazzled the committee with all of his forest knowledge. Matt, who lives in Rhode Island, is fascinated with NW Camp and the Taconic Plateau. He proved his theory that the hemlock tree stand surrounding NW Camp is old growth by cutting the cross-section of a fallen 7-inch hemlock and counting 116 tightly compressed rings. Matt has completed a study of the forest around NW Camp and has recommended the committee preserve it for the next 100 years and beyond. He has also developed a knack for predicting bear sightings, seeing the most recent bear to travel through the camp.

Caretaker Jim St. Amand and Registrar Jonie Kafka announced they are stepping down from their positions as of December 31, 2007. They have performed the lion's share of the work for the committee. We are very grateful for their years of service since 2000.

Reservations are accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis by calling Registrar Jonie St. Amand at 203-265-4165 between the hours of 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday. After January 1, 2008, the new contact number will be posted on the CT-AMC NW Camp home page at <http://www.ct-amc.org/nwcamp/index.shtm>

The following events are planned at NW Camp for 2008:

- **Winter Social Weekend** – February 22-24 2008
- **Spring Work Party** – Saturday, May 3, 2008
- **Perseids Meteor Shower** - August 8 - 10, 2008
- **New Member Day** – Saturday, September 13, 2008
- **Fall Work Party** – Saturday, October 18, 2008

NW CAMP COMMITTEE:

Jackie Attard
Chuck Doll
Paul Ives
Trent Link
Al Puches

June Charette
Jim Edwin
Sue Ives
Brandon Neupaver
John Rek

Keith Charette
John Hicks
Ken Kostak
Tom Nichols

Rod Parlee - Interim Chair
Jim St. Amand - Caretaker
Jonie Kafka - Registrar



Program Committee

The Program Committee organizes the Spring Dinner, Trails Day Potluck, New Member Day Dinner, and the Annual Gathering. This entails finding locations, making reservations, handling registration, putting up signs, publicizing the events, procuring speakers, submitting event write-ups for *AMC Outdoors* and newsletters, etc.

The Spring Dinner was held on April 24 at the Cheshire Grange. Once again the Grange prepared and served a fantastic meal and we had a full house. Following dinner, National Forest Spokesman, Matt "Twig" Largess gave a presentation on *Old Growth in America*, a journey in search of the most ancient trees in America.

For the Trails Day Event we tried something different, a Trails Day Cookout. Many people from the Executive Committee helped with cooking, putting up signs, searching the park for picnic tables, etc. I thank them for that. For everyone who attended it was a fun day.

The New Member Day Dinner went well. We had a good number of committee displays from our Executive Committee. Membership Chair Joanne Shortell coordinated door prizes. The guest speaker, Dick Sederquist, told us some entertaining stories from his book *Hiking Out*.

We are now preparing for the Annual Gathering (formerly known as the Annual Meeting). AMC Executive Director, Andy Falender will host a workshop on the Maine Woods Initiative. Also, Kristen Sykes and Jennifer Heisey, AMC staff members will present a workshop on "The Highlands." Workshop presenters from the CT-AMC Executive Committee include the following: Dave Boone, Dale Geslien, Leo Kelly, and Jean Trapani. Tim Linehan lined up Steve McLaughlin to speak and John Crist lined up Dan Olson. Past CT-AMC Membership Chair, Sue Lach, will give a workshop about AMC Major Excursions.

The event will take place at MountainRidge (previously MountainSide). This facility can handle a very large turnout and is centrally located in Wallingford, Connecticut.

Following the dinner we will have a presentation by Carolyne Gatesy and Donald Lewis, telling us about their journey to Antarctica to Climb Vinson Massif, the most remote mountain of the world's Seven Summits. They became the oldest married couple, by 20 years, to have done this.

This will be our second year using the MountainRidge facility for our Annual Gathering. The 2006 speaker was host of the television show *Exploration with Richard Wiese*. Richard gave a very interesting presentation demonstrating his use of hypoxic training as a way to prepare for climbing high mountains in a short amount of time. He demonstrated how he trained in a high altitude chamber to prepare himself to climb Mt. Iztaccihuatl.

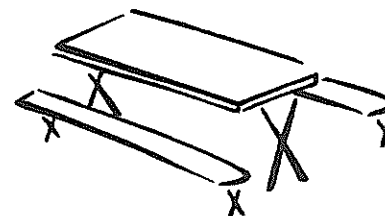
PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Jennifer Decker
Lori Stethers

Frank DeFazio
Wilda Wyse

Ellen McGuire

David Bellemare -- Program Chair



Trails Committee

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

- Cleared numerous blow downs in the Mt. Prospect area following severe icing in the late winter.
- Over 50 Chapter members participated in the most successful "Give a Day to Trails" event in many years.
- Completed construction of a moldering privy at the Mt. Algo campsite.
- After years of planning, a new well and pump were installed at the 10 Mile River campsite.
- Began a trail hardening project at the Macedonia Brook crossing.
- John Hicks, Henry Edmonds, and Doug Christie were recognized by the NPS for twenty-five years of service. Doug Christie, Dick Blake, and Norm Sills were recognized at the ATC biennial meeting in Mahwah, New Jersey, for their many years of dedication to the AT.
- Worked with DEP staff to do small relocations to avoid rattlesnake birthing areas.
- Printed a limited number of copies of Norm Sills' *History of the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut* and donated copies to CFPA, ATC, and AMC.
- The Student Conservation Association summer crew completed substantial improvements in the Sages Ravine area.
- A successful summer ridge runner season, with no major incidents.
- Denise Badger and Carol Whittlesley assumed the responsibilities of Monitor Coordinator. Phil Capaldo and Peter Passeck assumed the responsibility of Boundary Coordinator.

Work parties to improve the Trail go out nearly every weekend. Please consider coming with us soon.

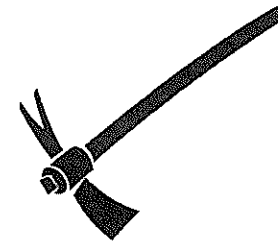
TRAILS COMMITTEE

*Denise Badger
Phil Capaldo
Ted Cowles
Henry Edmonds
Ian McCun
Peter Passeck
Brian Sears
Ann Sherwood*

*Dick Blake
Doug Christie
Walt Daniels
Harlan Jessup
Elaine LaBella
Bob Poitras
Norm Sills
Carol Whittlesley*

*Hugh Broughel
Hugh Cobrain
Birge Dayton
Gene Grayson
Paul Palmer
Walt Rinehart
Sue Spring*

Dave Boone – Chair



Webmaster/Technology Committee

2007 Accomplishments

- The Web site has an all-new design that brings a common design with pictures on many pages.
- Set up new Membership pages to facilitate new members joining AMC via PayPal, mail, or a new online facility on Outdoors.org.
- Implemented a dynamic calendar for Chapter events.
- Implemented automatic activity lists for several committees.
- Redesigned committee pages for Trails, East of the River, Fairfield County Group, Bicycling and Skiing.
- Integration with the On-line Newsletter.

New Site Design

Beginning with a new navigation header in June, the Web site has gradually morphed toward a new page design. The design goals are the following: a more modern look, easy navigation, and above all, easier maintenance. Part of the new design brings pictures to many pages. Eventually, all committee pages will follow the new design, giving our Web site a more consistent look.

Other Improvements

The **dynamic calendar**, while easier to maintain, is not sufficiently easy to use that others can update the events. A new calendar is in the works.

The **automatic activity lists** draw from the AMC Activity Database System so these lists are always up-to-the-minute. As soon as a hike, bike ride, or whatever is approved in the AMC system, it immediately appears on the appropriate committee activity list.

2008 Goals

1. Complete the Web site design update.
2. Continue to help AMC improve the Activities Database system.
3. Find and implement a new calendar program that can be updated by each committee.
4. Improve integration with the AMC Activities Database system to make finding activities easier.

Committee Page Maintainers

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

<i>Aimee and Keith Santeler</i>	Conservation
<i>Kristin Violette</i>	Education, Online Newsletter
<i>Robert White</i>	Flatwater
<i>Carole Phelan</i>	Mountaineering
<i>Mark Schappert</i>	Whitewater, Young Members

All other committees are maintained by your webmaster.

Jim Scheef – Webmaster



Whitewater Committee

In 2007 the Whitewater Committee started out with pool sessions in Middletown and in Greenwich, Connecticut.

Whitewater sponsored successful trips to Canada, New York, Vermont, Maine, and other states. Fifteen participants attended our annual trip to the Ottawa Kayak School that consisted of instruction for beginners to expert kayakers.

In September we held our annual Leader Appreciation Day. A new kayaker, Theresa Brooks, won a trip to the Ottawa Kayak School.

This year we purchased a couple of new kayaks to be used for pool sessions, lake sessions and on the river instructional sessions. We increased our number of instructional sessions to help get novice kayakers on the river sooner.

The Whitewater Committee would like to thank all of our sponsors who contributed to making the Leader Appreciation Day a success.

The Whitewater Committee would also like to thank the Forster family for its continued support.

WHITEWATER COMMITTEE:

*Webb Carnes
Christian DeGraaf
Robin Pleshaw
Dana Warner*

*Ed Chase
Paul Edwards
David Shoup
Patti Vaughn*

*Larry Cook
Jim Kilkenny
Barry Smith*

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



Young Members Committee

We have had another great year of activities and socials. Since our list has swelled to over 300 members we've been offering more socials to give our new members a chance to meet and talk.

We have also started organizing hikes covering all the Connecticut state parks. Our yearly holiday and summer picnic socials were well attended and enjoyed by all.

We are also actively seeking new hike and social leaders so we can continue to offer a wide range of activities throughout the state and beyond.

Our leaders this year:

*Jaime Allesandrine
John Crist
Ana Ketch
Dennis McGlynn
Mirela Postelnicu*

*Sue Bartley
Jamie Howland
Jeff Lake
Erik Madsen
Mark Schappert*

*David Bellemare
Darron Kamenberg
Nina Levenduski
Lisa Meunier
Bill Wheeler*

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



Nominating Committee

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 2008 Executive Committee as well as a vacancy on the Nominating 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 *Jeri Jaminet* *Bruce LaRoche*

Patricia Huff - Chair



Nominations for the 2008 Executive Committee

In accordance with the Chapter Bylaws, the Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of candidates:

Chapter Chair	<i>Leo G. Kelly</i>
Chapter Vice Chair	<i>open</i>
Secretary	<i>Carol Hassett</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
Backcountry Editor	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Rick Merritt</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Agatha Pohorylo</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Jamie Lee</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Andrew May</i>
East of the River Co-Chair	<i>Steve Braciak</i>
East of the River Co-Chair	<i>open</i>
Education Chair	<i>Dale Geslien</i>
Excursions Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Fairfield County Co-Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Fairfield County Co-Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair	<i>Jean Trapani</i>
Member at Large	<i>Gene Grayson</i>
Member at Large	<i>Maggie Grayson</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>Beth Bryan Critton</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>Joanne Shortell</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Gini Kramer</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Tom Linehan</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Darcy Batzarian</i>
Northwest Camp Chair	<i>open</i>
Program Chair	<i>open</i>
Trails Chair	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Webmaster/AMC Outdoors Liaison	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Jamie Howland</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Mirela Postelnicu</i>
Regional Director	<i>Dale Geslien</i>

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.

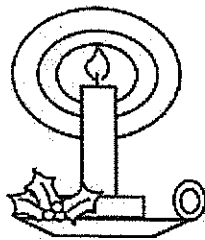
Mr. John McIntosh of Middletown, CT

Mr. William Foye of Middletown, CT

Mr. Samuel Dodd of Mansfield Center, CT

Mr. John Woodworth of Hampton, CT

Mr. Charles Katan of West Granby, CT



CT-AMC 2008 Executive Committee Slate

Chair: *Leo G. Kelly*

Vice Chair: *Open*

Secretary: *Carol Hassett*

Treasurer: *Al Puches*

Bicycling: *Rick Merritt, Agatha Pohorylo*

Conservation: *Jamie Lee, Andrew May*

East of the River: (EOR) *Steve Braciak, Co-Chair Open*

Education: *Dale Geslien*

Excursions: *David Roberts*

Fairfield County Group: *Tom Carruthers, David Roberts*

Flatwater/Coastal Paddling: *Jean Trapani*

Members at Large: *Gene Grayson, Maggie Grayson*

Membership: *Beth Critton, Joanne Shortell*

Mountaineering: *Gini Kramer, Tim Linehan*

Newsletter Editor/Publisher: *Darcy Batzarian*

Northwest Camp: *Rod Parlee (Interim Chair)*

Past Chair: *Beth Critton*

Program: *Open*

Trails: *Dave Boone*

Webmaster/Outdoors Liaison: *Jim Scheef*

Whitewater: *Mark Schappert, Dennis Wigg*

Young Members: *Jamie Howland, Mirela Postelnicu*

Nominating Committee:

Barbara Beckerman

Pat Huff, Chair

Jeri Jaminet

Bruce LaRoche

1 position Open



AMC Connecticut Chapter's

Annual Gathering 2007

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2007 at the Mountainside in Wallingford, CT

Presenting ~

Carolyn Gatesy and Donald Lewis - Break World Record - Climbing Antarctica's Vinson Massif



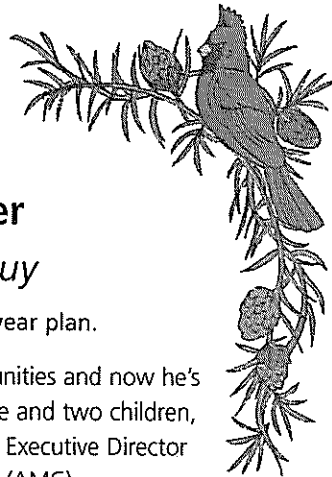
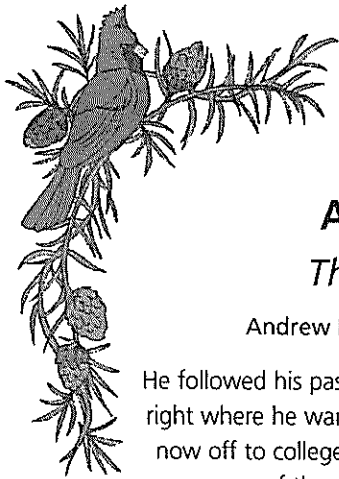
Learn the story about how this couple from CT became the oldest combined-age married couple by 20 years to scale Mount Vinson Massif, the highpoint of Antarctica and one of the Seven Summits.

This unstoppable couple might have a few more world records to break before they're finished. Lewis, who is president of Foley Services Inc. in Glastonbury, is working on a book entitled "Redefine What's Possible," a guide to physical conditioning, permanent weight loss, and personal productivity.

A tri-athlete and former world-class swimmer, Gatesy has a few more things to cross off her list of 10 things she wants to do before she dies. She said that she got married, had children, and started climbing late in life.

"I hope to live to be 100 so I can do more of this stuff," she said.

Carolyn and Donald's presentation will be at 8 pm.



Special Guest ~
Andrew Falender
The conservation guy

Andrew Falender didn't have a 10-year plan.

He followed his passions, was open to opportunities and now he's right where he wants to be: living with his wife and two children, now off to college, in Lincoln and working as Executive Director of the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC).

Luckily for its more than 90,000 members, Falender has been rigorous at the helm of the organization he has guided since 1989, balancing the budget for 17 consecutive years and raising \$33 million during the recently completed capital campaign.

"I'm very fortunate to be here," he said. "Not only does this organization have an outstanding history over 130 years, but I haven't found anything else more personally challenging or exciting than what I have the opportunity to do here."

Andy's workshop will focus on the Maine Woods Initiative (MWI). Throughout its history, the AMC has been involved with conservation projects. To date, the largest of these projects is the MWI, a project in Maine's 100 Mile Wilderness Region, with a vision for protection of over a million acres of land. The initiative is an innovative approach to conservation that combines outdoor recreation, resource protection, sustainable forestry and community partnerships. As part of the MWI, AMC manages the 37,000-acre Katahdin Iron Works property in Maine, three traditional sporting camps, a number of campgrounds, new trail networks for four season use, and recently entered a contingent agreement to purchase an additional 28,000 acres in the MWI.

Mr. Falender hails from the Midwest. He has an undergraduate degree in economics from the University of Michigan and an MBA from Harvard University. He served in the Peace Corps in the Philippines. He was the Chief Executive Officer of the New England Conservatory of Music prior to accepting his present position as AMC Executive Director in 1989.

"The Midwest is hardly the terrain you'd expect of someone who becomes executive director of AMC," Andy was quoted as saying in a 2003 interview. "I don't know if I even saw a mountain until I was 18 years old. That's part of the reason why I have a love for these places and a passion to protect them."

Andy's "Maine Woods Initiative" workshop will be at 3:35 pm in Breakout Room 1 and he will also speak at the evening dinner.

Annual Gathering 2007 in the Cabana Building

The Gathering Schedule

<i>Used Equipment Sale/Book Sale</i>	1:00 to 5:00 pm
<i>Committee/Sponsor Exhibits</i>	1:00 to 5:00 pm
<i>Afternoon Workshops</i>	1:00 to 5:00 pm
<i>Social Hour</i>	5:00 pm
<i>Dinner</i>	6:00 pm
<i>Welcome by Chapter Chair</i>	6:30 pm
	- <i>Introduction of Guests</i>
	- <i>Awards and Recognitions</i>
<i>Annual Business Meeting</i>	7:45 pm
<i>Carolyn Gatesy and Donald Lewis Presentation</i>	8:00 pm

Afternoon Workshop Schedule

Time	Breakout Room
1:15 - 2:15	
Trails - "DIG IT...Opportunities for fun on the AT"	1
<i>CT-AMC Trails Chair, Dave Boone</i>	
Investing Green	2
<i>Dan I. Olson, Financial Advisor and Planning Associate for Smith Barney</i>	
Solving the Riddle of the Sphinx - Anatomy of a Rescue in the Great Gulf Wilderness	3
<i>CT-AMC Education Chair, Dale Geslien and CT-AMC Vice Chair, Leo Kelly</i>	
2:30 - 3:30	
The Highlands: What They Are, Where They Are, and How to Get There	1
<i>Kristen Sykes and Jennifer Heisey</i>	
Willimantic: The Future of The Wave	2
<i>President of Willimantic Whitewater, Dan Mullins</i>	
AMC Major Excursions Adventure Travel - Your Gateway to the World	3
<i>Sue Lach</i>	
3:35 - 4:45	
Maine Woods Initiative	1
<i>AMC Executive Director, Andy Falender</i>	
On The Go For Clean H₂O! How AMC Paddlers Can Help Preserve Your Waterways	2
<i>CT-AMC Flatwater Chair, Jean Trapani</i>	
Flash Photography - The End of Red Eye	3
<i>Professional Sports Photographer, Steve McLaughlin</i>	

CT-AMC 2007 Volunteer Stewardship Awards

Bob Andrews	Orest Engelbrecht	Carol Marchion	Brian Sears
Doug Atwell	Finlay Ferguson	Andrew May	Bill Shaffer
Marilyn Atwell	Mary Ferguson	Ellen McGuire	Jack Shea
Denise Badger	Jane Ferrall	Doug McKain	Ann Sherwood
Tom Baker	Wayne Fogg	Christine Melson	Joanne Shortell
Leon Barkman	Robert Forster	Jere Meredith	David Shoup
Darcy Batzarian	Merri Fox	Rick Merritt	Beth Siegelman
Barbara Beckerman	Phyllis Freeman	Dave Mihalek	Pete Sofman
Dave Bellemare	Barbara Frey	Gerri Mihalek	Mark Sondeen
Len Berton	Mary Friel	Jenifer Nadeau	Jim St. Armand
Dick Blake	Adriana Gabarron	Gustavo Nava	Jerry Stage
Terry Bludeau	Paul Garbarino	Fiona Nicholson	Allan Stebinger
Dave Boone	Dale Geslien	Bob Nickels	Lori Stethers
Steve Braciak	Jim Gleba	Bill Novoa	Eric Stones
Hugh Broughel	Barry Gorfain	Carolyn Olsen	Gay Szumyk
Ed Buck	Gene Grayson	Glenn Orcutt	Ray Taskar
Paula Burton	Ben Hager	Jim O'Rourke	Debra Tedford
Don Button	Carol Hassett	Paul Palmer	Jean Trapani
Dick Cable	Nancy Hatfield	Terri Pappagallo	Kristin Violette
Phil Capaldo	Daryl Hawk	Rod Parlee	Russ Waldie
Gary Carlson	Ray Helie	Nick Pasquariello	Susan Wallen
Jo-Ann Carlson	Ken Henneberry	Ruth Penfield	Dana Warner
Tom Carruthers	Peter Herrmann	Peg Peterson	Bill Wheeler
Russ Charest	Jo Ann Hewett	Carole Phelan	Robert White
Doug Christie	Jeff Hogan	Jeff Phelon	Dennis Wigg
Cory Clark	Ed Holowenko	Robin Pleshaw	Wilda Wyse
Joyce Clark	Jamie Howland	Agatha Pohorylo	Bob Youle
Hugh Cobrain	Bob Iannucci	Bob Poitras	
Larry Cook	Paul Ives	Mirela Postelnicu	
Ted Cowles	Jeri Jaminet	Al Puches	Trails Awards
John Crist	Jerry Jaminet	Mark Puglisi	
Beth Critton	Harlan Jessup	Lynn Reid	Pychowska Award
Dave Cronin	Jonie Kafka	Barry Resnick	(96 Hours Trails
Lorraine Cronson	Leo Kelly	Ed Richardson	Stewardship)
Dave Cullen	Vinny Kiernan	Walt Rinehart	Dave Boone
Mike Cunningham	Laurie Kommritz	David Roberts	Hugh Broughel
Nola Currie	Gini Kramer	Betty Robinson	Denise Badger
Ron Curtis	Judy Kunkel	Dick Roethlein	Hugh Cobrain
Walt Daniels	Elaine LaBella	Connie Rokicki	Walt Daniels
Birge Dayton	Bruce Laroche	Richard Rouse	Birge Dayton
Frank DeFazio	Jamie Lee	Barbara Rutigliano	Ben Hager
Martin Dinop	Nina Levenduski	Zellene Sandler	Ann Sherwood
Anna Dobbs	Tim Linehan	Aimee Santeler	
Dick Don	Jim Liptack	Keith Santeler	Hart Award
Carmen D'Onofrio	Al Mahan	Eleanor Sasso	(224 Hours Trails
Sandy Dunn	Jim Malumphy	Mark Schappert	Stewardship)
Tom Ebersold	Nancy Mann	Jim Scheef	Henry Edmonds
Henry Edmonds	Tom Mann	Rudy Schuster	Bob Youle

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“THE RED HAT TRADITION”

By 1950, the Connecticut Chapter had grown so large that it was impossible for an individual member to know everyone. Many members had never met the Chapter Chair and so couldn't identify the "boss" at Chapter events. Then Chapter Chair Marie Cardin solved this problem by wearing a very visible red felt crusher at Chapter events. From then on, *The Red Hat* became a symbol of Chapter leadership, and a hat presentation ceremony evolved to officially induct new Chapter Chairs when they came on board. Connecticut is the only Chapter to have established this tradition. ~ Dale Geslien

List of past chairs:

1947-1948 Roger T. Waite	1969-1970 Newell W. Mitchell	1987-1988 Trish Niece
1951-1952 John Herr	1971-1972 Bente Morch	1989-1990 Glen Parchmann
1955-1956 Kornel Bailey	1973-1974 Bill Schmidt	1991 Jeff O'Donnell
1957-1958 Marie Carden	1975-1976 Ledge Clayton	1991-1992 Ken Richardson
1959-1960 John S. Ensor	1977-1978 David Sinish	1993-1994 Mary Dorpalen
1961-1962 Seymour R. Smith	1979-1980 Gerry Hardy	1995-1996 David Cullen
1963-1964 Gardner Moulton	1981-1982 Sue Hardy	1997-1998 Paula Burton
1965-1966 John B. Gardner	1983-1984 Judy Besancon	1999 Carl Rosenthal
1967-1968 Ned Greist	1985-1986 Anne Bailey	2000-2002 Eric Stones
		2003-2005 Dale Geslien


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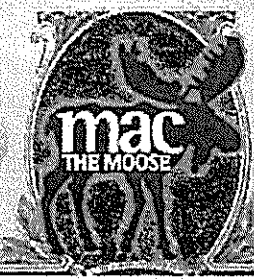
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