



CONNECTICUT CHAPTER
102nd Anniversary

Annual Report
November 12, 2023

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB
CONNECTICUT CHAPTER
MISSION STATEMENT

Through our broad range of activities and programs, the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club encourages people to enjoy and appreciate the natural world. We believe that successful conservation depends on this experience. The Connecticut Chapter promotes the protection, enjoyment and responsible use of the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut as well as other trails, rivers and byways within the state in cooperation with other maintenance organizations. We believe that the mountains and rivers have an intrinsic worth as well as provide recreational opportunity, spiritual renewal, and ecological and economic health for the state. The members of the Connecticut Chapter of the AMC form a network of users and stewards who protect these areas and educate others as to their use.

Adopted May 1993 and incorporated into the
Chapter Standing Rules.



APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB
CONNECTICUT CHAPTER
2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chapter Chair	<i>Altina Waller</i>
Chapter Vice-Chair	<i>Jeannine Loughlin</i>
Secretary	<i>Martha Cain</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
Appalachian Trail Chair	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Leo Pon</i>
Communications Co-Chair	<i>Peg Peterson</i>
Communications Co-Chair	<i>Jeff Bass</i>
Conservation Chair	<i>Andrew May</i>
East of the River Chair	<i>Ray Phillips</i>
Education Co-Chair	<i>Keith Spaar</i>
Education Co-Chair	<i>Janet Ainsworth</i>
Excursions Co-Chair	<i>Peg Peterson</i>
Excursions Co-Chair	<i>Phil Wilsey</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chair	<i>Eleanor Sasso</i>
Family Activities Chair	<i>Corey Mott</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair	<i>Barry Gorfain</i>
Member at Large	<i>Janet Ainsworth</i>
Member at Large	<i>John Grasso</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>Barbara Beckerman</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>Claire Rusowicz</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Jeff Pipech</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Chris Granata</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>open position</i>
Nominating Committee	<i>Bruce Laroche</i>
	<i>Dale Geslein</i>
Northwest Camp Chair	<i>Rod Parlee</i>
Program Chair	<i>open position</i>
Webmaster/Technology	<i>Keith Spaar</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Ed Yiznitsky</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Troy Schinkel</i>
Young Members Chair	<i>Corey Mott</i>

CHAPTER CHAIR'S REPORT - 2023

Only a year ago I was happily leading hikes for the East of the River group, really appreciating the opportunity to socialize with such a congenial group while navigating Connecticut's rocks, roots, downed trees and ticks. Despite the last two, it had definitely enhanced my ability to enjoy retirement. What I didn't know was that my life was about to change dramatically. It began when one very enthusiastic hiking friend and past member of the Executive Committee, Dale Geslien, urged me to volunteer to become Chair of the Connecticut chapter. It was a startling idea but as I discussed it with others, notably Phil Wilsey, Jocelyn Eppich, John Grasso and Jeannine Loughlin, I was persuaded I could make a contribution to a group I had come to admire. So with Jeannine's agreement to become Vice-Chair and share the learning curve, I put my name in and thus began a new journey.

My first learning experience involved the many activities sponsored by our Chapter. I already knew a lot about hiking and the EOR group, having been a coordinator, but didn't fully understand how extensive the hiking and backpacking activities were. And beyond hiking were bicycling, paddling, mountaineering and Appalachian Trail maintenance. These activities, laid out in detail in this annual report, are impressive. Some events sponsored by the chapter brought home the way the Chapter supports its members. One is the semi-official "Reunion Lunch" sponsored by the EOR group. Past hikers and hike leaders along with present leaders are invited to attend and share history and experiences. A similar event is the Chapter wide Membership Appreciation Picnic held in July at Chatfield Hollow State Park. Then there's Fall Hike Week in New Hampshire, a highpoint in the year for so many members; so many memories and stories of hiking in the White Mountains. Finally, there's Appalachian Trail Day - an event I recently attended for the first time at Macedonia Brook State Park. Many hikes are offered followed by a BBQ at the Pavilion. Here's where we celebrate the work Dave Boone's trail crew does to maintain the 52 miles of the AT in Connecticut. All these events strengthen our chapter.

In addition to the many outdoor activities and social events there was much to learn about the administrative side of the Chapter. For several years technology has been altering the way we do business, especially influenced by the pandemic. The Executive Committee had been meeting virtually during the pandemic but when things opened up it was clear that virtual meetings could still be useful, especially during the winter, and that hybrid meetings, with some people attending in person while others attending virtually offered another option. To that end the Chapter authorized the purchase of equipment for hybrid meetings, including camera and microphone. With our Webmaster's help (thank you Keith Spaar!) we purchased that equipment. Now we have several options for holding meetings. Another improvement in our communication offers an important way to foster a sense of identity in the group. That's our Facebook page. Thanks to Dale and Corey Mott it now offers a way for members and leaders to post pictures and descriptions of bicycling, hiking and other events. Everyone seems to love sharing these events via Facebook.

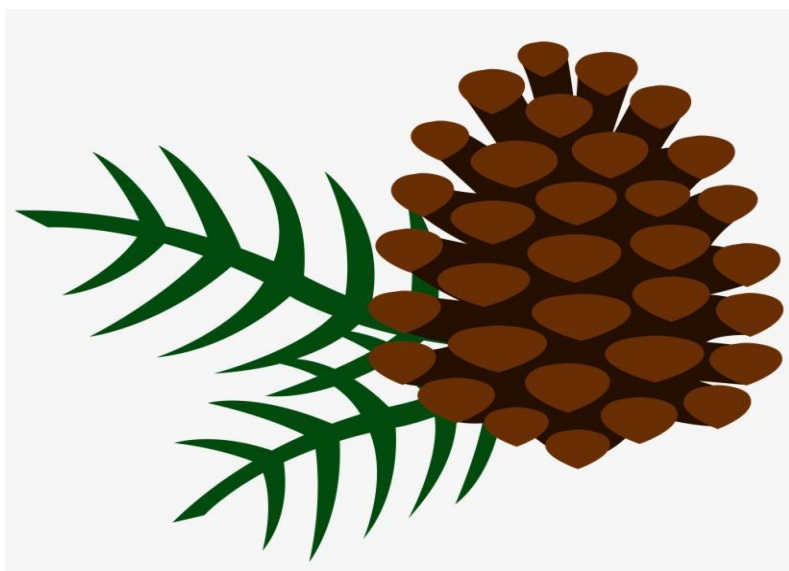
After learning about Chapter activities I next was confronted with the larger organization - how our Chapter relates to the other 10 chapters and AMC headquarters in Boston. That learning curve began with AMC's annual summit held in a Boston suburb hotel in February. There I was introduced to issues, often controversial, that would dominate other organization gatherings as well as the Chapter Chair's retreat at Harriman Outdoor Center in upstate New York. As many of you are well aware by this time, they include the leadership reclassification project and the new activities database, the Outdoor Connector. The transitions involved will be the focus of much more discussion and controversy in the year to come.

AMC wants every Chapter to contribute to the broad mission of the organization - Conservation, engagement with the Outdoors and education. I am happy to report that our Chapter does so in spades! Our Conservation Committee participates in many events and partners with other organizations with a similar mission. Our

Fairfield County Group Committee holds presentations and social events that foster education about outdoor activities and the importance of conservation. Our Chapter annually contributes significantly to AMC's Educators Fund that, in part, offers opportunities to New Haven young people to experience and learn about the outdoors. We contribute to AMC's Waters and Rivers Protection Fund which preserves and improves waterways for paddlers well beyond Connecticut. Finally, and perhaps most significantly, we sponsor the maintenance of the 52 miles of the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut. This is clearly a very important contribution to AMC's broader mission and far beyond as a way for everyone, no matter where they live or work, to have a good experience hiking the Appalachian Trail.

That's just a brief summary of what I've learned over the past 9 months as your Chair. I am very proud of what we do as I'm sure you all are.

Altina Waller, Chair-2023



CONNECTICUT CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING - 2022

The 101st Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was held on November 13, 2022 at Saint Clements Castle in Portland, CT. and was attended by about 85 members.

Chapter Chair Jocelyn Eppich introduced herself and called the meeting to order at 3:38pm. She reminded us of the situation we are in for the coming year in that we do not have a Chapter Chair or Vice-Chair. With a membership of over 6,000, we should be able to find a few members who could step into these roles. Think about who among you, and among your circle of friends and/or co-workers might be a good fit for these roles. We are looking for a new Bicycling Chair, Program Chair, and Newsletter Editor as well.

Last year was our Centennial Celebration of the CT Chapter of the AMC. With help from a small committee, former Chair Dale Geslien researched and facilitated the installation of a survey marker at West Peak (Hubbard Park) in Meriden, commemorating the place and time of chapter creation on 6/11/1921.

After serving many years, two Executive Committee members stepped down this year: Susan Grant was a Bicycling Chair and will continue to lead bike trips, and Darcy Witham was our Newsletter Editor as well as major contributor of her skills in publishing the Chapter Centennial book [A Century Outdoors-The AMC in Connecticut Story 1921-2021](#). (Books are available for purchase today in the lobby of this venue.)

Our Membership Committee held its first Volunteer Appreciation event in many years at Chatfield Hollow State Park in Killingworth, CT, to thank our volunteers and invite more to join our chapter. We hope this can become an annual event.

Our AT Committee continues to excel in trail work and projects, facing some obstacles along the way. Please read about their

activities and dedicated volunteers on pp. 15-20 of the 2022 Annual Report.

Our Communications Committee strives to identify the best ways to communicate with membership. A popular tool we use is the Weekly Activities email notification sent via Constant Contact every Tuesday evening. It reaches about 4,800 members. As well, our Facebook Page was recently changed to a Facebook Group to encourage more member posts.

Our chapter has contributed to several funds this year, towards Conservation efforts and Education programs. As in years past, we contributed \$9,000 to “Educators Outdoors”, which provides gear and subsidizes outdoor experiences for youth in low-income households of the New Haven area. This brings our total contribution to this cause to \$69,000. We have also contributed \$1,000 of the \$7,500 needed for club-wide access to “Primary Source”, which is a resource available to volunteers organization-wide for furthering Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Education. Money we contributed last year to the “Inter-chapter Climbing and Resources Protection Fund” has helped preserve Hanging Hills as a popular climbing area free from development.

Reflecting on her term as Chapter Chair, which began in November 2020, Jocelyn gave special thanks to past chair John Grasso for imparting his knowledge and advice in thoughtful and thorough communications with her. She also thanked all in the Executive Committee for being willing to step up and help when the need arose. She considers the CT Chapter to be very strong, and it will remain so.

Deceased Chapter Members

Jocelyn had participants take a moment to remember these members who have died in the year since our last Annual Gathering: Loren Fanion, Joseph Ciriello, Richard Sullivan, John Gallup, John Bisbing, Lois Smith, Kenneth Marti, John Longmore, Richard Don, Dick Christian, Karl Prew, Joan Tait, Christopher Palen, Edith McClure, James Good, Thomas Clark, Letitia McPhedran, Tim Szczesiul, and Ruth Griffen.

Volunteer Stewardship Awards – are presented to those who ran 5 or more trips or gave more than 30 volunteer hours to the Chapter between 9/30/22-10/1/23. Jocelyn invited past Chair Judy Besancon to read the extensive list of Volunteer Stewardship Awardees (other than the AT Committee). Your efforts are so much appreciated! The complete list of 125 appears on p. 42 of our online 2022 Annual Report.

Appalachian Trail Committee Awards

David Boone, Chair of the AT Committee reviewed the extensive committee activities this year, and urged attendees to read pp. 15-18 of the online 2022 Annual Report for details of these activities. The committee keeps track of volunteer hours on a lifetime and annual basis. Please see p. 19 of the 2022 Annual Report which recognizes those individuals who have accumulated 12, 50, 100, 250, 500, 1000, 2000, and 2190 career hours.

As well, several CT AT Committee volunteers qualify for the AMC Club-Wide Stewardship Awards for the 2022 Season. Please see p. 20 of the online 2022 Annual Report which recognizes those individuals who have earned the “Pychowska” (96 hours for the season) and the “Hart” (224 hours for the season) awards.

Appie of the Year Award, and Lifetime Service Award

Jocelyn then introduced Janet Ainsworth, Peg Peterson, and Dave Boone as the Awards Committee which selects and presents the two highest annual awards the Chapter gives to select members. “Appie of the Year” is awarded to a member who has made a significant ‘above and beyond’ contribution to the chapter. “Lifetime Service” is awarded to a member who has 10+ years of sustained, significant lifetime contributions to the chapter.

Dave presented the 2022 Appie of the Year Award to Chris Granata. Some of Chris’ notable contributions include:

- Networking and recruiting friends, acquaintances, and even his mother into the world of climbing.
- Dedicated to leading, teaching, and mentoring of participants in CT Chapter AMC climbing activities.

See pp. 43-45 of the online 2022 Annual Report for more detail of Dave's comments.

Congratulations Chris, our 2022 Appie of the Year Award recipient!

Janet presented the 2022 Lifetime Service Award to Darcy Witham.

Some of Darcy's notable contributions include:

- Newsletter Editor since 2007, using her skills to collect, write, and edit content, and create colorful design and layout.
- Design and delivery of informational and promotional materials for chapter events like AT Day, Spring Dinner, and Annual Gathering.
- Provided her graphic design and production services to the chapter's book "A Century Outdoors: The AMC in Connecticut Story 1921-2021".

See pp. 46-47 of the online 2022 Annual Report for more detail of Janet's comments.

Congratulations Darcy, our 2022 Lifetime Service Award recipient!

Commemorative plaques will be sent to Chris and Darcy.

25 and 50-year Members

Jocelyn then read the list of new 50-year members, of which there are 8. See p. 49 of the online 2022 Annual Report for names.

Jocelyn then recognized the new 25-year members, reading the list of 52 names. John Grasso has sent the appropriate 25-year, and 50-year pins to these members.

AMC Professional Staff Speaker

Jocelyn next introduced Libbi Cinti, Sr. Director of Human Resources of the AMC organization, to speak to the gathering. Libbi began working for the AMC at the beginning of covid shutdown, and comes from a background of HR and Talent Acquisition. AMC has about 260 full time employees, and many thousands of members and volunteers, which make up the cornerstone of the organization in support of its mission and core values. She thanked us for all we do, like leading trips, maintaining trails, advocating for conservation, handling communications, organizing events, teaching about the outdoors, research, and inviting others to join

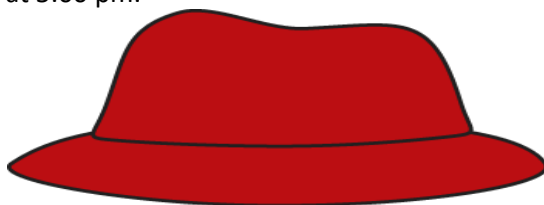
in this work. These efforts change lives. The CEO search process continues.

Business Portion of Meeting

At 4:51 pm Jocelyn began the business portion of the meeting wherein the Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting and Treasurer's Report were approved with no further discussion.

Janet Ainsworth, acting on behalf of Bruce Laroche (Chair of the Nominating Committee) read the Slate of Nominees for the 2022 Executive Committee. The Slate was approved and installed with no further discussion. The complete slate appears on p. 56 of the online 2021 Annual Report. Note that openings still exist for Chapter Vice-Chair, Communications Co-Chair, Conservation Co-Chair, Family Activities Co-Chair, Members At Large, Membership Co-Chair, Program Chair, and Young Members Co-Chair. If anyone is interested, contact Jocelyn Eppich, who can brief you on what the responsibilities of the positions are, and how you might fit in.

With no further business, the 100th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was adjourned at 5:00 pm.



Jocelyn then explained the tradition of the Red Hat wherein Chairs and Past Chairs wear red hats at the Annual Meeting, so members know who they are. When a new Chair is voted in, the last Chair gives a red hat to the new Chair. Jocelyn asked the Past Chairs in attendance to don their red hats and be recognized.

Martha Cain, Secretary-2023



TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2022

	2021	2022
Cash at January 1	\$145,361	\$161,092
Revenue Collected:		
Boston dues allocation	22,856	22,452
Program activities	3,946	6,844
Contributions	2,750	550
Reserve funds - sources (1)	3,214	400
Share of initial memberships	1,010	540
Leadership training	6,481	12,646
Centennial book sales	3,696	861
Interest and investment income	<u>27,208</u>	<u>(299)</u>
Total revenue collected	\$71,161	\$43,994
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	3,487	10,676
Donations	10,000	10,000
Centennial Book Costs	7,471	0
Reserve funds - uses (1)	0	1,281
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	334	250
Conservation	500	317
Education	5,878	13,236
Excursions	6	0
Executive	14,073	11,262
Membership	274	1,258
Mountaineering	2,047	2,073
CT AT Committee	10,639	11,247
Whitewater	721	583
Total expenditures	<u>\$39,217</u>	<u>\$62,183</u>
Cash at December 31	\$161,092	\$142,903

**TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2022 AND
2023**

	2022	2023
Cash at January 1	\$161,092	\$142,903
Revenue Collected:		
Boston dues allocation	15,155	14,356
Program activities	2,975	6,924
Reserve funds - sources (1)	400	50
Share of initial memberships	420	270
Leadership training	6,464	3,191
Centennial book sales	753	168
Contributions	300	3100
Interest and investment income	<u>2,486</u>	<u>8,170</u>
Total revenue collected	\$28,953	\$33,247
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	3,160	6,320
Donations	10,000	10,000
Reserve funds - uses (1)	1,281	4,000
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	250	800
Conservation	125	198
Education	12,746	6,479
Executive	4,952	4,349
Membership	930	584
Mountaineering	1,130	1,280
CT AT Committee	4,643	7,080
Whitewater	<u>0</u>	<u>180</u>
Total expenditures	39,217	41,270
Cash at September 30	\$150,828	\$134,880

TREASURER'S REPORT RESERVE FUNDS (1)

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

	12/31/21	12/31/22	9/30/23
Reserve funds (1)			
AT Handicap Accessible Project	5,176	5,176	5,176
Eversource Donation	10,000	8,762	8,762
Other CT-AT Committee Memorials/Grants	4,371	4,328	4,328
Connecticut Teen Wilderness Fund	4,886	5,286	1,336
Whitewater Committee reserve	8,886	7,673	9,008
General fund:	<u>127,773</u>	<u>111,678</u>	<u>106,270</u>
Total cash:	\$161,092	\$142,903	\$134,880

Al Puches, CT Chapter Treasurer-2023



Appalachian Trail Committee

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

- 140 individual AMC-CT AT volunteers contributed 4,678 field hours, and an additional 1,110 hours of non-field based work. Travel constituted an additional 2,194 hours.
- As part of the review for the construction of the Riga shelter, an on-site consultation was held at the Riga campsite which included Committee members, ATC staff, representatives of the Narragansett Tribe, and Joel Dukes, NPS archeologist, to determine if the proposed shelter construction project would disturb any indigenous people's artifacts or items of cultural significance. Nothing of cultural interest was identified.
- As a result of the shelter project being suspended in September 2022, we desperately needed a place to store the Brassie shelter building materials for the winter. Thanks to two caring and generous neighbors in Salisbury who allowed us to store the logs and other building materials under cover on their properties for the winter, we moved everything from our staging site at Bunker Hill to be safely stored until spring.

The Committee and ATC staff worked cooperatively with NPS through the winter to ensure all necessary reviews and approvals were in place to restart the shelter construction projects. One additional complication developed. USFWS listed the Northern Long-nosed Bat as endangered, effective 1-31-23. This meant the window during which tree felling and air operations could occur was narrowed. We asked for an

approval to construct before the end of May, which was gratefully granted.

In April, the demolition of the old Riga shelter was completed, and the materials for the new Riga shelter were delivered to our staging area. Materials for both shelters were organized into sequential loads at Bunker Hill in preparation for the airlift. Finally, in May, all materials were very successfully flown in and out of both shelter sites. Construction at Brassie began soon thereafter and on June 7, Brassie was completed and tools, ladders, and additional materials were hiked down to Riga to begin construction there. By mid-July, the Riga shelter, including the accessible ramp, was completed. A monumental project successfully completed, thanks to the dedication of many inspired volunteers and the support of ATC staff.

- We became concerned by the growing and blatant equestrian use of the AT and other trails on NPS land in the Bulls Bridge area. We signed the accesses being used with “Foot Travel Only - No Bikes, Horses, ATC’s”.
- Our summer ridgerunner program had a very successful season. Sean Speckin served effectively as Ridgrunner Coordinator. RR Vince returned for his third season with us. Mary Eaton, former caretaker at Upper Goose Pond on the AT in Massachusetts joined us this season, and Adam Lippman again served us as weekend ridgerunner.
- AMC pro crew worked three weeks improving the trail/steps at St. Johns Ledges. Working in such a steep and exposed site was a challenge, yet significant rock work was completed. Our summer GreenAgers crews worked two weeks each at a location north of West Cornwall Rd., and installed treadway/cribbing/stairs on the steep uphill section south of Rte. 44 going up Wetawanchu Ridge.

- “Give-A-Day to the AT-’23” was held May 13. Invasive plant species were removed from the Bulls Bridge area, water bars were cleared and trip roots removed from the Undermountain Trail, improvements were made to the Paradise Lane campsite trails, and the AT on the Riga plateau was brushed out between Riga campsite and Riga junction.
- One of our volunteers suffered a serious injury. While conducting boundary work in a steep area near Numeral Rock, a boulder fell on his leg resulting in a significant lower leg injury. He was thankfully evacuated by local first responders via a basket litter and then a waiting ambulance, then flown by helicopter to Danbury Hospital, then subsequently transported by helicopter to Yale-New Haven.
- Boundary Coordinator Chip Ward met with the new Headmaster of the Kent School to discuss land-related issues involving the school, specifically access to Numeral Rock (school property) and a school cross-country running trail on NPS land. Also discussed was possible use of Kent School property for a temporary relocation until the Macedonia Brook Bridge is reconstructed. These discussions were very fruitful.
- Regarding the Macedonia Bridge, it was damaged during severe storms in July to the extent it is no longer safe to cross. It has been officially closed and a road walk detour established between Rte. 341 and Skiff Mt. Rd. We are working with Kent School and NPS on a shorter detour over Numeral Rock on school property. We suffered other severe damage as a result of the storm. The crossing of Hatch Brook severely washed away, and a temporary relocation using the Pine Knob Loop Trail (blue-blazed) was established. It will be a major effort to repair or establish an alternative crossing, perhaps requiring years. Another brook crossing washed away north of the Rte. 41 trailhead south of Lion’s Head. We are planning a volunteer-based solution there next season. Also washed away was the small log bridge across the Algo shelter stream.

- The Committee voted to add an additional component to our Work Party Leader requirements. A potential leader will now need to complete the NPS “TrailSafe” course. It is based on NPS’s Operational Leadership training, but in a 3-6 hour self-paced internet format.
- The effort to improve habitat for the endangered Northern Metalmark Butterfly continues. In cooperation with ATC natural resources staff, additional plantings were done, the varieties planted based on what researchers have observed as being preferred by the butterflies at the site.



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

Ray Bracone

Bob Poitras

Gene Grayson

Walt Daniels

Russ Waldie

Christoph Geiss

Jeff Glans

Rich Cady

Paul Reder

Leo Kelly

Henry Edmonds

Chip Ward

Bernadette Ellegard

Jim Liptack

Joan Tegtmeyer

Ann Sherwood

Adam Lippman

Elaine LaBella

Julia Lumens

Dave Boone, CT Chapter Chair, AT Committee-2023

Tracy Lind, ATC Southern New England Regional Manager



2023 SEASON A.T. COMMITTEE AWARDS

12 CUMULATIVE HOURS

Michael Altopp	Skip Frederickson	Soren Meyers
Andrew Ossolinski	James Schumacher	

50 CUMULATIVE HOURS

David Fowler	Skip Frederickson	Richard Garrison
Lucas Geiss	Zvi Goldman	Philip Khoury
James Schumacher	Star Tower	

100 CUMULATIVE HOURS

Pat James	Philip Khoury	Star Tower
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250 CUMULATIVE HOURS

David McCunn	Phil Wilsey
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500 CUMULATIVE HOURS

Mark Delude	Gregg Nolting
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1000 CUMULATIVE HOURS

Christoph Geiss

2000 CUMULATIVE HOURS

Bill Channing	Bob Poitras
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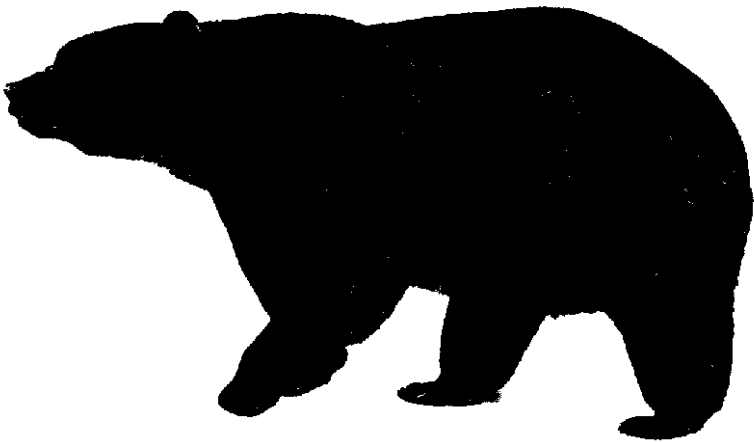
AWARDS AMC CLUB-WIDE STEWARDSHIP

PYCHOWSKA AWARD - 96 SEASON HOURS ANNUAL 2023

Bob Andrew	Ray Bracone	Bob Couter
Walt Daniels	Bernadette Ellegard	Jeff Glans
David McCunn	Russ Waldie	

HART AWARD - 224 SEASON HOURS ANNUAL 2023

Dave Boone	Rich Cady	Mark Delude
Christoph Geiss	Don Klein	Jim Liptack
Julia Lumens	Gregg Nolting	Paul Reder
Chip Ward	Phil Wilsey	



Bicycling Committee

Bike Rides:

Over 100 posted rides took place over the last year, with one cycling weekend to Portland ME.

The leaders, in order of frequent rides led, were Judy Borrmann, Leo Pon, W Neal Fisher, Tom Ebersold, Finlay & Mary Ferguson, Barbara Beckerman, Joseph Snyder, Susan Grant, Steve Borrmann, Scott Baker, Mark Henebry, Maryann Gleba and Timothy Linehan. Judy Borrmann was again the sole organizer of evening rides in South Windsor.

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

Ride Posting:

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

Ride with GPS:

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

Smart Cycling Class:

CT-AMC offered this valuable program from the League of American Bicyclists to the general cycling public.

Bicycling Committee:

Susan Grant, after faithfully serving as Co-Chair and Chair for 11 years, stepped down early this year. Leo Pon took over as Chair.

Leo Pon, CT Chapter Chair, Bicycling Committee-2023

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee works closely with other chapter committees to get the word out about special events, for example, special AT Committee work parties such as Give-A-Day to the Trail; Education Committee classes, including Leadership Training and Wilderness First Aid; Northwest Camp Committee work parties and events; Fairfield County Group dinners and presentations; our annual Appalachian Trail Day events and Grand BBQ; Executive Committee events such as our Annual Gathering and chapter awards. This year, Tom Carruthers, Fairfield County Group co-chair, has assumed responsibility for advertising both Westport and Bethel FCG events. Thanks Tom!

The AMC Activities Database (ActDB) continues to be the repository for our chapter events. Each committee posts their own events into the ActDB, with help from the Communications and/or Excursions Committees when needed. For the 12-month period ending at the end of September 2023, our chapter posted nearly 850 events including hikes, bike rides, work parties, mountaineering and indoor climbing, paddle events, multi-day events, and social events. We also promote our chapter events using an opt-in email list on Constant Contact which contains 4615 addresses, with close to a 50% open rate. The Weekly is sent every Tuesday and advertises all upcoming chapter activities through the subsequent two weekends.

2023 CT-AMC Meetup Group

The CT-AMC Chapter Meetup group now has over 3700 members and 42 people on the Leadership Team including organizers and event organizers. Leaders can post events, manage attendees, and add photos after the event.

2023 CT-AMC Facebook Report as of 9/23/2023

CT-AMC Facebook Page

- 3,000 likes, an increase of 200 over last year
- 3,345 followers, an increase of 254 over last year

- Facebook reach of 9,002

This year's record-breaking post was the 5/18/2023 construction announcement of the Riga and Brassie Brook Shelters on the Connecticut section of the AT. The post reached 2,867 with 44 reactions, 10 comments and 4 shares.

The next three most popular posts were:

- 11/13/2022 - 101st Annual Gathering at St. Clements Castle. The post reached 1,343 with 83 reactions, 24 comments and 5 shares.
- 4/29/2023 - CT-AMC Announcement of Leo Pon's appointment as Bicycling Committee Chair. The post reached 1,333 with 59 reactions, 11 comments and 1 share.
- 12/30/2022 - First Day Hikes. The post reached 1,127 with 23 reactions, 1 comment and 2 shares.

Responses were delivered to a variety of inbox inquiries.

CT-AMC Facebook Group

In its second year, the Chapter Facebook Group's membership grew from 623 to 1,300 members. There were 561 posts. Group Administrators are Janet Ainsworth, Justin Bailey, Jocelyn Eppich, Dale Geslien and Corey Mott.

Peg Peterson, CT Chapter Chair, Communications Committee-2023

Dale Geslien and Corey Mott - Facebook

Janet Ainsworth - Twitter

Tom Carruthers - FCG Advertising



Conservation Committee

September The Conservation Committee was invited to participate in the Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU) Day of Caring. Committee members Bob Andrews and Andrew May joined staff from Joshua's Trust and a dozen ECSU volunteers to build a bog bridge and clear trails.

January The Conservation Committee convened its annual "Legislative Preview". The Connecticut Forest and Park Association (CFPA) was represented by Executive Director Eric Hammerling, who has been a great partner with the Connecticut Chapter and this committee. We will miss him as he has moved on to state employment. We were also privileged to have Aaron Leland, Deputy Director of the Connecticut Land Conservation Council. Unfortunately, although hopeful at the start, conservationists were not greatly successful in their legislative efforts during the 2023 session. One bright spot was that there was more money for trails. Also, the "Passport to the Parks" program survived another year intact. Passport to the Parks funds the parks through vehicle registration surcharges. Any Connecticut-registered vehicle may enter state parks without paying a parking charge. Most sessions since its launch have included bills to reduce funding by exempting certain groups. None have been successful. Committee member Andrew May attended the 2023 Environmental Summit held at the Hartford Convention Center- previewing the coming legislative session while networking/ learning from other dedicated groups and individuals.

February The committee hosted Kate Richard, who is the program manager for sustainability best practices for SustainableCT. Ms. Richard explained how the matching gift program can be used by citizens to fund local conservation projects. SustainableCT is a voluntary certification program that provides funding for local initiatives.

April In celebration of 50 years since the first Earth Day, some committee members assisted ECSU volunteers and Friends of Goodwin Forest in trail improvements. Other committee and chapter members tabled at Earth Day observances.

June Committee member Andrew May attended the SustainableCT 2023 Spring into Summer Celebration.

January-June Working with club conservation staff, committee member Janet Ainsworth monitored legislation and filed testimony as needed.

Andrew May, CT Chapter Chair, Conservation Committee-2023

Janet Ainsworth, Co-chair nominee

Russ Charest

Robert Andrews

Jamie Lee



East of the River Committee

Our hike coordinators have kept the schedule full every week. Most weeks we had two regular hikes and two alternate hikes every Tuesday and Thursday. Patty Wehrli-Zemsta, Leigh Knuttel and Shirley McCunn are our current hike coordinators.

Some of the hikes we had this year include Nassahegan Forest/Devil's Kitchen, Burlington; Nepaug State Forest, New Hartford; Genesee Recreation Area, Madison; Bigelow Hollow State Park, Union; Hammonasset State Park, Madison; Braemore Preserve/ Rockland Preserve, Guilford; Devil's Hopyard, East Haddam; Johnston Preserve, Lyme; Devils Den, Weston; Trailwood, Hampton; Barn Island, Stonington; Hatch Lot & Dean Easement, East Chatfield Trail, Killingworth; Mattabesett Trail, Middletown; Pachaug Forest #1, Voluntown; Gay City State Park, Hebron; Castle Craig and West Peak, Meriden; Campbell/Peaceful Valley, Tolland; River Highlands State Park, Cromwell; McCann Family Farm and Whittaker Woods, Somers; Blackledge Falls, Glastonbury/Hebron; McLean Game Refuge, Granby; Machimoodus State Park, East Haddam; Quinebaug River Trail, Danielson; Great Pond State Park, Simsbury; and Mansfield Hollow, Mansfield.

June Powell and Bob Nickels have organized a second EOR reunion. The event includes both a regular and alternate hike in Bolton Notch State Park. It also includes a buffet dinner at Georgina's Restaurant in a private room.

We also had several informal gatherings at Hops on the Hill brewery in South Glastonbury.

Ray Phillips, CT Chapter Chair, East of the River Committee-2023



Education Committee

In 2023 the Education Committee organized three leadership training sessions and two Wilderness First Aid courses, experiencing a gradual uptick in enrollment for both offerings. This year, the committee collaborated with AMC staff to instruct the April Wilderness First Aid course, and in partnership with paid staff, introduced a Hybrid WFA program featuring an online learning segment and an 8-hour practical session held at the Zbiersky House in Groton. In August, Education Chair Keith Spaar joined forces with AMC Maine Leadership Chair Thomas O'Brien to co-lead an AMC Leave No Trace Trainer Course at the Worcester Chapter. Seven participants were in attendance.

Looking ahead to 2024, the Education Committee aims to expand its instructor base, enabling the introduction of additional courses covering Map and Compass, Leave No Trace, and outdoor hard skills. Those interested in becoming instructors are encouraged to contact the committee via email at education@ct-amc.org.

Furthermore, the Education Committee is actively seeking alternative venues to host Wilderness First Aid courses, with the aim of reducing course costs. The chapter's educational program's annual success is deeply indebted to its dedicated volunteers, including Keith Spaar (Chair), Janet Ainsworth (Co-Chair), Phil Wilsey, Barbara Beckerman, and Barry Black.

Keith Spaar & Janet Ainsworth, CT Chapter Co-Chairs
Education Committee-2023



Excursions Committee.

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

During this reporting period, a total of 441 hikes were offered by 56 CT Chapter leaders in the 12 month time period thru the end of September 2023, with 134 occurring on weekends and 307 occurring mid-week. The total number of events was down from 489 events last year, mostly due to a slight decrease in the number of mid-week hikes and a more significant decrease in weekend hikes. These included several weekend and other multi-day trips. The number of hike-related emails issued by the Excursions Committee went up from an average of about 12 per month last year to over 15 per month for this year, mostly for “short notice” hikes. In addition to many local CT day hikes, we offered many other “special” events this past year including several cross-country ski trips, several Yoga hikes, a narrated CT River Boat Trip, a Family Fun Winter Weekend in VT, and several other out-of-state trips.

This year, 46 hike leaders and hike coordinators qualified for our chapter Volunteer Stewardship Award, which honors those who have led 5 or more events or contributed 30 or more volunteer hours. Seven “super-leaders” led more than 20 hikes each. All of our leaders deserve much appreciation for their efforts! Sponsoring groups contributed to our hike totals, including East of the River, the Thursday Western CT hiking group, Young Members, and Family Activities. Sponsoring groups are integral to the success of our hiking program and Excursions values highly the work not only of the leaders who offer these events, but also the work that has been done by the group coordinators: Bill McCarthy, Leigh Knuttel, Shirley McCunn, and Patty Wehrli.

Several Hike Leaders led ski trips or hiking trips both within and beyond the state. For National Trails Day, run by the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association, our hike leaders offered 5 of the over

200 events for the June weekend. Appalachian Trail Day, the CT Chapter's largest outdoor event each year celebrating our 53 miles of Appalachian Trail in CT, was held on October 14. Eighty hikers, climbers, and trail workers participated in 10 hikes, 2 trails work parties, and rock climbing at St. John's Ledges. Many thanks to the 16 leaders who volunteered to lead these events. Also thanks to our AT Day All Star BBQ Team who fed 75 people at the after-event Grand BBQ at Macedonia Brook State Park. These were great numbers considering the forecast of clouds and rain for the day.

Once again, the Excursions Committee sponsored and planned AMC's 141st Fall Hiking Week (FHW), as well as supported and worked to provide leaders for August Camp. This year FHW was based at the Town & Country Inn in Gorham, NH from 9/29-10/6. For the first time, FHW conducted a lottery for this year's registration. A General Registration window ran from 5/11-21. All applications received over that time period were put into a lottery for the open slots. Any applications received after that open enrollment period were put at the end of the Wait List. 95 applications were included in the initial lottery. After the lottery, 65 applicants were put on the Wait list. We eliminated the wait list from the original lottery as well as for those that had applied after the original lottery ended. Anyone that wanted to go to FHW was able to go. For previous years, FHW had used a quota of 125 people for the entire FHW time period, however, this year we were limited by the number of rooms available. More people this year had requested Single rooms rather than Double rooms. After the initial lottery, we had increased the number of available rooms from 60 rooms to 70 rooms and finally to 75 rooms. The final attendance for the entire week was slightly over 100 people. We offered 9 A-Hikes, 12 B-Hikes, and 14 C-Hikes. We had 7 of our own CT-AMC Hike Leaders lead hikes for FHW. We have reserved the week of 9/20-27 again at the Town & Country Inn in Gorham, NH for the 2024 FHW.

Special thanks to Keith Spaar and the Education Committee, composed mainly of hike leaders (including Excursions Co-Chair Phil Wilsey) for organizing Leadership Training sessions in

November, April, May, and June. Those training sessions are critical to providing high quality training to leader candidates.

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

Peg Peterson & Phil Wilsey, CT Chapter Co-Chairs



Excursions Committee-2023
Carol Hassett Bill McCarthy

Family Activities Committee

This year we hosted 5 events including hikes to Sleeping Giant, Groton Sheep Farm, Cobble Mountain, and Northwest Camp. We had several events either canceled or had no one show up due to the weather conditions or weather forecast. We also encouraged members to attend other family events throughout the AMC by sharing near-by chapter events via Facebook.

Corey Mott, CT Chapter Chair
Family Activities Committee-2022



Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee

Once again, we had a difficult season for Flatwater. Between high water flows, low water flows and high invasive species counts, it was hard to find safe water to paddle on. We also had an inordinate number of rainy weekends that cut back on the number of paddle trips.

We have a reduced number of active paddle leaders, as well as a reduced number of participants on trips that did happen. We were able to meet with the Compass Youth Collaborative and the Connecticut River Conservancy to take inner city youth from Hartford kayaking on Wethersfield Cove, although only for three trips.

I would love to hear from more people interested in leading flatwater trips for the Connecticut chapter. And I would like to hear about what would draw more participants, make the trips more interesting. I look forward to doing a lot more paddling next year.

Barry Gorfain, CT Chapter Chair

Flatwater & Coastal Paddling Committee-2023

Tom Ebersold, Corey Mott, Debbie Tedford - Paddle Leaders



Membership Committee

As of 8/31/2023 there are 7503 AMC Connecticut Chapter registered members. This represents a decrease of 278 in total membership from 8/31/ 2022. This year we will distribute 53 twenty-five-year membership pins and 6 fifty-year membership pins.

Two New Member hikes were led this year by the Membership co-chairs, each in a different area of the state and of different skill levels. These hikes provided new and prospective members with an opportunity to learn about the history and mission of the CT Chapter. Attendance averaged 15 per hike. We informed hike participants about the benefits of an AMC membership such as the numerous outdoor activities opportunities within this chapter and the other eleven chapters represented from Washington DC to Maine. Additionally, new members learned how AMC supports outdoor conservation across the Northeast. It is our intention to continue with biannual New Member hikes and to engage new members into our outdoor club, answer questions about the chapter/organization and enjoy the outdoors with new friends.

We thank the Mountaining Committee for taking the lead on having an information table at the Banff Film Festival in Hartford, New Haven and New London, this past February. Also, the Committee organized a Members's Appreciation Picnic in July held at Chatfield Hollow State Park in Killingworth. Forty-five people attended the picnic. The day acknowledged and celebrated CT Chapter volunteers and members in general. The event provided an opportunity to meet new and longtime members and to provide information to prospective volunteers on volunteer opportunities with the CT Chapter.

*Barbara Beckerman & Claire Rusowicz, CT Chapter Co-Chairs
Membership Committee 2023*



Mountaineering Committee

2023 was a great year for the Climbing/Mountaineering Committee, encompassing a full schedule of group climbs, monthly meetings and skills classes.

We started 2023 strong right out of the gate with our annual Ice Weekend January 20-22. Each day was filled with group climbs and included Ice 101 (Intro to Ice Climbing) and Ice 201 (Ice Climbing Skill Building) classes on Saturday, January 21. February 11-12 saw the successful return of our Intro to Mountaineering course culminating in a breathtaking winter ascent of Mount Washington.

Spring rock climbing skills classes started the final weekend of March and wrapped up the first weekend of May, thankfully without any weather delays. Each class was a sell out that included; Top Rope Anchor Building, Basic Rescue, Trad Anchor Building, Trad Seconding and Intro to Trad Climbing. At the close of each rock climbing skills season we're left debating whether or not to add additional classes as demand continues to rise.

Late May through late September we enjoy getting outside every Thursday night with Climbing/Mountaineering Committee members at local crags within the greater Hartford region for top rope climbing sessions. Each week gives our leaders and up & coming leaders an opportunity to come together as a community.

Come mid to late September, when temperatures start to drop and the days become noticeably shorter, we slowly start to transition into winter mode again. Plans for our annual potluck holiday party begin to come together and discussion for winter objectives resume.

As always, we extend a big thank you to Central Rock Gym in Glastonbury, CT. They've been more than generous throughout the years by providing a welcoming environment for our

committee to gather every Tuesday night to climb together and hold our monthly meetings at no expense.

Be safe and have fun!

*Jeff Pipech & Chris Granata, CT Chapter Co-Chairs
Climbing/Mountaineering Committee-2023*



Northwest Camp Committee



The Committee had an active year managing the cabin and its 125-acres, high on the Taconic plateau in the very northwest corner of Connecticut. The rustic but cozy cabin, constructed of native American chestnut logs is tucked away under an old-growth hemlock forest canopy in the very remote

northwest wildlands of Connecticut. Less than 1% of old-growth forests remain in Connecticut and sadly they have no special protection. Old-growth forests are essential in maintaining and increasing biodiversity while mitigating climate-change. Allowing proforestation and natural processes to prevail and promoting Leave No Trace (LNT) principles are a priority. Balancing the needs of its guests with a safe, healthy, and environmentally responsible lodging experience is paramount.

The stream next to the cabin continues to supply the much-needed water resource for campers to access, now with new box steps constructed with Black Locust instead of pressure-treated lumber. The cold-water stream drains from a poor fen and is the headwater of a rare watershed. It serves as a critical habitat to many rare, endangered, threatened, and uncommon species such as the Slimy Sculpin. The Committee continues to participate with the CT DEEP Volunteer Stream Temperature Monitoring Network, a community-science based statewide water quality monitoring program.

The amazing AMC Ridgerunners kept a close eye on the cabin and campfire ring and monitored the property on a regular basis from May-October. They complied with the Memorandum of Understanding signed after a cabin Committee orientation and LNT refresher provided by Chapter Education Chair, Keith Spaar. A volunteer trained in LNT is five times more likely to protect nature. The additional octagon window on the east side of the cabin added much-needed passive light to the stairs leading to the loft. The Committee continued to grow, adding an Outreach Coordinator, Safety Captain, Volunteer Monitors and Workparty volunteers.

The Perseids Meteor Shower Extravaganza was a success even though it rained. More than twenty people attended and were dazzled by special guest and avid birder, Steve Svec as he led a lively discussion on owls of Connecticut and an Owl Prowl along the Bog Trail. The meteor shower trip to a summit was cancelled but not before everyone enjoyed a delicious cookout with a tasty, decorated cake organized and provided by Committee members Carol Langley and Pau Thoma. In appreciation of the AMC Ridgerunners, the Committee donated \$200 to their efforts and Coordinator, Sean Speckin accepted on their behalf.

During the year, members attended five productive Committee meetings, CT Chapter meetings and events, AMC

events, Volunteer Camps & Cabin committee meetings, two Committee major workparties and three mini-workparties. None of the success of the Committee would be possible without the steadfast and consistent volunteer hours provided by Committee volunteers, especially Craig Kennedy-Registrar and Don Klein-Caretaker, the Executive Board, Volunteer Monitors, and the growing number of workparty volunteers.

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

2023 NWC Committee Roster with Volunteers

Executive Board

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

Members

John Hicks (Past Chair/Caretaker/Registrar/Cabin Monitor) *
Carol Langley (Cabin Monitor) *
Tom O'Connor (Cabin Monitor) *
Mark Navarra (Cabin Monitor) *
Joel Blumert (Cabin Monitor)
Trent Link (Cabin Monitor, Past Chair/Caretaker/Registrar)
Roy Hoffman (Past Chair/Caretaker/Registrar)
John Rek (Past Chair/Caretaker/Registrar)

Volunteers

Angel Vega
Joe Parenteau
Ethan Rain
Eric Harvey
Joanna Miller
Barry Snider

* Denotes 2023 AMC CT Stewardship Award with more than 30 volunteer hours.

Whitewater Committee

The Whitewater Committee had an excellent year in 2023. We are back in full force now that the pandemic has subsided. We ran numerous pool sessions at the Dennis Malone Aquatic Center in Bristol during the winter months. During the summer we had weekly lake sessions at Beseck Lake and beginner river runs at Satan's Kingdom. Pool sessions and lake sessions drew in 15-25 participants.

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

Our annual trip to the Ottawa Kayak School was back on after a couple of years off due to COVID. Participants were happy to be back up in the whitewater playground of Canada.

During the month of October we hosted our annual Leaders Appreciation Picnic and presented the Stephen Forster Award, recognizing excellence in whitewater kayaking and leadership to Paul Danielewicz.

Coming up in December we have our annual pool and pizza party. We are maintaining our fleet of 15+ kayaks and all related gear.

*Mark Schappert, Troy Schinkel, Ed Yiznitsky, CT Chapter Co-Chairs
Whitewater Committee 2023*



Young Members/20's & 30's Committee

This year we hosted 6 events including a Mystic River Paddle and several hiking trips to places like Sleeping Giant, People's State Forest and the AT in Connecticut. We often had poor weather conditions on our events limiting who came or in some instances canceling the event all together. We continued the NET Hiking Series up to about Quabbin Reservoir where we paused the series due to limited participants from the Connecticut area making the drive. We also encouraged members to attend other 20's & 30's events throughout the AMC by sharing near-by chapter events via Facebook like the Harriman Takeover event during the summer.

Corey Mott, CT Chapter Chair
Young Members Committee-2023



No Reports Submitted This Year

Fairfield County Group
Newsletter
Program Committee



2023 Chapter Volunteer Stewardship Awards

Presented to those who ran 5 or more trips or gave more than 30 volunteer hours to the Chapter between 9/30/22-10/1/23.

Janet Ainsworth	Finlay Ferguson	Don Klein
Michael Altrop	Mary Ferguson	Leigh Knuttel
Bob Andrew	W. Neal Fisher	Phil LaBell
Jeff Bass	John Fitzpatrick	Elaine Labella
Maite Barainca	David Fowler	Mike LaChapelle
Barbara Beckerman	Skip Frederickson	Carol Langley
Barry Black	Paul Garborino	Bill Lanzoni
David Boone	Richard Garrison	Lynn Lanzoni
Judy Borrmann	Christoph Geiss	Bruce Laroche
Steve Borrmann	Charles Gereg	Meyong Lepore
Steve Braciak	Dale Geslien	Adam Lippman
Ray Bracone	Jeff Glans	Jim Liptack
Polly Buckley	Zvi Goldman	Jeannine Loughlin
Rich Cady	Barry Gorfain	Ida Lowe
Martha Cain	Chris Granata	Julia Lumens
Tom Carruthers	Kathy Granata	Jeff Mantie
Bill Channing	Susan Grant	Art Mauger
Andrea Crawford	John Grasso	Bobby Mathoda
Bob Crowler	Gene Grayson	Andrew May
Walt Daniels	Robert Gregory	Bill McCarthy
John DeAngelis	Dorothy Grimm	David McCunn
Mark Delude	Mary Anne Hardy	Shirley McCunn
Lisa DeRosa	Carol Hassett	Tom McGrath
Alex Dyson	Paul Hayes	Kathleen Miller
Tom Ebersold	John Hicks	Kathy Miville
Bernadette Elligard	Patrick James	Corey Mott
Jocelyn Eppich	Leo Kelly	Mark Navarra
Scott Eppich	Craig Kennedy	Greg Nolting
Ken Evitts	Patrick Kennedy	Tom O'Connor

But wait - there's more...

Andrew Ossolinski
Rod Parlee
Louise Perkins
Peg Peterson
Jeffrey Phelon
Ray Phillips
Jeff Pipich
Leo Pon
Tom Potter
June Powell
Al Puches
Paul Reder
Barry Resnick

Connie Rokicki
Claire Rusowicz
Zellene Sandler
Eleanor Sasso
Jack Scott
Mark Schappert
Troy Schinkel
Ken Schmitt
James Schumacher
Bill Schaffer
Mark Sharp
Levi Shmulsky
Jason Smith
Joseph Snyder

Peter Soffman
Keith Spaar
Debbie Tedford
Paul Thoma
Star Tower
Russ Waldie
Altina Waller
Chip Ward
Phil Wilsey
Ed Yiznitsky
Patty Zemsta
Margaret Zorn
Ed Yiznitsky



Annual CT Chapter Awards

Janet Ainsworth, Dave Boone, Peg Peterson - Awards Committee

2023 APPIE OF THE YEAR

Rich Cady

This award is presented to chapter members who have made a significant contribution to the chapter.

This is the saga of the most ambitious and complex project the CT AT Committee has undertaken in decades, and the person who tirelessly and unselfishly saw the project to its successful completion.

In 2018, the AT Committee submitted proposals to replace the Brassie Brook and Riga shelters. Both shelters were more than 40 years old. Brassie had a serious lean to starboard. Riga was deteriorated, having suffered a small fire a few years earlier and a repair patched together. Both shelters had been damaged by insects, water, and time. The time had come to commence the first shelter construction project the Committee had undertaken in twenty-five years.

Fortunately, in the ranks of the AT Committee was an individual who had been a conscientious volunteer and section maintainer since 2010. He stepped up to be Committee Secretary, and additionally Work Party Coordinator in 2015, and took on the senior leadership role of Overseer of Camps and Shelters in 2022: just in time to manage the shelter reconstruction projects. The true trail angels had called on Rich Cady and he answered their call.

To have an appreciation of what this project involved, and how Rich faced and dealt with frustrations that far exceeded what is typically encountered by volunteers, you need to know the deep background. In 2018, the Committee's proposals were submitted to ATC and NPS, triggering the usual environmental, botanical, and budgetary compliance reviews. COVID-19 naturally impacted the project timeline, but the intention was to build the Brassie shelter

in 2020 and Riga in 2021. As is not uncommon in such reviews, questions were raised, and the fact that an airlift of materials was proposed did not simplify things. Because the two projects were so similar, NPS wisely decided to combine them, and we believed both sites were good to go. Deconstruction of the Brassie shelter began in the spring of 2022, and construction was planned for that fall.

Rich led many successful work parties to deconstruct the shelters. He visited the woodyard in Adirondack, NY to see firsthand how the shelter logs were coped and what was involved in the construction. He worked with professional arborists to ensure the tree canopy would not interfere with the airlift operation. He organized materials from the old shelters that might be used on other projects.

The new Brassie shelter kit and other building materials were delivered, and Rich ensured they were arranged in a manner that would not exceed the lifting capability of the helicopter, and furthermore, the things he would need first for construction would be flown in last. But wait... what about the Riga materials?

Riga needed additional reviews due to the location. A wheelchair accessible ramp would be necessary. Rich submitted plans for the ramp, but because that expanded the footprint of the new construction and would require some ground disturbance, an archeological review would also be required. This review also included review and comment by Native American tribes. Rich maintained his composure and demonstrated great diplomacy through these additional challenges.

The night before the airlift was to occur, a final Zoom briefing was held with all volunteers and staff. That is when we all learned the operation was scrubbed due to a missing safety plan. Rich, gratefully, did not throw up his hands and quit, although he was as angry and disappointed as any of our volunteers.

“Winter is Coming.” Rich knew the building materials needed to be moved to an unexposed place for the winter. Fortunately, a

Salisbury trail neighbor and ATC staff were able to work out an agreement to store the logs in a nearby barn. Rich rented a car-carrying trailer, and pulling it behind his VW Passat, drove to the staging area in Salisbury to relocate the logs.

Over the following months, Rich was key in the discussions with ATC and NPS to get the project back on track. Ultimately, that came to be, but not without an additional twist.

The USFWS planned to raise the status of the Northern Long Eared Bat to 'Endangered', effective 1/31/2023. This meant that tree cutting and air operations would not be allowed during the bat's mating and pupping season. Our helicopter work would need to be completed before 5/31, or postponed until the fall. No pressure, Rich!

Our friends and Maine Helicopters were able to find a May date for us. Rich once again weighed, measured, organized, and numbered the loads. It appeared we were "all systems go" until once again, unforeseen trouble fell. A mechanical issue with the helicopter prevented it from arriving as planned, and the pilot felt strongly that weather would not allow him to fly on our proposed rain date. Again, gratefully, Rich did not throw up his hands, and neither did the 20+ volunteers who agreed to serve in various assigned roles.

Finally, the sun shone, our volunteers shone, and the air delivery to Brassie and Riga was executed in such a professional manner that our Maine Helicopters pilot remarked it was the best organized airlift he had ever been involved in. No small task, thanks to Rich.

The shelter construction itself went incredibly smoothly, in large part due to Rich's encouraging leadership style and his great construction skills. The Riga foundation, constructed of native on-site stone proved to be a good deal more time consuming, but gratefully, Rich compromised his personal standards and allowed a $\frac{1}{8}$ " tolerance on the level with the rocks.

We admire Rich's patience, perseverance, commitment, technical skills, and professionalism. It is our honor, on behalf of the AMC

Connecticut Chapter, to present Rich with the 2023 “Appie of the Year” recognition.

2023 Appie of the Year – *Rich Cady*



2023 LIFETIME SERVICE

Peg Peterson

This award is presented to a chapter member who has made a significant lifetime contribution to the chapter. Recipients have 10+ years of significant service to the chapter.

Peg joined AMC in 1996 after a year as a hike leader with the Nature Conservancy. She quickly ported that knowledge to become a hike leader for CT-AMC. She also immediately answered a request from the newsletter for a volunteer to edit the event listings that were then included in the Backcountry section of the Outdoors Magazine, and joined the Executive Committee in the newly created position of “AMC Outdoors Liaison”.

In 1998, the Executive Committee asked for someone to work on the nascent CT-AMC website. Peg responded, creating the original design and maintaining our website for several years, taking on another new Executive Committee position, “Web Site Coordinator”. In 2003, she recruited Jim Scheef to take over the primary maintenance of the site. Peg’s design remained for almost 10 years as Jim expanded and improved the site, and Peg served on the committee as one of the page maintainers.

She became involved early with the activities database and the chapter emails as the club as a whole and the CT Chapter moved into the digital age, providing internal chapter support until the present.

She volunteered at the Fairfield County Group meetings, signing up new members and maintaining the FCG mailing lists. She was one of the backup volunteers sending out the Weekly during David Roberts’ travels, eventually taking over that duty and other duties David managed as Communications Chair. When David “retired” as Excursions Chair in 2014, Peg accepted the nomination at the end of that year and has held that position since, recruiting Phil Wilsey as co-chair in 2016. She looks forward to trading her

Communications Chair role for Family Activities Chair at the end of this year.

We would be remiss if we did not mention that she also oversees the AT Day activities and grand final BBQ at Macedonia Brook State Park. This task is not for sissies! She oversees the assignment of hikes up and down the AT in CT and the blowout BBQ, assigning volunteers to bring food and gear.

If Peg decided to retire from volunteering with the chapter tomorrow, we'd be scrambling to fill all the roles that she currently holds. Congratulations Peg, and thanks for all you've done! Congratulations Peg, and thanks for all you've done!



2023 LIFETIME SERVICE

John DeAngelis

John DeAngelis joined the AMC Connecticut Chapter in 2002. Having an interest in rock climbing, he gravitated to what was at the time, the Mountaineering Committee. By 2008 he became a leader, enabling him to organize and oversee the Climbing/Mountaineering Committee's Thursday night climbs and trips.

In November 2017, John and Paul Hayes were appointed Co-Chairs for the Climbing/Mountaineering Committee. As Co-Chair, John was instrumental in updating protocol for committee group climbing events by standardizing contemporary best practices outlined by the American Mountain Guide Association (AMGA), an internationally recognized organization and the benchmark for best climbing practices. Doing so created a safer, more enjoyable experience and reduced liability.

During his time as co-chair, he also became the committee's first Certified American Mountain Guide Association Single Pitch Instructor. In doing so, he relieved the Climbing/Mountaineering committee's reliance on hiring guides to instruct skills classes by taking on the responsibility himself on a volunteer basis. John has always been a conscientious leader, showing sensitivity to the needs and interests of committee members. His sage advice and mentorship has resulted in knowledgeable and well-rounded climbers.

In 2021, John made the decision to step down as a committee Co-Chair in an effort to pass the torch and enable other members to help shape the committee and grow themselves. Since doing so, he continues to have the committee's best interests in mind, volunteers as our number one go-to skills instructor, mentors climbers and is a best friend for all in the Climbing/Mountaineering Committee. Congratulations John, and thanks for all you've done!



Nominations for the 2024 Executive Committee

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

Chapter Chair	<i>Altina Waller</i>
Chapter Vice Chair	<i>Jeannine Loughlin</i>
Secretary	<i>open position</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
Appalachian Trail Chair	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Bicycling Chair	<i>Leo Pon</i>
Communications Chair	<i>Corey Mott</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Andrew May</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Janet Ainsworth</i>
East of the River Chair	<i>open position</i>
Education Co-Chair	<i>Keith Spaar</i>
Excursions Co-Chair	<i>Peg Peterson</i>
Excursions Co-Chair	<i>Phil Wilsey</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chair	<i>Eleanor Sasso</i>
Family Activities Chair	<i>Peg Peterson</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair	<i>Barry Gorfain</i>
Member at Large	<i>John Grasso</i>
Member at Large	<i>Barbara Beckerman</i>
Member at Large	<i>Martha Cain</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>open position</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Chris Granata</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Levi Shmulsky</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>open position</i>
Program Chair	<i>open position</i>
Webmaster/Technology	<i>Keith Spaar</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Ed Yiznitsky</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Troy Schinkel</i>
Young Members Chair	<i>Corey Mott</i>
Northwest Camp (by AMC appointment)	<i>Rod Parlee</i>

50 Year Members

Congratulations and best wishes to the following Connecticut Chapter members who we honor for their remarkable 50 years of membership in the Appalachian Mountain Club!

Anne Bailey of New Hartford

Robert Dickinson of Bloomfield

Robert Harrity of North Haven

David Perkins of Bethel

Edward Sharr of Portland

Linda Vaughan of Enfield

