



MAINE CHAPTER

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Maine Chapter
Appalachian Mountain Club
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WILDERNESS MATTERS

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SAVE THE DATE!

AMC's Maine Chapter 2017 Annual Meeting Scheduled for November 18 at the Clarion Hotel in Portland

By Kathleen Redmond-Miller

We've had another exciting year here at the AMC and we're hoping you'll join us at our 2017 Annual Meeting in Portland on November 18th to celebrate.

Festivities will begin at 5:30 pm with registration and a cocktail social with an opportunity to meet and greet some of our current leadership. A buffet dinner will be served at 6 pm (with vegetarian options), and our business meeting will begin at 7 pm, followed by two featured speakers.



Our first speaker is Steve Tatko, AMC's Land Manager, who will give a talk on the AMC's Maine Woods Initiative. The Maine Woods Initiative is an innovative approach to conservation that combines outdoor recreation, resource protection, sustainable forestry, and community partnerships. To date, AMC has purchased and permanently conserved 70,000 acres of forest land, created over 120 miles of recreational trails, opened three sporting camps to the public, established an Forest Stewardship Council-certified sustainable forestry operation, and developed a partnership with local Piscataquis County schools. Steve was born and raised in Willimantic, ME to a fifth generation slate mining family. He's a Licensed Maine Forester and has worked for AMC since 2012.

Our second speaker is Jed Williamson who will give a talk on *Accidents in Outdoor Pursuits - Their Causes and Cures*. John (Jed) Williamson was a member of the Board of the American Alpine Club from 1974 to 1998, serving as President from 1992-94 and recently retired as the Chair of the Safety Advisory Council and the editor (since 1974) of the American Alpine Club's annual report *Accidents in North American Mountaineering*. He also served on the boards of the National Outdoor Leadership School and the Student Conservation Association, where his primary involvement was in risk management.



Cost is \$25 per person which includes dinner and one drink ticket. A cash bar will also be available. Registration will be available online at www.amcmaine.org from October 1 through October 31. Register early to ensure a seat!

AMC'S Medawisla Lodge and Cabins Opens in the 100-Mile Wilderness, Adding to the Success Story that is the Maine Woods Initiative By Carey Kish

Standing on the rock dam at the western end of Second Roach Pond, the majestic profile of Katahdin is plainly visible some twenty miles or so northeast as the crow flies. Crystal clear water at my feet gurgles into the Roach River on its way to First Roach Pond and then to Moosehead Lake at Spencer Bay. I bend down with bandanna in hand to rinse off the sweat, dirt and bug spray, and revel in another day well spent in Maine's 100-Mile Wilderness.

Tucked into the hillside a good stone's throw from the outlet is the Appalachian Mountain Club's Medawisla Lodge, nine cabins and two bunkhouses, all brand new and open to the public for the first time on this last Saturday in June, a perfect day of bluebird skies and puffy white clouds. The lodging facility is the third on AMC's 75,000 acres of conservation and recreation land in the region, after those at Little Lyford Pond and Gorman Chairback on Long Pond.

The speeches and dedication, the cutting of a big red ribbon, a grand tour of the buildings and grounds, and a huge lunch spread aside, I was really here to check out the trails. So, when the official festivities were through, I headed for



Opening day crowd on Sat, June 24. Photo by Carey Kish

nearby Shaw Mountain, where AMC trail crews had cut a path to the col between the north and south summits. The hike up yields fabulous views north over Second Roach Pond to the summits of Katahdin, and more panoramas will be opened when the trail is completed later this year.

A look at AMC's Medawisla Summer Trail map shows that the Shaw Mountain Trail is just one of an extensive network of existing and planned trails in the area of Second Roach Pond. From hiking and mountain biking in the summer season to cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in wintertime, there are plenty of options for human-powered recreation around the new lodge and cabins. Add

to that miles of canoeing and kayaking and some pretty good fishing on four remote ponds.

With Medawisla as the northern anchor, skiers will now be able to trek from lodge to lodge on groomed trails connecting West Branch Pond Camps

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Wilderness Matters

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New Conservation Policy Associate in AMC's Portland Office

The AMC is excited to announce that Eliza Baker-Wacks has joined us as the new Conservation Policy Associate based in Portland! Eliza will be working on projects related to Maine conservation policy and advocacy and helping to make AMC's efforts successful in Maine. Eliza graduated from Colby College this past May with a degree in Environmental Policy and is eager to join Kaitlyn this fall. Eliza loves gardening, hiking, swimming, and spending time in the Maine outdoors. She has been spending her summers in Maine since she was 8 years old and is excited to help further the AMC's mission and continue exploring this great state!



Medawisla Lodge and Cabins -continued from page 1

(privately owned), Little Lyford and Gorman Chairback. This outstanding multi-day adventure will reward not only with miles of great skiing and wonderful winter scenery, but a good measure of comfort each evening as well, like hot showers, a wood-fired sauna and hearty meals.



Medawisla - ribbon cutting ceremony. (L to R) AMCs Jenny Ward, AMCs Steve Tatko, AMC VP Walter Graff, unidentified, AMCs Dan Rinard. Photo by Carey Kish

AMC has been hard at work conserving land and creating recreation infrastructure in the 100-Mile Wilderness since 2003, when the club purchased the 37,000-acre Katahdin Iron Works Tract. In 2009, AMC added the abutting 29,500-acre Roach Ponds Tract, thereby securing the missing link in what is now a 63-mile corridor of protected land, which includes properties owned by The Nature Conservancy, Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands and the National Park Service. In 2015, AMC purchased 4,300 acres on wild and trailless Baker Mountain (3,520 feet), the largest chunk of subalpine terrain outside of Katahdin. The club then bought 4,000 acres around Silver Lake in 2016.

The aptly-named "Maine Woods Initiative" is the crucible of AMC's remarkable efforts in landscape-scale conservation, sustainable forest management, backcountry recreation, environmental education and community partnerships in the 100-Mile Wilderness.

AMC has established a 27,000-acre ecological reserve to protect the headwaters of the West Branch of the Pleasant River. Local crews harvest 5-6,000 cords of wood annually on AMC land. The club has built 70 miles of new hiking, mountain biking and ski trails and 16 remote campsites. Three traditional Maine sporting camps have been opened to the public. Hundreds of area school kids have been reached through outdoor experiential learning programs. Overall, AMC's operations have had a significant impact on the local Piscataquis County economy, to the tune of \$2.75 million in 2015, or nearly \$19 million from 2003 through 2015.

To learn more about AMC's "Maine Woods Initiative" and plan a visit to their Maine Woods Conservation and Recreation Area, go to www.outdoors.org/conservation/maine-woods.



Medawisla - view over Second Road Pond north to Katahdin. Photo by Carey Kish



Medawisla - Katahdin view from Shaw Mountain. Photo by Carey Kish

ATC 2017 Conference: Big Thanks Due All Around!

By Bill Brooke, Outings Chair



Suzie Waitt from Georgia is elated not to have to wade across Carrabassett Stream at the end of her 12-mile hike. Photo by Tony Barrett.



Rest stop and photo op at Little Wilson Falls on the AT section hike Little Wilson Falls to Monson. Photo by Bill Brooke.

Thanks to all the Maine AMC leaders and members who supported the Appalachian Trail Conference in August. Over a dozen Maine Chapter leaders led more than 20 hiking and biking trips and excursions over five days of the conference.

A wide selection of hikes and bike rides were available to the conference attendees from local trails and mountains to AT section hikes and even a couple of backpack trips. Peter Roderick and his team of volunteers did an outstanding job of organizing the 200+ individual hikes and ensuring the participants and leaders got together on the right hike from the multitude of hikes that left every half hour in the morning.

Hike participants were from all over, but most commonly from Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia on the hikes I personally lead. Many of these were section hiking the Appalachian Trail

and particularly interested in completing sections of the AT in Maine. Most found the "roots, rocks and mud" of trails in Maine more challenging than what they are used to hiking in the Southern sections of the AT.



VOLUNTEER CORNER: Your Maine Chapter Needs You!

The Executive Committee has the following vacancies:

- Vice Chair,
- Member At Large,
- Assistant Archivist,
- Co-Chair Young Members,
- Assistant Editor of the Chapter Newsletter,
- Meeting And Education Organizer For Southern Maine.

The AMC Maine Chapter can only be successful through the volunteer efforts of its membership. All of these positions operate with assistance of the Executive Committee. Please consider taking that first step to express an interest or ask a question about one of the positions. Inquiries can be addressed to Paul Hahn, Chair of the Nominating Committee at nominating@amcmaine.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Great Program Lineup for Meetings & Education in Bangor This Fall

By Nancy Jacobson

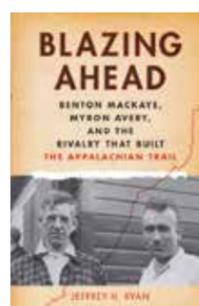
The AMC Maine Chapter's Meetings and Education Program in Bangor has a diverse fall lineup with a group of speakers who have exceptional experiences to share. All meetings will be held at 6 pm at the Bangor Public Library, 145 Harlow St.



On October 24, Lisa DeHart will present, "The Art of Canoe Poling, Wilderness Canoe Tripping and Safety, and the Maine Canoe Symposium." Maine guide and Maine Canoe Symposium Pro Staff member Lisa DeHart has spent the last 25 years canoeing everywhere from the Rio Grande in Texas to the Gaspé Peninsula in Canada, along with most every river in the great state of Maine. Join us for a journey of photographs and film of the best of those wilderness canoe trips. Learn about the art of canoe poling and some tried and true safety tips used by Maine guides.



Have you been intrigued by sled dogs and mushing? Join Polly Mahoney and a couple of her dogs on November 14. Polly will share slides of her dogsledding experiences from the Yukon Territory to Maine to Nunavut and northern Quebec. Polly has been dogsledding for 37 years and has been co-owner of Mahoosuc Guide Service in Newry, Maine for the last 27 years. She will bring a couple of her friendly sled dogs to meet you and a sled so you can see how she hooks them up.



On December 7, join author Jeff Ryan as he shares the story of the creation of the Appalachian Trail. Jeff's new book, "Blazing Ahead: Benton MacKaye, Myron Avery, and the Rivalry That Built the Appalachian Trail," weaves history and biography to bring the story of the unlikely creation of the AT to life. Drawing upon never before published sources, "Blazing Ahead" delves deep into the historical realities MacKaye and Avery faced and how their personalities and views ultimately forced them apart. Published by AMC Books, "Blazing Ahead" (and Jeff's first book, "Appalachian Odyssey") will be available at the presentation.

FALL CALENDAR: OUTINGS | EVENTS | MEETINGS

A note about the listings: The listings below—presented in date order by category—include only those posted online prior to the submission deadline for this issue of Wilderness Matters. For the most complete and accurate information and up-to-date listings—and so you don't miss spontaneous outings—please periodically check out the calendar online at www.amcmaine.org/calendar.

For general questions or comments regarding these calendar listings, please contact Bill Brooke, Outings Chair and Master of the Calendar Listings, outings@amcmaine.org or (207) 549-5100.

Note: Please be courteous when contacting trip leaders by doing so before 9:00 PM unless otherwise specified. Thanks!

Deadline for Wilderness Matters (Winter Issue) is December 1, 2017.

Submission info: Wilderness Matters is your chapter newsletter. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to contribute, be it stories, news, opinions, photos, or whatnot. We want to hear from you! Please send submissions to newsletter@amcmaine.org. Submission guidelines: Articles, opinions, stories and should be limited to 400-500 words maximum (word counts greater than that may be edited or may not be accepted). Photos should be reduced in size to 1024 x 768 pixels or thereabouts and include a photo title, captions and any other identifying info plus proper photo credit. Thank you!

HIKING

Saturday, October 14, Mt Crawford (3,119 ft.), Crawford Notch, NH. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#100055>. Five-mile round trip hike to open summit with 2,000-ft. elevation gain. Strong intermediate hike. Leader: Lorraine Hussey, 207-619-9444, lorrainehussey66@gmail.com.

Saturday, October 21: Bigelow Range Trail, including Cranberry Peak and AT, Stratton. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#100154>. Hike from Stratton to AT crossing on Rte. 27 via Bigelow Range Trail over Cranberry Peak and AT. Wonderful views of Bigelow Range and Carrabassett Valley from ridge. Moderate to strenuous with steep climb to ridge, then ridge walk to Cranberry Peak and descent to Cranberry Pond and AT. 8 miles. Call leader for details. Leader: Peter Roderick, 207-293-2704, roderick1027@fairpoint.net.

Saturday, October 28: Peaked Mtn. and Middle Mtn. Hike, North Conway, NH. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#99708>. Join us for a moderate lollipop loop hike to Peaked Mtn. and Middle Mtn. Elevation gain 1,650 ft. Climb is mostly steady and gradual. Average pace is 1.5-2 mph. Leader: Denise Fredette, 207-939-3670, deniserae77@gmail.com.

Saturday, October 28, Speckled Mtn., Evans Notch ME. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#100188>. Speckled Mtn. (2,906 ft.) is east of Evans Notch. The open summit ledges have excellent views in all directions. About 8.6 miles RT, going up the Blueberry Trail and descending on Bickford Trail. Leader: Susan Surabian, suebeau1@gmail.com.

BACKPACKING/CAMPING

Saturday, October 28, New Year's Eve at Lonesome Lake (20's, 30's & Young @ Heart), Lonesome Lake Hut, NH. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#99547>. Ring in the New Year with us and get a chance to stay at Lonesome Lake Hut with breathtaking views of Franconia Ridge across a pristine glacial lake. This is the most accessible winter hut in the White Mountains at just 1.6 miles from the trailhead. We'll have a potluck dinner New Year's Eve (all other meals/snacks are on your own). This hut offers access to nearby mountains such as Cannon, North & South Kinsman, Bald and the Cannon Balls as well as more leisurely lakeside hiking/snowshoeing. Winter hiking gear and some winter hiking experience is required. Rates (self-service): Saturday: \$45, Sunday: \$28 (taxes not included). Call AMC Reservations by November 30. After this date, these spots open back up to everyone. Space is limited so reserve early. Send me an email once you reserve your spot. I will send out details to those with confirmed reservations, closer to the event. To reserve your spot: Call the AMC Reservations

Line at 603-466-2727 Mon-Sat, 9am to 5pm. "Reservation Group #372571 - AMC Maine Chapter." Leader: Denise Fredette, 207-939-3670, deniserae77@gmail.com.

TRAIL WORK

Friday, October 6, Trail and Boundary Work at Medawisla Lodge and Cabins, Bowdoin College Grant East, ME. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#95563>. With hundreds of miles of property lines and trails, the AMC in Maine has lots of volunteer work opportunities. For this trip will be staying in a bunkhouse at the newly rebuilt Medawisla Lodge and Cabins. Experience the new facilities and help get the nearby trails ready for all the guests to come. Leader: Peter Roderick, 207-293-2704, roderick1027@fairpoint.net.

BICYCLING

Saturday, October 14, Mountain Biking - Carrabassett Valley Trails Network, Carrabassett Valley, ME. Join us for a day of moderate challenge mountain biking on CV Trails. Easy to moderate routes will be chosen for those with some experience. Helmets required. Planning to eat on the trail, so bring lunch and proper hydration. For more details, contact leaders. Leader: Peter Roderick, 207-293-2704, roderick1027@fairpoint.net. Co-leader: Jeanine Libby.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Thursday, October 5, Potluck and Presentation: Tamed: A City Girl Walks from Mexico to Canada on the Pacific Crest Trail, Curtis Memorial Library, Morrell Meeting Room, 23 Pleasant St., Brunswick. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#97779>. See above description for program details. Presentation starts at 7pm. Optional potluck starts at 6pm. Please bring a dish to share and help us be green by bringing your own silverware, plate and cup. Leaders: Michelle and Stan Moody, 207-406-5221, meamc@micstan.us.

Tuesday, October 24, A Maine Guides Travels & Tales in Wilderness Canoeing Poling, Bangor Public Library. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#98018>. Lisa DeHart will present, "A Maine Guide's Travels & Tales in Wilderness Canoeing Poling." Maine Guide and Maine Canoe Symposium Pro Staff member Lisa DeHart has spent the last 25 years canoeing everywhere from the Rio Grande in Texas to the Gaspé Peninsula in Canada, along with most every river in Maine. Join us for a journey of photographs and film of the best of those wilderness canoe trips. Learn about the art of canoe poling and some tried and true safety tips used by Maine guides. Leader: Nancy Jacobson, 207-942-4924, education@amcmaine.org.

Tuesday, October 24, Potluck and Presentation: Backpacking in Yellowstone National Park, Curtis Memorial Library, Morrell Meeting Room, Brunswick. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#97778>. Join our group of five Maine and New Hampshire backpackers in a photo journey as we spend eight nights on the trail in Wyoming and Montana, starting with five nights in the northwest corner of Yellowstone National Park, including an ascent of 11,000-foot Electric Peak. Then, after one night off the trail, we take on the spectacular and rugged Beartooth Plateau Loop, just outside the park, where we'll pass numerous pristine alpine lakes and tackle the navigational challenges of off-trail travel in this high-altitude wilderness. We'll also take a quick drive through Yellowstone National Park, stopping to enjoy its abundant wildlife, waterfalls, and geothermal features. Jonathan Rundell is an avid hiker and photographer. Presentation starts at 7pm. Optional potluck starts at 6pm. Please bring a dish to share and help us be green by bringing your own silverware, plate and cup. Leaders: Michelle and Stan Moody, 207-406-5221, meamc@micstan.us.

Tuesday, November 14, Mushing in Maine and Beyond, Bangor Public Library. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#98019>. Polly Mahoney of Mahoosuc Guide Service in Newry will share her dogsledding experiences from the Yukon Territory to Maine to Nunavut and northern Quebec. Polly has been mushing for 37 years and is co-owner of her business for the last 27 years, which offers dog trips in the northeast. She will bring a couple of her friendly sled dogs to meet you and a sled to demonstrate how she hooks the dogs up. Leader: Nancy Jacobson, 207-942-4924, education@amcmaine.org.

Thursday, November 16, Potluck and Presentation: Making the Case, New and Novel Ways to Elevate and Empower Conservation, Curtis Memorial Library, Morell Meeting Room, 23 Pleasant St. Brunswick. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#99954>. Want new strategies to reach decision makers, neighbors, selectmen deciding taxes for

conservation lands? Family at Thanksgiving? Folks who haven't ventured from the back lawn but might decide the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund's future? Join Sandy Neily for a discussion about how to harness reality in two creative ways. She will share powerful economic data and strategic ways to insert it into public discussions and decision-making systems. (Maine wildlife: \$1.4 billion. Lakes, \$2.8 billion and 50,000 jobs....and more.) Then, channeling Ralph Waldo Emerson ("Fiction reveals truth that reality obscures"), she suggests another tool. People aren't reading much Al Gore, but they are reading mysteries and thrillers (the most popular genre). Often these works are very accurate, compelling, and they take readers to landscapes and issues they need to experience. (Sandy invites folks to grow her list... Bring your favorite book!). The award-winning author of *Deadly Trespass*, (reviewed as "...a beautiful book that brilliantly captures the battle to conserve Maine's mythical woods..."), Sandra has also been a Maine guide, whitewater outfitter, the director of the Maine Conservation School, and as Maine Audubon's outreach coordinator, the author/editor of "Valuing the Nature of Maine." (Find "Deadly Trespass" at all Sherman's Books locations and at Amazon.) Presentation starts at 7pm. Optional potluck starts at 6pm. Please bring a dish to share and help us be green by bringing your own silverware, plate and cup. Leaders: Michelle and Stan Moody, 207-406-5221, meamc@micstan.us.

Thursday, December 7, Blazing Ahead: The Rivalry that

Built the Appalachian Trail, Bangor Public Library.
<http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#98021>. Few know the full story behind the creation of Appalachian Trail. The proposal to create it could have died in the pages of a journal had it not been for the efforts of many people, and two, in particular: Benton MacKaye and Myron Avery. While the two men shared a common goal, their vastly different personalities meant it was only a matter of time before these sometimes allies, sometimes adversaries had a falling out. Jeffrey Ryan's book, *Blazing Ahead: Benton MacKaye, Myron Avery, and the Rivalry That Built the Appalachian Trail*, weaves history and biography to bring the story of the unlikely creation of the AT to life. Drawing upon never before published sources, *Blazing Ahead* delves deep into the historical realities MacKaye and Avery faced and how their personalities and views ultimately forced them apart. Join us as Jeff shares the story of the creation of the AT and how many of the challenges faced in the 20s and 30s still resonate today. Published by AMC Books, *Blazing Ahead* (and Jeff's first book, *Appalachian Odyssey*), is available at www.JeffRyanAuthor.com and will also be available at the presentation. Leader: Nancy Jacobson, 207-942-4924, education@amcmaine.org.

Thursday, December 7, Potluck and Presentation: Land Conservation in Maine, Curtis Memorial Library, Morrell Meeting Room, 23 Pleasant St., Brunswick.

<http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#97780>. The AMC Maine Chapter Conservation Committee and the Meetings Committee invite you to join our guest speakers for an enlightening look at how land is conserved in Maine. Representing the local land trust level, Angela Twitchell from the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust; the statewide (and beyond) large land preservation efforts, Bill Patterson from The Nature Conservancy; and what tools are out there for funding these types of efforts, Warren (Whit) Whitney from the Maine Coast Heritage Trust. Learn about how these organizations do their work, what you can do to help, how you can find out more about these conservation efforts, including where to look for information and how you can help ensure future funding programs. From water access to mountain views, we count on these preserved places to enjoy the great outdoors. We'll be sure to throw in plenty of photos to entice you to visit some of these conserved lands and include some tips on finding that perfect spot you might want to discover. Potluck dinner starts at 6pm. Please bring a dish to share, help us be green and bring your own cup, plates and silverware. Presentation at 7pm. Leaders: Michelle and Stan Moody, 207-406-5221, meamc@micstan.us.

Thursday, January 18, Potluck and Presentation: Connecting Rivers, People and Fish by Bike, , Curtis Memorial Library, Morrell Meeting Room, 23 Pleasant St., Brunswick.

<http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#100017>. Join us for this unique presentation on fish passage and biking in Europe. Alicia Heyburn of Brunswick spent five weeks last summer on a solo bicycle tour from the source of the Rhine River in the Swiss Alps to the outlet at the North Sea near Amsterdam. Traveling on an exceptional network of bike paths, she experienced the various characters of the river along its 1,300 km course, wild, tamed, power-producing, awe-inspiring, industrial and bucolic, and met with people who are working to improve river conditions for migratory fish, such as salmon. In her presentation, you'll learn about Europe's extensive international network of bike trails, free

cultural exchange and accommodation services, the stages and benefits of re-naturalizing a river, and how to travel alone without being lonely or turn an interest into an expedition. Presentation starts at 7pm. Optional potluck starts at 6pm. Please bring a dish to share and help us be green by bringing your own silverware, plate and cup. Leaders: Michelle and Stan Moody, 207-406-5221, amc@micstan.us.

INSTRUCTION AND WORKSHOPS

Wednesday, December 6, Winter Hiking Workshop.

<http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#100182>. Experienced Maine AMC winter hiking leaders will discuss clothing, gear, snow travel, and other essential knowledge and techniques to prepare you for outdoor outings in the winter. This event is intended as an introductory course for new and experienced three-season hikers and a refresher for experienced winter adventurers. Although the focus of the workshop is on hiking in the winter, many of the topics apply to any outdoor winter outing. This workshop will be an excellent "things-you-need-to-know-before-you-go" for anyone who will be spending time out of doors this winter. Event is free and open to the public. Please contact Bill Brooke, workshop leader, at bill@mesoft.org or 207-549-5100 to register or for more information.

MEETINGS

Wednesday, October 18, Outings Leader Meeting, Red Cross

Community Center, 16 Community Way, Topsham, ME.
<http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#100181>. Leader meeting for current leaders, leaders in training and those who would like to become leaders. Agenda will include winter activities postings, leader recognition proposal and leader requirements update. Leader: Bill Brooke, 207-549-5100, outings@amcmaine.org.

Thursday, November 9 (and Thursday, January 11), Executive

Committee meeting, L.L. Bean, 8 Industrial Parkway, Brunswick.
<http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#96151>. This is a regular bi-monthly meeting of the Maine Chapter Executive Committee. All members are welcome to attend to find out what we are planning. Contact a committee member for building access instructions if you have not attended before. Meeting is at 6:30 pm. Leader: Doug Chamberlin, 978-761-3815, chair@amcmaine.org.

SKIING

Sunday, February 4, Claybrook Mountain Lodge Ski Week, Highland

Plantation, ME. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#97282>. Have you ever thought about checking out the new Maine Huts and Trails system but the thought of carrying an overnight backpack didn't appeal to you??? We have the solution for you! Join us for a week of great cross-country skiing on the Maine Huts and Trails system of well-maintained trails. We'll have the opportunity, weather permitting, to visit each of the four huts without the burden of large backpacks. Enjoy the luxury of skiing with just a small daypack while enjoying the magnificent trails and scenery in the Bigelow area. Accommodations will be in shared twin or triple rooms at the Claybrook Mountain Lodge, owned by Greg, a certified EMT and Maine Guide, and his wife Pat. Pat is a fantastic cook who will spoil us with her homemade bread, muffins, cookies and multi course meals. Made to order breakfast, trail lunches and dinner are included in the trip fee. All meals from supper on Sunday, Feb 4 (day of arrival) through and including lunch on Friday, Feb 9 (day of departure). We will eat our trail lunch at one of the MHT huts whenever possible, so we can purchase hot food items as well. Claybrook Lodge is clean, cozy and rustic surrounded by an array of mountain peaks. Greg will act as our naturalist guide each day and will give us information on tracking, wildlife identification, tree identification and historical perspectives of the area. There will also be two AMC trip leaders on the excursion, both of whom are trained in Wilderness First Aid and CPR. Leader: Ginette Beaudoin, 207-294-6302, ginette4000@yahoo.com.

2017 Maine ATC Conference, “Views from the Maine Woods,” a Big Success

By Kristen Grant

The Maine weather did not disappoint the 900 or so hikers and bikers who ventured from as far south as Georgia to attend the 2017 ATC Conference at Colby College from August 4-11 this year. A fabulous high-pressure system moved in for most of the week and cool breezes and sunny days accompanied the participants as they departed for their adventures. One Mainer was overheard to boast, “days like today are why we put up with eight months of winter!” A bit of an exaggeration, perhaps, but it wasn’t hard to understand the enthusiasm.

The conference was jointly sponsored by AMC’s Maine Chapter and the Maine Appalachian Trail Club. After two years of planning and thousands of volunteer hours, the conference showcased the beauties of Maine to folks from all up and down the East Coast. More than 250 hikes were offered, including a good number of extremely popular hikes on the Appalachian Trail. The Camden Traverse, which provided views of Penobscot Bay on one side and Megunticook Lake from Maiden Cliff was another highlight. For people taking a break from strenuous activity, there was a trip to Cellar Door Winery in Lincolnville and a guided historical tour of downtown Camden, as well as several birding expeditions, all within an hour of the Colby campus. Along with the many guided hikes, bike rides and excursions, conference participants were given directions to self-guided trips that they could pursue at their own pace.

In the past, this conference was a biennial, hosted by a different ATC chapter each time. Going forward the approach is going to be a little bit different and the next conference will be in 2020 in New Jersey under the new Vista program. More to come as the planning for this program gets underway.

A special “shout out” needs to go the tireless members of the conference steering committee, including Peter Roderick, Tony Barrett, Sherri Langlais, Diane Neff, Cindy Caverly, Janet Roderick and Dick Welsh. The investment in time and talent was truly astonishing and it showed with the success of the conference.



Suzie Whyte, a member of the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club attending the ATC Maine 2017 Biennial Conference, shows off her AT Anniversary tattoos. The A.T. was completed in Carrabassett Valley, Maine on August 13, 1937. Suzie retained a 75th Anniversary tattoo from 2012 to match with this year’s 80th Anniversary tattoo. Suzie hiked the 11-mile traverse from Perham Stream to the Caribou Valley Road to see the completion plaque located along the trail just south of Sugarloaf Mtn.

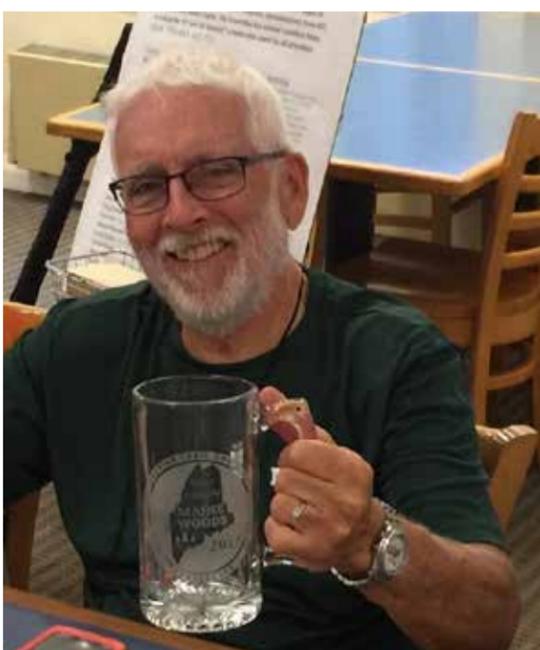


What to do with old boots? Use them as table decorations. About two dozen old boots were collected from AMC Chapter & MATC members and transformed into appropriately themed “Views from the Maine Woods” (you see mostly conifer branches out in the woods anyways) table enhancements and placed throughout the ATC Biennial Exhibit & Trade Show at Colby College. Behind the boot, is ATC’s Tim Schenken greeting arriving participants.



Maine Chapter Treasurer and Outings leader, Cindy Caverly, was a member of the ATC Maine 2017 Conference Steering Committee. She organized all the Colby College dorm Housing during the week-long conference (What do you mean that there is no A/C in college dorms in Maine?). During the conference, she spent most of her time at the Housing desk getting almost 500 people settled into dorm rooms. (above).

She also got out to lead a hike or two and flex some muscle and showing off her conference tattoo. (below).



Former AMC Maine Chapter President and Outings Chair, Peter Roderick, is not known for drinking large quantities of beer, but now has this large beer mug engraved with the logo of the ATC Maine 2017 Conference in recognition of his stellar leadership in organizing a great Hikes menu (over 170 hikes) during the week-long Colby College event. If you are an AMC Maine Chapter hike leader you were sure to have received a call from Peter to help out — if not to lead a hike, to help drain the beer from this mug.



◀Gritty’s Beer was a major sponsor of the ATC Maine 2017 Conference at Colby College — co-hosted by the AMC Maine Chapter. Gritty’s beer was served at all the conference receptions at no cost to the attendees. So thanks to Gritty’s. Gritty’s also promoted the conference on their social media sites and by creating and posting posters in their brewpubs in advance of the conference. Informed that posters were on the walls at the Freeport location, a search could not find any in the dining room or bar or hallway with other event notices. However, a more detailed search found this one on the stall door in the women’s bathroom — stealth marketing to a captured audience.

Mark Your Calendars! Great Potlucks and Presentations Coming to Brunswick this Fall and Winter

By Michelle Moody

All are being held at the Curtis Memorial Library, Morrell Meeting Room, 23 Pleasant Street, Brunswick. Potluck at 6pm, presentation at 7pm. Doors open at 5:30pm for time to socialize. All are free and open to the public.



On October 5, join us as we start off the fall season with a presentation on long distance hiking. "Tamed: A City Girl Walks from Mexico to Canada on the Pacific Crest Trail" will feature Anne O'Regan, who will take us on an incredible 2,650-mile journey along the PCT with her stories and unique visual presentation. Her book will be available at the presentation.



Our October 26 evening will feature Jonathan Rundell, who returns to take us on a photo journey to Yellowstone National Park through a backpacking trip he did with four friends. From the top of Electric Peak at 11,000 feet to the geothermal features of Yellowstone and plenty of wildlife to boot, you are sure to enjoy his wonderful photography.



On November 16 as Sandra Neily presents: "Making the Case - New and 'Novel' Ways to Elevate and Empower Conservation." The award-winning author of "Deadly Trespass" will share how we can find new strategies to reach decision makers. She will share powerful economic data and strategic ways to insert it into public discussion.



Staying with the topic of conservation, join us on **December 7** for "Land Conservation in Maine, Local and Statewide, and How It Gets Funded." We've invited the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust, The Nature Conservancy and Maine Coast Heritage Trust to join us and share how they do their work and how it gets funded. We'll be sure to throw in plenty of photos to entice you to visit some of these conserved lands and include tips on finding that perfect spot you might want to discover.



A slightly different twist on conservation for our **January 18** presentation: Connecting Rivers, People and Fish by Bike. Alicia Heyburn will share her story of bicycling alone along the route of the Rhine River from its source to the sea. Her passion for fish passage was perfect to combine with a bike tour on this journey. The logo on her shirt says it all: SHOW ME YOUR RIVER (with a fish on a bike!).

February 15 will take us to the AT as Jeffrey Ryan shares stories and photos from his book, "Appalachian Odyssey A 28-year hike on America's Trail." Watch for more details in our winter newsletter.

Do you have an interesting trip to share, outdoor experience or story to tell? Do you have a topic you would like us to cover? Interested in helping to keep these presentations going? We need help and would love to hear from you. Hope to see at our meetings. Contact Michelle Moody at meamc@micstan.us or 207-406-5221.



Discovering Colorado. See page 8 for more. Credit: Denise Fredette.



Volunteers building privy for island campsite. See page 8 for more. Credit: Roger David.



An in-ground rock-lined fire pit is always the focus of island evening "entertainment." See page 8 for more. Credit: Roger David.

Discovering Colorado *By Denise Fredette*

I love the anticipation of vacations and long-held hiking plans. Ten months ago, I set my sights on Colorado. My fiancé Matt's brother Donald is stationed at the Army base at Fort Carson near Colorado Springs, and of course, those mountains were calling my name. So, this would be a chance for a family visit as well as some hiking and exploration. Tickets were bought, maps acquired, and plans made. We arrived in Colorado Springs for the last week in August 2017.

We took the first few days getting acclimated to the higher elevation, hiking around canyons and jagged red rock outcroppings, and "smaller" mountains just under 12,000 ft. It was so easy to find places to hike. The many "Open Public Spaces" allowed for countless hiking and trail running options. It's no wonder this state has a reputation as "outdoorsy." After several days, we felt ready to tackle a mountain that was the inspiration for the song "America the Beautiful" our first 14,000-footer, Pike's Peak.

There are several trails up to Pike's Peak. The most popular one, Barr Trail, is 20 miles roundtrip. However, we decided The Crags and Devil's Playground trails to be the better option at 13 miles roundtrip. We set the alarm for 3:30 am, telling ourselves that Maine time is two hours later. Afternoon thunderstorms are very common in Colorado, so we wanted to be off of the mountain before that could happen. Accompanied by Matt and Donald, we drove an hour to the Continental Divide and started our hike in darkness at 5:20 am. There were already several cars in the parking lot.

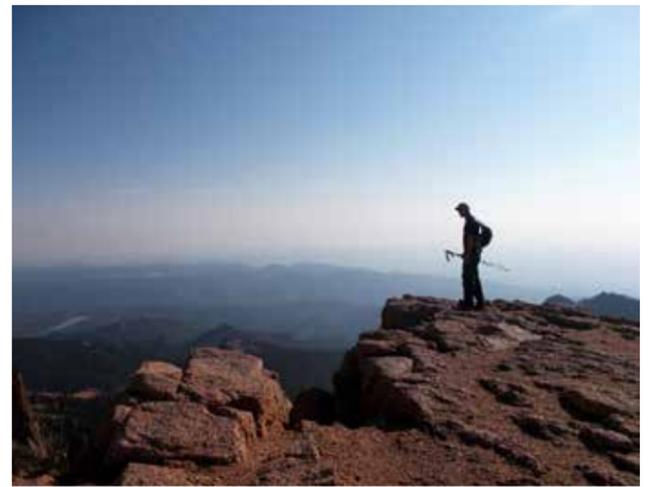
The first hour we hiked with our headlamps on. We walked with careful steps over roots and rocks. It was about 20 degrees colder here than when we left the hotel. It started out as a gradual climb, and I savored the switchbacks. When we arrived at treeline, the route became steeper and the air thinner. We took our time, stopping for breaks as needed. We could see what appeared to be a herd of mountain goats off-trail, up near the ridgeline, grazing in the dawning sun.



Once we reached the ridgeline, the views were breathtaking and immense. We could see our path before us and back to how far we had come. The remainder of the trail would be open, with views in every direction. We soon arrived at the Devil's Playground, a section of trail so named because of the way lightning jumps from rock to rock during a thunderstorm. This is not a place you want to be during inclement weather.

We continued on, the trail continued up, coming close to the auto road at times before turning away for the final push up this

mountain. The trip reports I read did not quite prepare us for this last mile of steep boulder hopping. In the lead, I was thankful for all of the hiking experience the White Mountains and Maine mountains gave me as my legs felt strong and steady going up. The harder part was breathing in the thinner air, especially as I was getting over some sinus issues.



Finally, we could see the first summit building. I was elated, and wanted to run and tag the summit. However, the peak was a little busy as this was a popular mountain with an auto road and a tourist destination with a gift shop and restaurant, and train. People on the summit seemed awed that we had hiked all the way up, asking us how long it took and if we would be taking the train down. I laughed a little at this. It was like my visits to Mt. Washington, but that was okay. I had just "bagged" my first 14-er at 14,110 ft.

Still aware of the time and some approaching dark gray clouds, we ate lunch and headed down. From a higher perspective, we could see the trail even more clearly before us. As we reached the last steeper section before we reached treeline, we could hear the rumble of thunder. We picked up the pace and reached the relative safety of the trees in good time. We continued on, paying attention to everything around us that we couldn't see when it was dark. We reached the parking lot at 3 pm. Less than five minutes later, the sky lit up with jagged lightning streaks and rain started to pour, followed by hail. The ground was soon covered in white and the hail continued as we drove out on a narrow dirt road with a steep drop-off on one side. We were happy that we made it to the summit and that we made it back to the car without getting caught in this wicked weather. When we made it back to Colorado Springs, we were surprised to find that it had never even rained here, just an hour away.

The mountains, trails, endless views, and friendly people of Colorado made this trip a memorable one. The rewarding feeling of summiting Pike's Peak will stay with me. There is so much more of this state worth exploring, that I am looking forward to returning and hiking many more of these high peaks.

Maine Chapter Volunteers Build Island Campsite *By John Mullens*

Six Maine Chapter volunteers paddled to an AMC-owned island on a recent summer Monday and alighted on a nearly untouched island full of potential. Four days later, they departed; leaving behind a backwoods campsite nestled into the island topography. A privy, picnic table, fire pit, and four tent pads made the site welcoming and useful, but were invisible from the shoreline or from any passing canoes. The island, a 45-minute paddle from AMC's Gorman Chairback Lodge, up Long Pond and through two sets of narrows, will serve as an island camp for individualized AMC naturalist programs originating from the lodge.

Gorman Chairback, along with the two other AMC Maine Wilderness Lodges, offers naturalist programs that are gaining popularity with lodge visitors. AMC wants to expand the scope of those programs by offering multi-day overnight naturalist programs that combine natural history topics including plants, trees, animals, and pond life with opportunities for guests to sleep in tents in the Maine woods. Programs might start with orientation and an overnight stay at a lodge-before paddling to the island for a day or two exploring nature there and in the water. Trips could be tailored to client interests and include plenty of downtime for water play, canoe day trips, exploring the local lakes, and relaxed camp life. AMC-certified guides might also teach camping skills and cook gourmet-inspired meals for their clients. But to make those dreams possible, the naturalists first needed an island base camp.

That's where the Maine Chapter volunteers came in. Jared Coyne, AMC's MWI Trails Supervisor, reached out to the chapter for help in creating the island camp. Six vols responded. Most had done similar AMC campsite building in previous summers. In fact, this was the seventh year Maine Chapter vols have worked to expand recreation possibilities in the MWI, usually building remote water-access campsites within paddling distance of the three Maine Wilderness Lodges.

This time they had their work cut out for them. The landing site was covered in alders and fallen trees, impassable except for the most intrepid. Potential sites for tents, table, and fire pit were similarly covered in long-dead trees resembling a life-size version of pick-up sticks. The privy location was but a fluorescent-flagged single stick placed by the Maine state soils engineer during an earlier scouting visit. Nothing looked easy.



Brand new "facilities" for the new island campsite. Credit: Peter Roderick.

Luckily, that is exactly the challenge on which these volunteers thrive. Building on their past experience, using tools of the trade appropriate for the task, and working long days, the crew reveled in their visible and tangible progress. Favored with good weather, excellent cooking, and camaraderie, the team left four days later having created a unified island layout to support MWI naturalists and their clients learning about and experiencing nature. The AMC Wilderness Lodge naturalists now have a dedicated island base camp.

Maine Chapter volunteers are already looking forward to next summer to see how we can help AMC further expand their camping and outdoor alternatives in the Maine woods. We're always looking for additional volunteers for next year, so if you'd like more information on how to be part of this satisfying work contact MWI Committee Chair Paul Hahn at mwi@amcmaine.org.