

# Wilderness Matters

## Maine Chapter, Appalachian Mountain Club

Volume XXXIV ◆ Number 3 ◆ Summer 2009

## Take steps to protect Land for Maine's Future

By Carrie Walia

You've probably heard about the Land for Maine's Future Program (LMF) if you have read regional newspapers during election time or stopped to admire an informational display posted at an outdoor preserve. But did you know that the program's fate is in your hands?

LMF was developed in 1987 when citizens urged the state's leaders into action to help protect treasured natural areas for future generations to enjoy. A \$35 million bond package passed as a result, the biggest bond to-date. Since then another \$82 million has been bonded to help purchase and preserve critically important lands and conservation easements that amount to an astounding 490,000 acres.

The lands that have been protected, in-part because of the LMF program, are so diverse in location and natural qualities that every resident benefits no matter where one lives, works or recreates. Forests sequester carbon, shelter wildlife, and continue the tradition of Maine's forest-based industry. Farms produce dairy, meat, vegetables and flowers that reach our local markets and children's mouths. Snowmobile trail networks are linked to allow for winter-time tourism and recreation across county lines. Shorefront on lakes, rivers and the coast guarantee access for boating, fishing and clamming industries and protect habitat for sensitive species. And our beloved mountain ranges are kept free of development so explorers can hit the trails and get their feet wet while navigating treacherous stream crossings.

But the current reality may or may not allow for this program to continue. LMF expended its last dollar in July of 2008. Recently Senator Bill Diamond (D-Cumberland) proposed a bill that would allocate \$87.5 million to the program over four years. Soon after other legislators proposed similar bills with less funding. Currently the Legislature is working on developing a bond package for the Governor's approval. Many organizations and citizens have contacted their legislators asking them to support an LMF bond this year in hopes that the program will not grind to a halt. If a bill passes, voters will be asked to cast their vote in either November of 2009 or June of 2010. But there is more work to be done to ensure that we get there.

You might be wondering what you can do to

help see the bond through to a vote. First, you can contact your legislator (go to <http://www.maine.gov/legis/house/townlist.htm> to find him/her) to simply tell them why conserving Maine lands is important, how it has improved your life in one way or another, and that they should support a significant Land for Maine's Future bond this year. This may sound scary or time consuming, but it only takes five minutes and you will feel proud that you took the time to voice your opinion to help share our future.

While LMF has been a real success story, it is not the program alone that should get all the credit. It is the average person that cares about the character and heritage of our state who is the true hero.

To learn more about Land for Maine's Future visit the Maine State Planning Office at <http://www.maine.gov/spo/lmf/index.htm>. If you have

### Save the Date!

October 2 – 4, 2009

Appalachian Mountain Club – Maine Chapter

Annual Meeting

Camp Kawanhee, Weld

Home of Tumbledown Mountain

This is the one time every year when chapter members gather to recreate, share skills, vote in new chapter leaders and eat good food.

questions about how to contact your legislator, please contact AMC's Maine Policy Manager, Bryan Wentzell, at 207-725-2248 or [bwentzell@outdoors.org](mailto:bwentzell@outdoors.org).



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# Tackling the AMC Lodge-to-Lodge Ski Adventure

By Carey Kish

**A**UTHOR'S NOTE: Winter may be over, but given that Maine summers can seem awfully short and the snow will fly again all too soon, it never hurts to plan ahead. The Maine lodge-to-lodge ski trip through the AMC K-I Property is one of those unique adventures that should be a must for your "to-do" list. Read on and enjoy, then start planning!

Out on the frozen expanse of Second West Branch Pond it is frosty cold but the night air is still. The high peaks of the White Cap Range rise in silhouette above the northern shore. Overhead, in this naturally dark pocket of the Maine woods, a billion stars turn the black sky almost white, and I nod with delight and wonder.

On shore a string of log cabins peek out from the trees, all dark except for one, which we inhabit on this magic night. A small window glows orange with lantern light and smoke rises straight up from the chimney. Chilled now, I crunch back across the snow, push through the creaky door and rejoin my companion. Another log for the woodstove and we retire into the downy wombs of our sleeping bags.

West Branch Pond Camps is the second stop on the "lodge to lodge" ski traverse, a winter adventure developed several years ago by the AMC. The 25-mile trek takes four days and three nights to complete, and draws skiers deep into Maine's famed 100-Mile Wilderness. The trip is popular with skiers of varying experience levels who enjoy getting out

into the backcountry.

"No where else in the eastern U.S. can you ski between traditional sporting camps, enjoy a warm log cabin and have meals prepared for you," said Rob Burbank, AMC public affairs director. "It's a unique recreational opportunity."

People appreciate the wild and remote feel of the trip by day, notes Burbank. And each night is enjoyed at a different place, a real Maine lodge with "a distinct feel to it, a unique location, history, architecture and people which makes for a very special experience."

The trip begins in Greenville at Northwoods Outfitters, who help shuttle your vehicle to the trip's end point and then deliver you to the trailhead at the Medawisla Wilderness Lodge.

The lodge, acquired by the AMC in 2006, lies on the Roach River at the outlet of Second Roach Pond. It's literally the end of the road in winter, and it feels so. But caretakers John Mesich and Amy Ouellette not only get you quickly oriented for your night's stay, but for the grand adventure that lies ahead. You feel at home in no time.

There are miles of ski trails around Medawisla, and we spent the afternoon touring about and working up a healthy appetite. Good thing too, because at dinnertime we sat down to a huge family-style dinner of salad, pork roast and potatoes, and homemade pecan pie!

"Just like our guests, we love the location here, being the only ones on the pond," Ouellette said over

post-dinner coffee. "It's lovely to wake up here every day."

Indeed, it must be, especially when morning brings a large stack of Amy's blueberry pancakes. After breakfast we pack lunches, and then load our gear duffels onto a sled, to be towed ahead by snowmobile to the next camp. This leaves us free to ski each day carrying only a light pack of clothing and necessities.

The day's ski follows a packed trail, contouring above the pond before climbing a shoulder of Shaw Mountain. Snow squalls obscure the hoped-for views of Katahdin, but we enjoy White Cap on the descent into the next watershed and WBPC.

The temperature gauge registers -37F when we step outside the next morning. At the main lodge camp owner Eric Stirling has the woodstove cranking, sausage frying and coffee brewing. The unusually frigid cold dominates the conversation.

"The option to travel by day in winter conditions but then have the comforts of heat and cooking at night is what draws people to this trip," Stirling said, noting that the popularity of the ski traverse continues to increase. "It's civilized, but without the civilization."

Despite the cold it was a bright, sunny day and we are well-prepared and warm for the final leg of the journey to Little Lyford Ponds. The route follows the old Pleasant River Trail for much of the day, offering spectacular views of sprawling and trailless Baker Mountain before entering the dark, mature forests beside the river.

Little Lyford Pond Camps, a focal point of the 37,000-acre AMC Katahdin Iron Works Property, exudes comfort and is a perfect spot to finish up (yes, there's a 7-mile ski out the next day, but first things first). The sauna and hot showers are an irresistible and soothing treat, and with dinner and several celebratory glasses of wine, bedtime in a toasty warm log cabin came mighty early.

To plan your own amazing lodge to lodge ski adventure, and for more information on the AMC Maine Woods Initiative, go to [www.outdoors.org](http://www.outdoors.org) online or call 603-466-2727.

A version of this article appeared in the *Portland Press Herald* Outdoors in February 2009.

*Carey Kish is a freelance writer and Maine AMC member from Bowdoin. Contact: [MaineOutdoors@aol.com](mailto:MaineOutdoors@aol.com).*



Fran Leyman skies towards Baker Mountain. Photo by Jeff Aceto.

# Many summer trips in Maine and NH offered

## EDUCATION

### Mon., Jun. 8. Introduction to backpacking Summer Series

Workshop, South Portland Library, Maine, Southern and Mid-Coast, ME. Introduction to backpacking see Maine chapter web site. L Wayne Newton (207-897-3072, [hikerfig@myfairpoint.net](mailto:hikerfig@myfairpoint.net)), CL Lewis Dow (207-890-8512 Before 9pm, [lwsdow@yahoo.com](mailto:lwsdow@yahoo.com))

## OUTINGS

### Wed., Jun. 3. Presumpscot River Preserve Refresher

(Beginner Hike Series), Portland. Get inspired to enjoy the trails this summer. 2.5 miles. Easy evening hike at river's edge. L Jeanne Christie (207-310-8708 before 9 p.m., [jeanne.christie@aswm.org](mailto:jeanne.christie@aswm.org)), L Joleen Rice (207-892-2685 before 9 p.m., [jrice@verrilldana.com](mailto:jrice@verrilldana.com))

### Sat., Jun. 6. Dorr Mountain Discovery (Beginner Hiking Series), Acadia. Easy-moderate hike to the summit of Dorr mountain. 1500 feet elevation gain. Rocky footing. Approximately 5 miles. L Jeanne Christie (207-310-8708 before 9 p.m., [jeanne.christie@aswm.org](mailto:jeanne.christie@aswm.org)), L Lawrence DeHof (207-310-8952 before 9 p.m., [jrice@verrilldana.com](mailto:jrice@verrilldana.com))

### Sat., Jun. 6. Lowe's Bald Spot - Maine Chapter Summer Hiking Series, White Mountains. Great views and sub-alpine flowers are just two of the rewards for completing this 4.4 mile hike. L JoAnne Diller (207-647-2117 Before 9PM)

**Sat., Jun. 6. Mt. Hale dog hike,** White Mountains. Calling all dogs (and their well-behaved 2-legged friends)! This will be an eight-mile loop up and over Mt. Hale (4054'). Plenty of small stream crossings for the dogs to play in and cool off. L: Chris Martin ([chrismtn@megalink.net](mailto:chrismtn@megalink.net), 890-6111.

**Sun., Jun. 7. The Flume via the Wilderness/Osseos Trails** (Young Member Hike), White Mountains. Join Maine and Worcester young members for the Flume, the "easy" way up (ha, ha), via an 11.2 mile 3168' elevation gain trek up Wilderness/Osseos Trails. Potential to camp out at Hancock Campground Sat. night. L: Kim Sanders ([kasanders3@hotmail.com](mailto:kasanders3@hotmail.com)). L: Tim Smith ([fitzwoodle@yahoo.com](mailto:fitzwoodle@yahoo.com)).

**Sat., Jun. 13. Alpine Garden Hike** Summer Series, White Mountains. Experience the Alpine Garden. We'll drive to Cow Pasture and hike down to the Alpine Garden. L Peg Nation (207-583-2720 Before 9PM, [mjnation11@earthlink.net](mailto:mjnation11@earthlink.net)), CL Alix Pratt (207-233-9249 Before 9:00 PM, [alixandbob@earthlink.net](mailto:alixandbob@earthlink.net)), R Peg Nation (11 Whiting Ave, Waterford, ME 04088, 207-583-2720 Before 9PM, [mjnation11@earthlink.net](mailto:mjnation11@earthlink.net))

**Wed., Jun. 17. Lowell Preserve Roundabout** (Beginner Hiking Series), Windham. Easy evening hike. Two-three miles rolling terrain. Review hiking skills. Get

ready for summer! L Jeanne Christie (207-310-8708 before 9 p.m., [jeanne.christie@aswm.org](mailto:jeanne.christie@aswm.org)), L Joleen Rice (207-892-2685 before 9 p.m., [jrice@verrilldana.com](mailto:jrice@verrilldana.com)).

**Sat., Jun. 20-21. Beginner Backpack Summer Series Hike,** White Mountains, NH. Beginner backpack see Maine chapter web site for more info. L Wayne Newton (207-897-3072, [hikerfig@myfairpoint.net](mailto:hikerfig@myfairpoint.net)), CL Lewis Dow (890-8512, [lwsdow@yahoo.com](mailto:lwsdow@yahoo.com)).

**Sat., Jun. 20. Maine Chapter Beginner Hike - Pleasant Mountain.** Climb Bald Peak Trail to summit and descend via MacKay Pasture Trail. L Jane Gibbons (207-647-3987 Before 9PM, [patnjane@wildblue.net](mailto:patnjane@wildblue.net)).

**Wed., Jun. 24. Young Members Social,** Fort Williams Park, Cape Elizabeth. Please join us for the young member (20-30's) summer social kick off at 5:30 p.m. to learn about upcoming trips and meet other young members in Maine. We will provide the main dish, and you provide your own beverage and something to share. There are trails and forts to explore, a playground with a field, rock beach, and easy ocean access; so bring your toys and sense of adventure. Supervised children welcome. An email RSVP is appreciated. L: Kimberly Sanders

**Continued on page 4**



*View from Mount Carrigain*

# Summer outings available from the Bold Coast to Bald Mountain

## Continued from page 3

(kasanders3@hotmail.com). L: Carrie Walia (carrie.amcme@yahoo.com).

**Sat., Jun. 27. Blueberry Mtn, Evans Notch Summer Series.** 3.1 mi. loop w/views. See Web descr. Families w/ children 6 & up welcome. Appropriate footwear req'd. Rain date 6/28/09. L Joleen Rice (207-892-2685 6:00 - 9:00 pm, [jrice@verrilldana.com](mailto:jrice@verrilldana.com)), L Mike D'Orio (207-892-2685 6:00 - 9:00 pm

**Thurs., Jul. 9. Maine Chapter Executive Committee Meeting.** The Executive Committee of the Maine Chapter meets every odd month (Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov) on the second Thursday. Come voice your opinion on the direction of the Maine Chapter on important conservation topics, outdoor outing activities, and more. Meetings are open to all Maine Chapter members. The meetings are held in the upstairs meeting room of the Freeport McDonald's from 6:30PM to 8:30PM. L Laura Flight (207-215-5306 before 9M, [flyroflight@systemfolder.com](mailto:flyroflight@systemfolder.com)).

**Sat., Jul. 11. Leadership Training, White Mountains, NH.** Hiking workshop for active participants, prospective, new and experienced leaders. An inter-active experimental learning hike to learn to manage your group, covers the nuts and bolts of running a trip in the field to keep the group safe and content. Will start at the Appalachia parking lot rte. 2 NH. See web page: <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/>. L Peter Broderick (207-778-0801, [coolbrog@gwi.net](mailto:coolbrog@gwi.net)), L Wayne Newton (207-897-3072)(207-562-7771).

Sat., Jul. 11. Mt. Abraham, Kingfield. This trip will summit Mt. Abraham via the AT northbound to the Mt. Abraham Side Trail. This unique route includes 7.8 miles roundtrip with approximately 2,000 vertical feet

at a relaxed pace without difficult terrain. Hikers will be able to experience distinctive alpine settings on the way to the remnants of the fire tower at its 4,050 ft. open summit. Your reward will be spectacular views of Saddleback, Crockers, and Sugarloaf from an uncommon direction. L: Jeff Aceto ([acetojt@suscom-maine.net](mailto:acetojt@suscom-maine.net), 650-5674). L: George Brown ([gwbrown@tds.net](mailto:gwbrown@tds.net), 585-2259).

**Sat., Jul. 18. Downeast Bold Coast Hike** (Beginner Hiking Series), Cutler. 9.8 miles. Open to all hikers. Rolling single track trail with moderate difficulty. Loop trail. L Jeanne Christie (207-310-8708 before 9 p.m., [jeanne.christie@aswm.org](mailto:jeanne.christie@aswm.org)), L Lawrence De Hof (207-310-8952 before 9 p.m., [jrice@verrilldana.com](mailto:jrice@verrilldana.com)).

**Sat., Jul. 25. Mount Carrigain** - Summer Series Hike, White Mountains. (4680'). 10 mi. at Moderate pace, with magnificent views from Signal Ridge and summit observation tower. L Debby Kantor (207-854-3431 8-9pm, [dlkantor@aol.com](mailto:dlkantor@aol.com)), CL Tom Pettingill (207-781-2219).

## TRAILS

**Sat., Jun. 6. Trail Work - Stone Mountain - Brownfield.** National Trails Day - New side trail construction in conjunction with new loop trail on nearby Burnt Meadow Mountain. L Keith Chapman (207-799-5212 Before 9PM, [pproctor@maine.rr.com](mailto:pproctor@maine.rr.com)).

**Sat., Jun. 6. Trail Maintenance Workshop - AT near Stratton Maine.** Introduction to trail maintenance will include safety, tool use and trail work on AT near Stratton. L Peter Roderick (207-293-2704 Before 9PM, [roderick1027@fairpoint.net](mailto:roderick1027@fairpoint.net)), L George Brown (207-585-2259 Before 9PM, [gwbrown@tds.net](mailto:gwbrown@tds.net)).

**Sat., Jun. 20. Trail Work - Bald & Speckled Mountains - Sumner/Peru.** Join us for continued work on a relocation of the trail between these two small but

spectacular mountains. L Peter Roderick (207-293-2704 Before 9PM, [roderick1027@fairpoint.net](mailto:roderick1027@fairpoint.net)), L Keith Chapman (207-799-5212 Before 9PM, [pproctor@maine.rr.com](mailto:pproctor@maine.rr.com)).

**Thu., Jul. 2-5. Trail Work Weekend at Little Lyford Pond Camp.** Mid-summer in the northern Maine woods is a great time to be volunteering with our Maine Chapter led trail crew. We will be bunking at Little Lyford Pond Camps, working on nearby trails and enjoying the many recreational opportunities nearby. One of only three volunteer trips that we offer each year to this wonderful camp. Join us please. L Peter Roderick (207-293-2704 Before 9PM, [roderick1027@fairpoint.net](mailto:roderick1027@fairpoint.net)).

**Sat., Jul. 18. Trail Work - AT near Stratton.** Work trip to the AMC Maine Chapter section of the AT. Work will include repair of log and earth steps. L Peter Roderick (207-293-2704 Before 9PM, [roderick1027@fairpoint.net](mailto:roderick1027@fairpoint.net)).

**Sat. Jul. 18. Trail Work, Cutler Mountain,** Hiram. Trail work on this newly conserved mountain. L Keith Chapman (207-799-5212 Before 9PM, [pproctor@maine.rr.com](mailto:pproctor@maine.rr.com)).

## Monday June 8, 2009: Introduction to Backpacking Workshop

Kick off the summer backpacking season by joining the AMC Maine Chapter on Monday, June 8, 2009 for an Introduction to Backpacking workshop. Here's an opportunity to learn what you need for safe overnight travel for one night to six months on the trail including gear, clothing, food, water purification, trip planning, and a variety of other outdoor hints. This workshop is designed for both beginner and experienced hikers who are either ready to move into overnights on the trail or looking for new ideas. This event will start at 6:30 pm, at the South Portland Library in South Portland. For more information, contact Wayne Newton, [hikerfig@myfairpoint.net](mailto:hikerfig@myfairpoint.net), 207-897-3072, or Lew Dow, [lwsow@yahoo.com](mailto:lwsow@yahoo.com), 207-890-8512. This event is free and open to the public.

## Trail Maintenance

Join Peter Roderick and George Brown for an introduction to trail maintenance workshop which will include safety considerations, tool selection and use as well as on the trail training on the Appalachian Trail near Stratton Maine. This is a National Trails Day event. Join volunteers from throughout the nation in support of the trails we use and enjoy and in support of the AMC Maine Chapter and the Maine Appalachian Trail Club.

Please contact Peter Roderick, [roderick1027@fairpoint.net](mailto:roderick1027@fairpoint.net) for additional information or to register for this workshop.



Trail worker



# Mountain Leadership School 2009



## Tradition for 51 years

Mountain Leadership School (MLS) is a five-day wilderness leadership training program designed to help leaders learn and practice new skills for managing groups with minimal impact in the backcountry. Participants will discover and develop their own leadership style as well as learn new skills and ideas such as:

**Trip Planning, Accident Scene Management, Personal Leadership Styles, Managing Groups Dynamics, Map and Compass, Time Management, Team Work, Safe Camping Skills, Personal Care and Leave No Trace.**

MLS groups, staffed by experienced volunteers, provide participants with experiential learning opportunities while backpacking in the White Mountain National Forest. These experiences develop an individual's leadership skills through hands on learning. Instructors, many have volunteered annually for over ten years, enjoy sharing their knowledge and experiences. Instructors keep group safety as a top priority.

MLS offers a rigorous opportunity to learn about and practice wilderness leadership, so participants must be in good physical condition. The program includes a day of instruction at the Highland Center facility, then a four-day backpacking adventure.

Intensive participation and interaction with the group are expected of every student. Participants will take turns leading their group through the mountains in a series of adventures and scenarios designed to develop and test leadership skills. In the process, many students have developed life-long friendships.



## Wilderness First Aid Option

Outdoor leadership is an inherently risky situation; current first aid certification is an important tool for outdoor leaders to maintain.

MLS strongly suggests outdoor leaders consider a Wilderness First Aid certification.

An optional SOLO Wilderness First Aid course is offered the 2 days prior to each MLS program.



## 2009 MLS Dates

All courses are run out of the  
AMC Highland Center in Crawford Notch, New Hampshire

June 17-21, 2009  
June 15-21, 2009 (including Wilderness First Aid)

August 12-16, 2009  
August 10-16, 2009 (including Wilderness First Aid)

For more information on Mountain Leadership School Program visit  
[www.outdoors.org/education/leadership](http://www.outdoors.org/education/leadership)

# UNITIL agreement makes Eastern Trail history

May will be recorded as an historic landmark for the Eastern Trail. Unitil Sr. Vice President George Gantz, before addressing ETA's annual meeting, delivered a co-location agreement allowing the 6.2 miles of the Eastern Trail to be built on its pipeline corridor. The agreement allows the Eastern Trail to be built from Southern Maine Medical Center in Biddeford to Rt. 35 in West Kennebunk.

Timing was extremely critical. In March this ET project was awarded \$1.1 million of the Obama administration's economic stimulus package to fully fund construction. But, that meant the schedule for design and all permits including an agreement with Unitil needed to be greatly accelerated. We risk losing the economic stimulus funds if we do not go to bid by June 1, two weeks from now. That cliff hanger is looking real good thanks to UNITIL, municipal, state and federal reviews and the accelerated design schedule at HNTB.

On December 1 last year Unitil became

the owner of Granite State Gas Transmission (GSGT) that owns and operates the high-pressure gas pipeline in the old RR corridor. ET supporters and Unitil management needed to understand each other. Despite Unitil's new responsibilities in Maine, its management allocated time of its professional staff to understand the vision of the Eastern Trail, our successes to date, and enter into a co-location agreement.

Mr. Gantz, who agreed to speak to the annual meeting months ago, asked ET supporters and trail users to appreciate that Unitil's mission is to safely deliver natural gas to its customers. He reminded us that the corridor may look like a quite woodland setting, but that it is first of all an active industrial site tightly regulated by state and federal safety requirements. Unexpected industrial "events" happen. Although Unitil, as a good neighbor, expects to notify ET supporters of any need to close a section of the trail, there may be "events" that require

immediate closure with no opportunity to warn ETMD or users. (It has not happened so far and the ET has now been open for years on Scarborough Marsh.)

With fingers crossed, look forward to a fall opening of the first 5 miles of the 6.2-miles connecting Biddeford with Kennebunk.

## Chapter T-Shirts in New Colors!

Do you have an AMC Maine Chapter t-shirt? If not, join the hundreds of folks who do! The chapter placed an order this fall to replenish its t-shirt inventory. To spice things up a bit, we ordered a couple of new colors, but stayed with the same great design.

These made their debut at the Maine Chapter Annual Meeting at the end of September. There are now poly shirts (both long and short sleeve) available in "Forest Green" and cotton shirts (short sleeve only) available in "Serene Green."

Check out our webpage (<http://www.amcmaine.org/t-shirts/>) to see these colors for yourself! Many sizes are still available in the old colors (Sky Blue for poly, and Eggplant for cotton) as well. They would make great gifts and proceeds help support the Maine Chapter!



### MAINE LIGHTHOUSE RIDE Saturday 12 September Eastern Trail Benefit

Includes 25, 40, 62, and 100-mile loop rides.  
Marked routes with maps and cue sheets.  
Sag wagon support. Rest stops.  
Hot showers and hot food included with registration.

All rides start and end at Southern Maine Community College on sparkling Casco Bay. See up to 9 historic Maine lighthouses.

FMI or to register on-line before August 28 for discount and FREE ride T-shirt, visit [www.EasternTrail.Org](http://www.EasternTrail.Org).

After 28 August, unlimited on-site ride day registration, but NO free T-shirt. FMI call 284-9260.

MLR supports THE Eastern Trail Alliance campaign to build the 60-mile off-road greenway connecting Bug Light Park on Casco Bay with Strawberry Banke in Portsmouth, NH.



## Save the Date!

AMC Fall Gathering – October 16 - 18

Mark your calendar! The 2009 AMC Fall Gathering will be held in the beautiful Berkshires – October 16–18 – during peak foliage season! Hosted by the Berkshire Chapter, at Becket-Chimney Corners in Becket, Mass., the event will run from Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon. Hikes, bike rides, paddles, cliff/wall climbing, rope courses, workshops and presentations, Contra-dancing, campfires, socials – we'll have it all! Bring the family – the program is "kid-friendly."

See [www.amcberkshire.org/gathering](http://www.amcberkshire.org/gathering), or [amcfg2009@gmail.com](mailto:amcfg2009@gmail.com), for more information.

# **Wanted: AMC Regional Director, North Region 2010-2011**

What is a “Regional Director?” An “RD” is a liaison between the Chapter’s Executive Committee and AMC’s Board of Directors. It’s a crucial link that provides two-way communication for activities and issues. The Maine and New Hampshire Chapters share a RD. Currently John Dolloff is our RD and he will complete his final term next winter. John is a former Maine Chapter Chair and has served us well; it will be a challenge to ‘fill his shoes.’ The Maine and New Hampshire Chapters are asking for your help in finding candidates to fill this position. This is a volunteer position and requires a large commitment of time, travel, and energy. There are numerous meetings during the year, several taking place on weekends, as well as plenty of tasks between the meetings. The rewards, while not financial, include a chance to shape and direct the club and to work with a lot of great volunteers and professional staff. If you are interested or know someone that you think would do a great job, please contact Laura Flight, Maine Chapter Chair ([flyrodflight@systemfolder.com](mailto:flyrodflight@systemfolder.com) or 207-215-5306), or Paul Berry, New Hampshire Chapter Chair at 603-423-1192.

## **Chapter trips can be emailed to you!**

Do you want to keep connected with all of the Maine Chapter activities, but forget to check our calendar page ([www.amcmaine.org/calendar](http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar))? Does having Chapter activities mailed right to your inbox sound enticing? AMC released a new “Activity Digest” feature on its website, enabling members to sign up for a weekly, bi-monthly, or monthly e-mail summary of upcoming chapter activities (depending upon the volume of trips). Members can sign up through the AMC Member Center ([www.outdoors.org/membercenter](http://www.outdoors.org/membercenter)). You can also view over 1,900 chapter activities and major excursions!

There are instructions on the Member Center. If you haven’t already signed up for a user name and password, you will need your membership number. Here are three ways to find your member number:

1. Look for your member ID sticker (usually on your license or a credit card) or member card.
2. Find any issue of AMC Outdoors—on the cover, above your name, is your 5- or 6-digit member number, followed by your chapter, and your membership expiration date.
3. Call Member Services at 1-800-372-1758 Monday-Friday from 9 to 5 Eastern Time.

If you have problems, e-mail:  
[AMCinformation@outdoors.org](mailto:AMCinformation@outdoors.org).

## **Maine Chapter AMC Order Form**

### **Poly Shirts**

<u>Long Sleeve</u>	<u>Small</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Large</u>	<u>X-Large</u>	
Medium Blue	<u>not avail.</u>	<u>not avail.</u>	_____	_____	Unisex sizing
Forest Green	_____	_____	_____	_____	Unisex sizing
Light Blue	_____	_____	<u>not avail.</u>	<u>not avail.</u>	Women's sizing

Total # of shirts= \_\_\_\_\_  
X \$20= \_\_\_\_\_  
Shipping and handling (up to 3 shirts) + \$4.95= \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Short Sleeve</u>	<u>Small</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Large</u>	<u>X-Large</u>	
Medium Blue	<u>not avail.</u>	_____	_____	_____	Unisex sizing
Forest Green	_____	_____	_____	_____	Unisex sizing
Light Blue	_____	_____	_____	<u>not avail.</u>	Women's sizing

Total # of shirts= \_\_\_\_\_  
X \$17= \_\_\_\_\_  
Shipping and handling (up to 3 shirts) + \$4.95= \_\_\_\_\_

### **Cotton Shirts**

<u>Short sleeve</u>	<u>Small</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Large</u>	<u>X- Large</u>
Eggplant	_____	_____	_____	_____
Serene Green	_____	_____	_____	_____

Total # of shirts= \_\_\_\_\_  
X \$15= \_\_\_\_\_  
Shipping and handling (up to 3 shirts) + \$4.95= \_\_\_\_\_

### **Zipper Pulls**

With Maine Chapter logo

Note quantity to order

x \$4= \_\_\_\_\_  
Shipping and handling (up to 3 pulls) + \$1.00= \_\_\_\_\_

### **Contact information**

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Deborah Flight

P.O Box 268

Mount Vernon, Maine 04352

# Wilderness Matters

is the newsletter of the Maine Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of AMC, or its MAINE Chapter.

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Boston, MA 02108

Send newsletter submissions to:

Bob Cummings  
616 Main Road  
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*ellen@clinic.net*  
or, if problems:  
*drummore@gmail.com*

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**Interested in serving on one of these committees?  
Please contact us!**

**Maine Chapter Website:**

*www.amcmaine.org*

# Your Newsletter, “Wilderness Matters”

By Laura Flight

You hear it daily, and I am sure you cringe every time you hear it. So if I preface the next sentence with “Due to current economic conditions...” will you stop reading? Please don’t. However, we do need to inform you that the Maine Chapter has decided to reduce the number of issues of your favorite *Wilderness Matters* newsletter; and yes, for budgetary reasons. However this does not mean the format or content will be altered; in a way quite the contrary. In order to provide YOU our readers and YOU are contributors with the same great photos, trip summaries and AMC on-goings, we expect to provide lengthier issues, just not quite so often. For the remainder of 2009, you will receive issues in June (this one), then August, October, and likely January of 2010. We will of course change the listed trips and activities to correspond with the new time periods each newsletter spans. We hope this is reasonable and not a significant inconvenience to anyone. You can also keep up to date with our current activities at: [www.amcmaine.org/calendar](http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar). Your feedback is welcome and thank you for your understanding.

## Robert Hansen Memorial Leadership Fund offers \$150 towards cost of Mountain Leadership School

The Robert Hansen Memorial Leadership Fund grants scholarship assistance to persons interested in developing and improving their outdoor leadership skills. Each recipient will be awarded up to \$150 towards the fee for attending Mountain Leadership School. The AMC’s Education Department is pleased to have the opportunity to offer application for one of these scholarships to each AMC Chapter, Facility, and Camp. AMC volunteers and the AMC Education staff will jointly determine the recipients of this scholarship. If awarded the scholarship, the recipient will receive the \$150 as reimbursement following successful completion of Mountain Leadership School.

To apply for a scholarship, the Applicant must provide personal data and briefly answer three simple questions:

1. What do you hope to learn as a result of attending Mountain Leadership School (MLS)?
2. What programs, groups, or individuals will benefit from your participation in MLS?
3. Please describe your prior outdoor experience, both as a participant and leader.

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developing and improving their outdoor leadership skills. Each recipient will be awarded up to \$150 towards the fee for attending Mountain Leadership School. The AMC’s Education Department is pleased to have the opportunity to offer applications for one of these scholarships to each AMC Chapter, Facility, and Camp. AMC volunteers and the AMC Education Department staff will jointly determine the recipients of this scholarship.

The application is available on the Maine Chapter and AMC web sites. The application is in two sections. The first is filled out by the applicant. The second by the chapter, facility or camp that knows the applicant.

Send completed application forms to:

Mountain Leadership School  
Appalachian Mountain Club  
Highland Center at Crawford Notch  
General Delivery Route 302  
Bretton Woods, New Hampshire  
03575

Or to: *agorban@outdoors.org*.

For questions or additional applications, please contact:

Aaron Gorban, Risk Management and Leadership Training Manager, (603)278-4453 ext.2010, or *agorban@outdoors.org*.