

Maine Chapter, Appalachian Mountain Club Volume XXXVIII • Number 3 • Summer 2013

AMC Fall Gathering 2013: Discover AMC Beyond Maine

By John Mullens, Meetings & Education Chair



I went to my first Fall Gathering two years ago and I'm not sure why. The annual Fall Gathering is an AMC Club-wide active weekend that yearly rotates locations among AMC's 12 Chapters.

It's a time to do lots of hiking, paddling, bike riding, or whatever you choose in locations you've probably not had a prior opportunity to visit. That much I knew.

What I didn't know is that the Fall Gathering is also a major time of connecting with other like-minded people from places you've never heard of, while outside hiking, paddling, bike riding, or whatnot. And that can be so invigorating!

It was at my first Fall Gathering that I met Randy and Amy, AMC members from the

Mohawk Hudson Chapter in upstate New York. Among the 200 people there, we just happened to sign up for the same hike Saturday morning, then again Saturday afternoon, and then for the same Sunday morning kayak paddle. It didn't take me long to know we had some serious connections going on. The weekend seemed to be one long conversation with Randy and Amy, interspersed with active pursuits. Now, each succeeding Fall Gathering is richer than the last and I expect this October in Pennsylvania will be no exception.

This year's Fall Gathering is hosted by the Delaware Valley Chapter and I invite you to picture yourself there. Here is what the volunteer organizers say:

"Join us for AMC's Fall Gathering 2013 in the beautiful Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area October 18-20 during the peak of the fall foliage. Activities include full and half-day hikes ranging from easy to hard, paddling trips, biking available throughout

the camp roads (bikes and helmets available), or bring your own bike for a road or mountain bike ride. Horseback riding, plus canoe and boat rentals on the lake. For those over the age of 12, try the ropes course, zip line, and climbing tower. Saturday night join in the barn dancing with live music or relax around the campfire. Stay in comfortable lodges and cabins, or tent. Family lodging. All meals provided."

I'm still not sure why I went to that first Fall Gathering, but it was one of the best AMC decisions I've made. I invite you to make a similar first decision for this coming October. AMC Fall Gathering 2013 is a time to celebrate the season, expand your horizons, and make lasting friendships. And listen; email me if you decide to go, and I'll introduce you to Randy and Amy!

For more information on this year's Fall Gathering, and, later, to register, go to: www.amcfall.org.

Two Big AMC Anniversaries to Celebrate By Carey Kish, Newsletter Editor

I can hardly believe that it's been 10 years since the AMC purchased the K-I Tract in the 100-Mile Wilderness, all 37,000 outstanding acres of it, and began what we all know so well now – the Maine Woods Initiative. It all seems so natural now, an AMC presence in the heart of this huge block of forestland – the wild mountain ranges and dozens of remote lakes and ponds – threaded together by the Appalachian Trail. What a difference a decade makes!

To add to their 2003 holdings, AMC purchased the adjacent 26,500-acre the Roach Ponds Tract in 2009. This deal, part of the 363,000-acre Moosehead Region Conservation Easement, was significant all by itself, being part of one of the largest conservation projects in U.S. history. But the fact that it helped create a continuous 63-mile corridor of conservation and recreation lands from the AMCs K-I Tract to the northern boundary of Baxter State Park is simply amazing.

So there you have it, in brief – an incredible 10-year effort that has yielded



Little Lyford. Photo by Carey Kish

three revitalized backcountry lodges and cabins – Little Lyford, Gorman Chairback, and Medawisla (to re-open in 2015 or thereabouts); 80 miles of trails for cross-country skiing, hiking, and fishing; 21,000 acres of ecological reserve that protects the headwaters of the West Branch of the Pleasant River and the Roach River; a block of forest sustainably managed and harvested; and educational and outreach programs that have connected these efforts to the people of the neighboring communities.

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SAVE THE DATE!

**AMC Maine Chapter
Annual Meeting**

**SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 2, 2013**

**DiMillo's Floating Restaurant,
Portland**

5PM Social Hour, Appetizers, Cash Bar

6PM A Delicious Dinner!
(several choices available)

7PM Business Meeting

8PM Guest Speaker TBD

\$35 per person
(includes dinner, gratuity, tax and parking)

Complete details and advance registration information available soon online at www.amcmaine.org.



OUTINGS/EVENTS/ MEETINGS/EDUCATION

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 listings, contact Michelle Moody, Outings Chair, outings@amcmaine.org or (207) 319-7355.

Note: Please be courteous when contacting trip leaders by doing so before 9:00 PM unless otherwise specified, please and thanks.

Next Deadline, Wilderness Matters, Fall Issue: Sept. 1, 2013.

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. Thank you!

MEETINGS

Thursday, September 12: Executive Committee Meeting,

Freeport. Maine Chapter Ex Com meets every odd month (January, March, May, July, September, and November) on the second Thursday. Important conservation topics, outdoor and educational activities, finances, and other items are discussed. Open to all. Meetings held in upstairs meeting room of Freeport McDonald's from 6:30-8:30 pm. Leader: Larry Dyer, chair@amcmaine.org.

Saturday, November 2: Maine Chapter Annual Meeting, DiMillo's Restaurant, Portland. Join us at DiMillo's Floating Restaurant, 25 Long Wharf in Portland for our Annual Business Meeting. More details TBA. Leader: Larry Dyer, (207) 655-9097, chair@amcmaine.org; CL: Roger David, (207) 737-9870, vice@amcmaine.org.

HIKING

Wednesday, July 10: Mt. Chocorua hike, Kancamagus Hwy, White Mountains. Hike Champney Falls Trail, 2500' elevation gain, 7+ miles RT, great views, big mountain feel! Steep terrain at moderate pace, full day outing, lunch on summit. Contact registrar/co-leader to sign up. Trip Difficulty: moderate/difficult. Leader: Michelle Moody, (207) 319-7355, meamc@micstan.us. Registrar: Carla Dow, (207) 439-9369 (best time to call: 8PM to 10PM), treetopschool@comcast.net.

Saturday, July 13: Mt. Eisenhower via Edmands Path, White Mountains. Hike Edmands Path to summit of Eisenhower (4780') for one of the best views in the Presidentials. 6.6 mi. RT, 2750' elevation gain. Moderate pace. Rain date: July 14. Trip Difficulty: Moderate. Leader: Ray Cooper, (207) 929-2726, rcooper207@roadrunner.com.

Friday, July 19: Mt Carrigain, New Hampshire. Hike Mt. Carrigain (4700') via Signal Ridge Trail. 10 miles, 3250' elevation gain, magnificent 360 view, steep terrain, moderate pace, great workout! Trip Difficulty: moderate to strenuous. Leader: Wayne Newton, (207) 897-3072, hikerfig@myfairpoint.net.

Saturday, July 20: Bold Coast – Downeast Maine, Cutler, ME. Explore the beautiful Bold Coast, the hike that "bankrupts the English language." We'll hike the Fairy Head Loop linking the Coastal and Inland trails. 9.2 miles RT, w/ 4 of those miles along the oceanfront. Unique hiking experience includes soaking up the sunshine and sea spray, cliff top walking, rock hopping, bird watching, and possibly spotting a seal, porpoise, or whale. An experienced, self-sufficient hiker who can hike for 5 to 6 hours at a moderate pace with minimal vertical change would be comfortable on this hike. Trip Difficulty: Moderate. Leader: Jeff Aceto, (207) 650-5674, acetojt@gmail.com.

Tuesday, July 23: Moonlight Walk, Scarborough, ME. 4 mile walk on Eastern Trail to watch full moon rise over Scarborough Marsh. Trip Difficulty: easy. Leader: Lorraine Hussey, (207) 619-9444, RNLhussey@maine.rr.com.

Saturday, July 27: Baldface Circle Trail Hike, Evans Notch, NH. Join Larry De Hof and Jeanne Christie for second attempt at one of the most attractive hikes in the White Mtns. Plan to hike complete loop of 9.8 miles. Hike offers unobstructed views along ledges at 3600'. Trip Difficulty: Moderate. Leader: Larry DeHof, (207) 310-8952 (after 7 pm & before 9 pm), ldehof@access4less.net.

Saturday, July 27: Hike Kearsage North, North Conway, NH. Kearsage North (3268'). 6.2 mile hike via North Trail. Elevation gain 2688'. Great views from summit. Trip Difficulty: Moderate. Leader: Lorraine Hussey, (207) 619-9444, RNLhussey@maine.rr.com.

Wednesday, August 21: Moonlight Walk Prouts Neck, Scarborough, ME. 5 mile walk along Prouts Neck shoreline (where Winslow Homer painted) to watch full moon rise over ocean. Trip Difficulty: easy. Leader: Lorraine Hussey, (207) 619-9444, RNLhussey@maine.rr.com.

Saturday, August 17: Hike Rumford Whitecap, Rumford, ME. 4 mile hike to open summit (2200') with great blueberry picking and great views. Trip Difficulty: moderate. Leader: Lorraine Hussey, (207) 619-9444, RNLhussey@maine.rr.com.

Wilderness Matters

is the newsletter of the Maine Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club.

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YOUNG MEMBERS

Friday, July 12—Sunday, July 14: Inter Chapter Young Members

Rangeley Lake State Park Camping Weekend. Summer fun and camping at Rangeley Lake State Park! Maine Chapter Young Members group is hosting this Inter-Chapter camping weekend. Meet members from a variety of different Chapters. Contact me with any questions! Leader: Sarah Keats, (207) 756-4226, slkski@gmail.com.

Saturday, July 13: Saddleback and the Horn. Hike two spectacular Maine peaks over 4,000 feet, both with bare summits and beautiful views! We'll be taking the Appalachian Trail. Hike is 14.6 miles RT, elevation gain of 3800 feet. Trip offered as part of the Inter Chapter YM Rangeley Lake State Park camping weekend. Camp one or two nights or just come up for the day. Trip Difficulty: Strenuous. Leader: Sarah Keats, (207) 756-4226, slkski@gmail.com.

Friday, August 30 - Monday, September 2: Young Members Weekend at Gorman Chairback Lodge, Greenville area. Have you always wanted to check out the Maine Wilderness Lodges? This is your chance at a reduced rate! We'll be taking over the bunkhouse; space is limited so book now. Trip Difficulty: Easy. Leader: Sarah Keats, (207) 756-4226, slkski@gmail.com.

Saturday, August 31: Gulf Hagas - the "Grand Canyon of Maine," Greenville area. Gulf Hagas is a series of beautiful waterfalls in a 400-foot-deep gorge. We'll be hiking to view the waterfalls and enjoy the water, with numerous swimming holes and chutes. 8-11 mile round trip hike along the rim of the gorge. Trip Difficulty: Moderate. Leader: Sarah Keats, (207) 756-4226, slkski@gmail.com.

PADDLING

Saturday, July 20: New Meadows River, Brunswick, ME. From Sawyer Park boat launch, we'll paddle out with the tide, have lunch on an island, and return on incoming tide. At least 4 hours on the water. Nice paddle to watch for ospreys and eagles. Paddlers needing a boat can rent at nearby Seaspray Kayaking (discount available to AMC members). If weather conditions are not good, we'll go Sunday 7/21. Trip Difficulty: moderate. Leader: Carolyn Welch, (207) 725-8178, cwelch6789@gmail.com.

Saturday, August 10: Sea Kayaking - Jewell Island. All-day 11-13 mile trek in Casco Bay to Jewell Island. Route will take wind through several islands and include magnificent views, historic sites, forts, and ocean wildlife. will likely include hour hiking tour of Jewell Island, including stops at the "Punch Bowl" tidal pool, 6-story observation tower, and secret bunker. An experienced, self-sufficient kayaker who is capable of paddling for several hours at a steady pace in ocean conditions would be comfortable on this trip. Trip is weather and tides-dependent, and may be modified for conditions by leader. Minimum 14' kayak necessary. Trip Difficulty: Moderate. Leader: Jeff Aceto, (207) 650-5674, acetojt@gmail.com.

TRAIL WORK

Monday, July 8—Thursday, July 11: Gorman Chairback Lodge and Cabins, Greenville area. Support AMC's Maine Woods Initiative conservation mission by joining us for work projects in the beautiful northern Maine woods. We'll work under the direction of Steve Tatko, land manager for the MWI, providing our labor while learning new skills and enjoying a prime season stay at Gorman Chairback. Located on Long Pond and near to the Appalachian Trail and West Branch of the Pleasant River including Gulf Hagas. Satisfying work and good times! Trip Difficulty: Moderate. Leader: Peter Roderick, (207) 293-2704, roderick1027@fairpoint.net.

Saturday, July 20: Trail Work—Hastings Hill, Brownfield-Porter, ME. Will be working on a new trail that needs side hill work and brushing. Contact Keith Chapman for time and meeting place. Trip Difficulty: Moderate. Leader: Peter Roderick, (207) 293-2704, roderick1027@fairpoint.net.

Saturday, August 17: Trail Work—Pleasant Mtn., Bridgton, ME. Joint trail work trip with Loon Echo Land Trust. Contact Keith Chapman for meeting time and place. Trip Difficulty: Moderate. Leader: Peter Roderick, (207) 293-2704, roderick1027@fairpoint.net.

Saturday, August 31: Trail Work—Bald and Speckled Mtns., Peru, ME. Trip involves walk-through, checking trail, and possible side hill work. Contact Keith Chapman for time and meeting place. Trip Difficulty: Moderate. Leader: Peter Roderick, (207) 293-2704, roderick1027@fairpoint.net.

Friday, October 11—Monday, October 14: Boundary Work, Little Lyford Lodge and Cabins, MWI Maine, Bowdoin College Grant East. Fun work weekend maintaining the 60 plus miles of boundary surrounding the Maine Wood Initiative lands. Peak foliage, no biting insects, photogenic moose, great food and lodging, wonderful volunteers. It is as good as it sounds, maybe better! Trip Difficulty: Moderate. Leader: Peter Roderick, (207) 293-2704, roderick1027@fairpoint.net.

Friday, October 11—Monday, October 14: Trail Work, Gorman Chairback Lodge and Cabins. Stay at newest lodge in the MWI and help finish up the season's trail work while enjoying peak foliage, wonderful hospitality, amazing volunteers and the great northern Maine woods. This trip fills quickly so don't just sit there, call reservations now! Thanks. Trip Difficulty: Moderate. Leader: Peter Roderick, (207) 293-2704, roderick1027@fairpoint.net.

OVERNIGHT TRIPS

Saturday, July 6—Sunday, July 7: Waterfalls and Zealand Notch Backpack #2, White Mountains, NH. 10.8 miles, easy pace, 1,200' elevation gain. For first time backpackers. Ripley, Thoreau and Zealand Falls via Ethan Pond Trail. Camp at Ethan Pond shelter. Trip Difficulty: Easy. Leader: Ray Cooper, (207) 929-2726, rcooper207@roadrunner.com.

Friday, July 12—Sunday, July 14: Island Camping, Muscongus Bay, Mid Coast ME. Beautiful Thief Island with 2 camp sites (10 & 4), adjacent to Loudes Island. Must be confident in open water/longer crossings. Decked boat, 14.5' minimum, skirt, PFD, dunk bag, wet suit/dry suit/appropriate immersion gear, self/assisted rescue skills. \$35.00 includes 2 dinners, 2 breakfasts; bring lunches/snacks/beverages. Trip Difficulty: moderate. Leader: Albert Mandell, 607-316-5773 (before 10:00 pm), mandell.ah@pg.com.

Saturday, August 10—Sunday, August 11: Bigelow Backpack, Western Maine. Climb Bigelow Mtn. via the AT to the Horns Pond shelters. Second day summit South Horn, West Peak and Avery Peaks (both over 4,000' elevation) and return via Firewarden's Trail. Total elevation gain and loss over 3,000'. Limited to 6 fit, experienced hikers. Trip Difficulty: Strenuous. Leader: Ray Cooper, (207) 929-2726, rcooper207@roadrunner.com.

Friday, September 6—Sunday, September 8: Cycling in Acadia National Park. Cycle the 12 interconnected loops of carriage roads that wind through spruce forest and past pristine lakes of Maine's most beautiful island. The picturesque coastal routes provide stunning views of the outer islands and surf-sculpted coastline. Camp at Lamoine State Park on Frenchman Bay. Cost approx. \$20 for two nights camping. Meals at lobster pounds and cafe's. MTB or Hybrid. Road surface is crushed rock. Trip Difficulty: Moderate. Leader: Lisa Graves, (207) 966-1224, lisaagaves221@gmail.com.

Friday, September 13—Sunday, September 15: Sea Kayak and Island Camping, Stonington, ME. Best Island day tripping in ME! First night camp at Old Quarry. Sat. night camp at Harbor or Steves Island. Must be confident in open water/longer crossings. Decked boat, 14.5' minimum, skirt, PFD, dunk bag, wet suit/dry suit/appropriate immersion gear, self/assisted rescue skills. Cost \$40.00, includes camping, 1 dinner, 2 breakfasts, bring lunches/snacks/beverages. Trip Difficulty: moderate. Leader: Albert Mandell, 607-316-5773 (before 10:00 pm), mandell.ah@pg.com.

COLD RIVER CAMP OVERNIGHT STAYS AND OUTINGS

Tuesday, September 24—Friday, September 27: Cold River Camp for 50+, Evans Notch. Maine Chapter Fall Getaway on the border of Maine and NH. Join us at AMC Cold River Camp where they have great cabins, most with wood stoves or fireplaces. \$65 per night per person (member rate). Book early to get your spot. Registration now open. Deposit required. Leader: Michelle and Stan Moody, (207) 319-7355, meamc@micstan.us.

Tuesday, September 24: Kayak/Canoe Saco River (CRC Outing). Morning paddle on Saco River on the way to AMC Cold River Camp or just for the day. We'll spot cars, then paddle from Route 302 to East Brownfield. 4-5 hours on the river. Call leader to discuss or email with info on level of your experience and equipment. Limit 12. Trip Difficulty: Easy/Moderate. Leader: Michelle Moody, (207) 319-7355, meamc@micstan.us.

Wednesday, September 25: Hike Pine & Lord Hill (CRC Outing), Evans Notch. 6 mile hike to Pine (1250') & Lord (1257') hills. Moderate hike, some steep terrain, moderate pace, good views over Horseshoe Pond. Trip Difficulty: moderate. Leader: Lorraine Hussey, (207) 619-9444, RNLhussey@maine.rr.com.

Thursday, September 26: Blueberry Mtn., Evans Notch (CRC Outing). Blueberry Mtn. (1751') via Stone House and White Cairn trails. Lunch on top. 1000' plus elevation gain, about 4 miles. Not ready for the harder hills but want to get some good hiking in with views, this may be the ticket. Trip Difficulty: Moderate. Leader: Michelle and Stan Moody, (207) 319-7355, meamc@micstan.us.

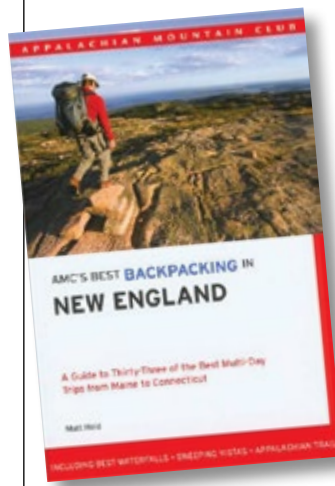
Friday, September 27—Sunday, September 29: 2nd Maine Chapter Fall Weekend at AMC Cold River Camp, Evans Notch. Rate includes all meals and cabin. \$65 per night per person (member rate). Daily outings from beginner to experienced, or go on your own. Rest, relax, or hike, bike or paddle nearby. Registrations are open and deposits being accepted. WMNF campgrounds close by also. Leader: Michelle and Stan Moody, (207) 319-7355, meamc@micstan.us.

Friday, September 27: Hike Heald & Bradley Ponds Preserve (CRC Outing), Lovell, ME. 6 mile moderate hike to three mountains. Lovely views from Whiting Hill (800'), Amos Mtn. (955') and Flat Hill. Trip Difficulty: moderate. Leader: Lorraine Hussey, (207) 619-9444, RNLhussey@maine.rr.com.

Saturday, September 28: Wild River to Basin hike (CRC Outing), Evans Notch. 6-7 mile hike, moderate elevation gain (about 500'). May spot cars for an up and over. Great views. Trip Difficulty: Moderate. Leader: Michelle and Stan Moody, (207) 319-7355, meamc@micstan.us.

Sunday, September 29: Kayak on Kezar Lake or TBD (CRC Outing), Fryeburg area. Once we're packed up after our weekend at AMC Cold River Camp, we'll head to Kezar Lake or TBD in that area for a mid-morning paddle. Paddling with lunch on the water before heading home. Call or email leader with paddling experience and equipment you have. Not staying at CRC? You can still join us. Trip Difficulty: Easy/Moderate. Leader: Michelle and Stan Moody, (207) 319-7355, meamc@micstan.us.

Experienced Hikers Wanted to Update AMC Guidebook



The good folks at AMC Books are looking for a few experienced hikers early this summer to field check some trails in Maine as part of updating the **Best Backpacking New England** guide.

You'll hike the trails and make notes to capture any changes to the trail description, shelters, campsites and so forth that may have occurred since the book was first published. You'll also need to use a GPS (a smart phone GPS app is fine) to map the route and record

the coordinates for key waypoints, as well as take a few representative photographs of the hike. And finally, among a few other details, you'll need to verify driving directions and mileages.

A small stipend is offered for this tremendously helpful volunteer effort. You'll also receive due credit in the next edition of *Best Backpacking New England*.

Maine trails needing updating include:

- Mahoosuc Range and Mahoosuc Notch via the AT, 15 miles
- Bigelow Range via the AT and other trails, 13 miles
- 100-Mile Wilderness via the AT, 99.4 miles
- Speckled and Blueberry mountains, Evans Notch, 9 miles

Any and all assistance you can provide in this endeavor will be greatly appreciated!

For more information, please contact:

Victoria Sandbrook Flynn
AMC Books Project Editor

vsandbrookflynn@outdoors.org or (617) 391-6578

New Chapter Trip Leader: Lisa Graves. Welcome!



Lisa Graves regularly cycles, hikes, climbs, snowboards and ocean kayaks in Maine and New Hampshire. She has adventure-traveled extensively, including a six-month cycling tour from Greece to Amsterdam, trekking in Nepal, and rock climbing in the U.S. and Europe. Lisa is an AMC Cycling Trip Leader and an AMC Leader in Training

for Rock Climbing and Adventure Travel. She is the Center Director of Auburn Sylvan Learning and runs a small business, Toss Me a Pillow Co. Lisa has two children.

Maine AMC on Facebook!



The AMC Maine Chapter now has its own Facebook page.

Please "Like" us to share trip photos, trail conditions, tips, and news. Our page will also offer updates on what's happening in Maine environmental issues, in case there is something you can do to help protect the landscapes and waters we all cherish. Find the page by searching for "Maine AMC."

Go Paperless—Wilderness Matters

Do you prefer to receive this newsletter electronically, sent directly to your e-mail inbox? Register through AMC's Member Center at www.outdoors.org. If you have difficulty, please call the AMC Membership Department at 1-800-372-1758 (M-F, 9-5 PM EST) or e-mail amcmembership@outdoors.org.

Anniversaries - continued from page 1

In a celebrating mind, I went up to Little Lyford for a long weekend recently. My wife and I were ceremoniously joined by a healthy entourage of black flies and mosquitoes, some unusual early June heat, and a goodly amount of rain. No matter, we had a great time, thanks in no small part to the hospitality of Chuck James and his staff. With three squares and comfy digs, we couldn't go wrong. Never mind the miles of great hiking nearby, to Gulf Hagas, Laurie's Ledge on Indian Mountain, and around the nearby ponds. If you haven't been up to the Maine Woods Property for a while, or perhaps ever, well, you've got to go. It's a special place, no doubt, with a delightful bunch of folks making sure your stay is a memorable one.



Madison Hut. Photo by Eric Pedersen, courtesy of AMC

Speaking of memories, who can remember back to 1888? I can't, but AMC can, because that's when the Madison Spring Hut first welcomed weary mountain travelers. Yes, **AMCs White Mountain Hut system is 125 years old this year.** Wow! Eight high mountain huts extending across 70 miles of mountain trails, from Lonesome Lake Hut in the shadow of the Franconia Range to Carter Notch Hut sandwiched between the steep walls of Wildcat Mountain and Carter Dome. Greenleaf, Galehead, Zealand, Mizpah, Lakes of the Clouds, Madison; magnificent alpine locations, amazing hospitality, every last one of them. Celebrate this great piece of AMC history by treating yourself and friends and family to a high mountain hut stay this summer.

Info and reservations for the huts and MWI: www.outdoors.org.



A Maine Chapter 50+ group enjoys the views on a fine April day at Bald Rock in Camden Hills State Park.



SAVE THE DATE!



AMC Maine Chapter Annual Meeting
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2013 – 5-9 PM

Registration and Info: www.amcmaine.org
Please register early, thanks!

Volunteer Crisis?

Does your Maine Chapter have a volunteer crisis? Not yet, perhaps but your Chapter Leadership certainly needs your help. A volunteer organization like ours needs involvement from its members both as leaders and volunteers.

We now have and will have later this year the following chair and officer vacancies on your Chapter Executive Committee: Vice Chair, Treasurer, Conservation, Meetings and Education, Outings, Trails and Membership/Publicity. These vacancies have occurred through normal circumstances. Please consider helping out as either as a Chair, Office, or committee volunteer.

Descriptions for each of these volunteer positions can be found at: www.amcmaine.org/volunteer.

For more information, please contact Paul Hahn, Chair of the AMC Maine Chapter Nominating Committee: 207-222-2837 or paulgohahn@gmail.com, or any other Committee member at the e-mail addresses or phone numbers listed herein. Thank you!

Young Members Have Fun with Mud!

Portland Trails Work/Earth Day: The problem: *mud*.

The solution: *Build a bridge!*

Trail enthusiasts young and old combined efforts on Sunday, April 21st to do trail work on a popular trail in the Portland Trails system. Young Members from the Maine Chapter of the AMC, students from the University of Southern Maine, a Portland Trails' crew, and a few neighbors came together to make the trail safer and more accessible. Go check out the Stroudwater Trail improvements!



Upcoming Young Member Events:

Wednesday, June 26: Celebration of Summer at Fort Williams (everyone welcome!)

Friday—Sunday, July 12- 14: Rangeley Lake Inter-Chapter Camping Trip
(www.amcmaine.org/calendar/)

Check out the Young Members on Facebook! Email youngmembers@amcmaine.org to receive our monthly events notice.



AMC in Maine – the Big Picture (Part 1 in a Series)

By Bryan Wentzell, AMC Maine Policy and Program Director

One thing that I love and that intrigues me about the AMC is that our members, the public and even staff usually have their own particular view of what the organization is and does. This is wonderful trait – that we do so much and have so many volunteers and constituents devoted to their particular programs, activities or destinations. But just like seeing the whole valley from the summit, it is important for those of us who give our time and resources to the AMC to see that whole perspective. I often need to remind myself of that. As the Maine Policy and Program Director, I can at least try to describe that big picture in our corner of the AMC region. Thanks to many, many dedicated volunteers, staff and supporters we have a great story to tell!

I could go through and list these efforts by subject area, department, or committee, but really the story should be told from the average persons' perspective who loves to be outside, would like to learn more about the outdoors, or maybe lives in one of these recreation destination areas in rural Maine. In this issue I'll cover ways in which youth and families in Maine can connect with the outdoors. In coming issues (it's too much for one issue) I'll discuss our land conservation efforts, efforts to expand the outdoor recreation economy, and the multitude of ways people can experience and give back to the outdoors with AMC. Where can a teenager or young family that may not know much about the outdoors find that first connection that creates a lifelong relationship with the outdoors?

The growing **Maine Chapter Youth Program** offers trained leaders to lead schools and youth groups on outings.

AMC publishes a number of **outdoor guides for kids and families**, and a Maine guide is in the works.

Families can attend our popular 5-day **Family Adventure Camps** at our Maine Wilderness Lodges, and Echo Lake Camp on Mount Desert Island is a wonderful family-friendly destination.

In Piscataquis County our **Maine Woods Community Youth and Environment Project** is working to offer outdoor experiences to



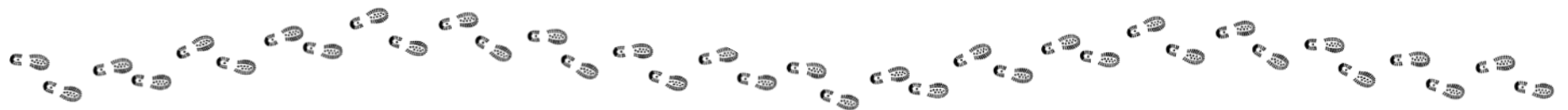
every student in Piscataquis County at least three times during their years of schooling.

Twice a year the AMC-lead **Great Maine Outdoor Weekend** (www.greatmaineoutdoorweekend.org) aims at getting thousands of people across the state into the outdoors doing introductory and low or no-cost activities.

To cap it off AMC is also helping to lead the **Maine Outdoor Coalition**, which is bringing together dozens of groups across Maine to work collectively to connect more Mainers to the outdoors.

For teens who want to take the next step and give back to the outdoors, the **Maine Woods Teen Trail Crews** offer 10-day programs working on AMC's Maine Woods Initiative trail system. Staffed by professional leaders, youth ages 16-18 camp lake-side in the 100-Mile Wilderness while learning and practicing trail work, wild land ethics, and swimming in Long Pond.

This is a snapshot, but collectively these efforts are connecting a new generation of citizens to the outdoors. These are our future members, volunteers, park rangers, AMC lodge managers, and maybe a future AMC president or Secretary of the Interior!



Registration is Open for AMC Cold River Camp Weekend



If you are thinking of joining us this fall for our 2nd Annual AMC Cold River Camp weekend, now is the time to sign up. You can get all the details on the calendar at

www.amcmaine.org/calendar. Just scroll down to September.

We are offering both a midweek stay for the 50+ crowd (but open to all) from September 24–27, and a weekend stay from September 27–29. Families, young members and all outdoor lovers are welcome. You can come join us on outings or just do your own thing during the day. But the best part is you get to chat with fellow outdoor lovers while relaxing at the lodge before dinner, during the family-style meal, or in the evening by the fireplace.

FMI, go to www.amccoldrivercamp.org. For more info or to reserve your spot, contact Michelle Moody at (207) 319-7355 or email meamc@micstan.us. Hope to hear from you and see you there!

Carbon Nation: A Solutions-Focused Approach

In late April the AMC and the Maine Audubon joined together to offer a potluck

carbon nation
a climate change solutions movie
[that doesn't even care if you believe in climate change]

dinner that included a variety of delicious dishes followed by a presentation and discussion of the movie *Carbon Nation*, directed by Peter Byck. This film featured solutions for preserving and conserving our resources, while saving money, regardless of the causes.

The take-away from watching this documentary and from the discussion that followed is that we need leaders. We need people who are courageous enough to stand up and make changes and to stir others to make changes that will benefit our world. Another important point is that even if you don't believe in global warming, making changes that are sustainable will benefit us economically and environmentally now and for future generations, often with surprisingly little effort.

For more information on ways that you can reduce your carbon footprint, visit: www.carbonationmovie.com/take-action/action-items.



AMC Volunteer Opportunity

AMC is looking for a new **Meetings and Education (M&E) Coordinator** for evening events in southern Maine. **Would you or someone you know be a good fit?**

This position is a member of the chapter's Executive Committee, which meets bi-monthly in Freeport. This person should enjoy learning about the outdoors and get pleasure from organizing public evening events featuring local adventurers or current issues affecting our Maine outdoor heritage.

The new M&E Coordinator will have the flexibility to continue the evening educational programs as they are, take them to new heights, or re-design them with the support of the Executive Committee of the AMC Maine Chapter.

The position is open this summer and responsibilities begin this coming fall. If the right person volunteers and is selected in the next month or two, the transition will be incredibly easy. If desired, the current M&E Chair will gladly share information, pass along electronic files, and share names of about ten presenters who have already volunteered to present next year.

Have you enjoyed the last four years of evening educational events in Freeport, Brunswick, Falmouth, and South Portland? **Then now is the time to volunteer or to find a volunteer to carry on these great events.**

For more information, please contact Paul Hahn, Chair of the AMC Maine Chapter Nominating Committee: **207-222-2837** or **paulgohahn@gmail.com**.

"The mission of the Meetings and Education Committee is to organize indoor evening events with educational and enlightenment benefits for Chapter members and non-members. Their purpose is to encourage people to get outdoors, develop a sense of belonging to the Chapter, generate enthusiasm for other Maine Chapter activities, and introduce non-members to the AMC and the Maine Chapter."



Search and Rescue Team Wants You!

By Bryan Courtois

Pine Tree Search and Rescue is currently accepting applications for positions on our team. PTSAR is a newly formed SAR team that was created to fill a void created when the York County Search and Rescue Team was disbanded in May 2012. With the encouragement of our local Game Warden, Rick LaFlame, a few of the YCERRT team members decided form a new team. Bryan Courtois, Larry DeHof and Dan Pierce spearheaded getting the word out and attracting potential team members. By July, the Pine Tree Search and Rescue (PTSAR) was born. Since forming we've held several trainings and worked to get other team members Maine Association for Search and Rescue (MASAR) certified. Our team is comprised mostly of Registered Maine Guides, AMC trip leaders, Scout leaders, active duty and retired law enforcement and military, fire fighters, EMTs, and others with extensive outdoor experience.

Maine has 15 SAR teams throughout the state. PTASRs primary field of coverage is "southern" Maine but will get dispatched anywhere in the state we are needed. I personally have been on searches from Biddeford Pool to The Forks to Baxter and many places in-between.

In order to be MASAR certified, applicants must complete a detailed training course as well as demonstrate proficiency in both day and night navigation and survival, including building a shelter and building a fire. You must also pass a fitness test that consists of carrying a 25 pound pack for 2 miles in less than 30 minutes. Current first aid and CPR are also required. Full requirements can be found in the Standards section of the MASAR website.

We are hoping to grow the team. Information can be found at www.pinetreesar.com and on Facebook.

Bryan Courtois is President of Pine Tree Search and Rescue and a longtime AMC Maine Chapter member.



Notes and Updates from the Outings Committee

By Michelle Moody, Outings Chair

As thoughts of summer warm me on a gray and rainy spring day, I thought it's a good time to put together a note to our membership.

With the approach of summer come thoughts of water and sunshine. As a lover of paddling, both kayaking and canoeing, I want to remind everyone to be safe on the water this summer. Unfortunately this note is a bit late to remind you to join us for our self and assisted rescue course. However, I would be happy to put together another one if there is enough interest. Anyone venturing out on the water should take this course. Be sure to contact me if you are interested in another session this summer.

Another thing to consider is to have your name and contact info inside your boat. The Coast Guard offer stick on ID labels free of charge. Many outdoor shops also carry them. You can order them by emailing a request to CGPaddlesmart@comcast.net. Be sure to include your name and address and how many you need. In case your boat ever drifts away, it's a good way to get it back to you and avoid a costly search for you by the Coast Guard.

We had two very successful Wilderness First Aid classes this spring. There were 39 participants at the WFA class and 16 at the AWFA class. About 25 leaders and co-leaders took these classes that we offered with SOLO. The Maine Chapter requires

all leaders to take a First Aid Course as needed to maintain certification. For outings close to emergency response, this can be a regular first aid course. For outings further out (the magic hour), all leaders must have a minimum of WFA or higher level of certification. Some folks join us in the classes for their own benefit. Classes are offered each spring, so keep it in mind for next year. I'm also happy to have folks contact me at anytime if they are interested in becoming leaders or co-leaders for our activities.

It is with some sadness that I must reach out to our membership to ask you to think about taking over my duties come November. I hope to hit the road next year to do some traveling and this would make it difficult to keep up with the duties of Outings Chair. A lot of the work requires access to a computer nowadays and that would be difficult while on the road in more remote areas. I would love to discuss the job with anyone who may be interested. You don't have to be a super outdoors person to do the job, but having an understanding of what the leaders do is helpful. The sooner someone gets involved in the job, the easier the transition will be. This job can also be shared by a couple people. I'd love to hear from you and talk about it.

My contact info is: (207)319-7355 or outings@amcmaine.org.

Maine Chapter Member Profiles

This is the sixth profile in a series intended to remind us of the legacy of the Maine Chapter and of the many early AMC members whose accomplishments built the Chapter. This article is based on an interview, personal knowledge, and research in the Maine Chapter archives.

Peter Roderick, The Maine Chapter's "Go-To" Guy Member No. 413625, Maine Chapter Member since 1997



A scale model of a bog bridge is all Peter wanted for his birthday celebration on the trail.

Peter Roderick is the longest-serving member of the current Maine Chapter Executive Committee, which guides the Maine Chapter and facilitates communication between the national Club and the local Chapter.

Peter was first enticed into the Club and Chapter simply because he greatly enjoyed the company of some Maine Chapter members he met at the 1997 Appalachian Trail Conference meeting at Sunday River Ski Resort. Sharing adventure stories of past exploits and dreams of ones yet to come, Peter and his wife Janet realized that these AMC folks were serious about

their fun and enjoyment of all things outdoors and had a lot to offer newcomers. Looking forward to expanding his range of potential outdoor pursuits, Peter quickly took advantage of the camaraderie and experience of the Maine Chapter members.

The Maine Chapter also realized what a great find they had in Peter and soon enticed him into leadership positions. He began his AMC volunteer leadership in 2000 as Co-chair of the Chapter Trails Committee, organizing volunteer trail work days to help AMC clear, re-locate, and build public hiking trails across the state. Since then, Peter has invested countless personal hours in trailwork, but perhaps more important are the number of hikers Peter has introduced to the concept of volunteer trail work as a partial repayment to the many days of enjoyment hikers derive from those trails. From island trails off the coast, to trails in western Maine, to trails in Baxter State Park, Peter has probably worked as many trail miles as he has walked.

It was only a matter of time before Peter ascended into the Chapter Chair position, but it was earlier than expected. In 2005, intending to serve as Vice Chair for two years before becoming Chair, Peter was suddenly vaulted into the Chair's position due to a last minute change of plans. Now philosophical about that sudden responsibility, Peter jokes that while he might not have taken the Chair's position if he'd had two years to think about it, the experience was a wonderful opportunity to see how the Chapter philosophy and actions mesh with those of the Club. "While I don't always agree with the Club, it is clear that both the Club and the Chapter share many of the same goals including maintaining wild space in Maine that I hope my grandkids can still enjoy when they are my age."

After completing a two-year stint as Chapter Chair followed by two years as Past Chair, Peter has been the ExCom's "go-to" guy to take on essential committee responsibilities. He maintained his hand as Trails Committee Chair or Co-chair through 2011, was Outings Chair for a year, and is currently in his third year as Chair of the important MWI Committee, working to blend the Club's desires for a bigger presence in northern Maine with the Chapter's more intimate knowledge of the region. "The Maine Woods Initiative is pretty obviously the most significant accomplishment of my time as a member," says Roderick. "The fact that it is happening right in our backyard makes it easy for some of us to get excited about what is being accomplished. I enjoy being involved in all aspects, including planning for the future."

Peter is also active in other outdoor volunteer organizations. He is a Trail Maintainer and Assistant Overseer for the Maine Appalachian Trail Club, on the Stewardship Committee of the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance, and an Island Steward for the Maine Island Trail Association.

All of this outdoor activity and volunteerism necessitates many days away from home and consequently from his wife. A former

Maine Chapter ExCom member herself, Janet understands and supports Peter's Maine Chapter efforts and his heavy volunteer and outdoor schedule. The Club recognizes all that both Peter and Janet do for the Chapter and the Club and, in 2005, honored them with a Volunteer Leadership Award presented at the Club's annual meeting in Boston. And in 2010, the Chapter awarded Peter its Lifetime Achievement Award.

Throughout these years of involvement, however, Peter thinks the major issues facing the Chapter have not changed. "The main issues now are the same ones that we faced when I first joined the AMC: getting feedback from members as to what they would like the AMC Maine Chapter to offer to make their membership more valuable, and attracting volunteers at all levels from those who could give us one day a year to others who would be willing to serve on the Executive Committee or as committee members and chairs. It is a constant battle to fill the committee chair positions and a distraction from what many of us would prefer to be doing as members and leaders."

"Perhaps it is a bit more difficult now to get members involved," Roderick thinks. "The vast majority pay their dues and read the *AMC Outdoors* magazine and are satisfied with that, I guess. It's a puzzle as to why more members do not volunteer, as volunteers are what make the chapter and AMC work to a great extent. Think how great we could be if even another 10 percent of our current 4,900 members volunteered in some capacity."



One year, Peter and his volunteers constructed a particularly heavy-duty bridge.

Despite these concerns, however, Peter finds it easy to maintain his enthusiasm for Club and Chapter activities. "It's because I can get outdoors and do trail work or other volunteer activities that I know contribute to the mission of AMC and at the same time provide me a chance to be in nature and see, smell, and hear all that the Maine Woods has to offer with like-minded people."

Peter points to three signs that the Chapter is moving forward vigorously. "The Outings and Meetings & Education Committees have been extraordinary in involving the public, both members and non-members in many Chapter-sponsored activities. And the recent success of the Young Members Committee, which is attracting younger members in large numbers and offering lots of exciting events both social and physical for all chapter members, is very exciting."

After these years, Roderick has some great AMC memories tucked away. Chief among them include the following: "My time spent as chair, 50 or so volunteer trips to the MWI, the many great people I have met and who are the backbone of the organization by virtue of their contributions of time and energy both from the Maine Chapter and from throughout the AMC. And of course, working with AMC staff on plans for the MWI and visioning its possible future."

But don't expect Peter to kick back and stop his volunteerism soon. The currently longest-serving member of the Maine Chapter ExCom is still the Chapter's "go-to" guy.