



MAINE CHAPTER

YOUR CONNECTION TO THE OUTDOORS

Maine Chapter
Appalachian Mountain Club
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WILDERNESS MATTERS

VOLUME XXXXI • NUMBER 1 • WINTER 2016

SUPPORT CONSERVATION FUNDING: Land for Maine's Future and Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund

If you like to recreate in Maine, chances are you've visited a special place protected by the State's Land for Maine's Future (LMF) program or the federal Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). These tools are two separate programs, one state and one federal, that provide funding for preservation and recreational development on some of our most treasured natural resources. Recently, these programs have faced political challenges that have been thwarted by the efforts of AMC members and others, but are still political in nature and thus somewhat vulnerable. **AMC members can help by letting your elected officials know you care about these conservation programs!**

Land for Maine's Future

LMF is a widely supported state conservation program funded by bond money Mainers approve at the ballot box. Until recently, it was a very noncontroversial program – projects were proposed, vetted by the Land for Maine's Future board (all nominated by the Governor) and accepted based on clear criteria including public support, community impact, and recreation potential. In 2015, Governor LePage declined to sell voter-approved bonds which would have generated funding to go towards completing approved projects.

In 2010 and 2012, Maine voters passed LMF bond packages. The bond issues authorize, but do not require, the sale of the bonds. For months, Governor LePage used this loophole to stall the LMF program by refusing to sell the bonds. Then, in an unexpected move, Governor LePage sent a letter to the Legislature and the State Treasurer in December 2015 reversing his hold on the bonds and authorizing the release of the 2012 bond package. This funding will be used to support the 30+ approved and currently pending LMF projects that were awarded funding allocations in July. This change of heart by LePage is great news for the people of Maine, and due in large part to the tremendous efforts to advocate for the program by Mainers across the state. AMC members played a large role in this advocacy, with more than 350 members reaching out to their State Senator and Representative urging them to support LMF. We couldn't have scored this victory without your help!

But, the work isn't over yet. Unfortunately, while Governor LePage was stalling the program for unrelated political bargaining, the bond package passed in 2010 expired. However, this can be fixed – the Maine Constitution provides the legislature with a two-year window in which to reauthorize bonds for an additional five years after their date of expiration. The Legislature will need to pass a bill to extend the expired 2010 bonds when they reconvene in January 2016. Representative Pouliot (R-Augusta) has a bill in the works to extend the bond which AMC will continue to support.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Please contact your legislators and express your excitement about the release of the Land for Maine's Future bonds! Encourage them to continue to support the program by passing the bill to extend the 2010 bonds and restore order to the program.

Lookup your State legislators here: http://www.maine.gov/portal/government/edemocracy/voter_lookup.php

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Kittery Trading Post Makes Nice Donation to AMC Maine Chapter



Kittery Trading Post recently supported AMC's Maine Chapter with a donation of \$1,625 from their Round Up for Conservation program.

The Round Up for Conservation program was launched at Kittery Trading Post in May of 2013 as an exciting new way to give back to their partners in conservation. The program encourages customers to "round up" the amount of their purchase to the nearest dollar, resulting in an incremental donation to the fund.

Once each quarter, all money in the fund is disbursed to conservation groups or projects determined by an in-store committee.

Photo by Derek Sturtevant. Pictured are Dave McCarthy, Steve Dowden, and Doug Chamberlin. Dave and Doug are AMC Maine Chapter Executive Committee members; Steve is a senior associate at KTP in the camping and specialty sports department.

WINTER CALENDAR: 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 calendar listings, contact Peter Roderick, Outings Co-Chair and Master of the Calendar Listings, outings@amcmaine.org or (207) 293-2704. Note: Please be courteous when contacting trip leaders by doing so before 9:00 PM unless otherwise specified, please and thanks.

Next Deadline for Wilderness Matters (Winter Issue) is March 1, 2016. *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 such are limited to 400-500 words maximum (word counts greater than that will 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 and any other identifying info plus proper photo credit. Thank you!

MEETINGS & EDUCATION

Executive Committee Meetings, Brunswick. The Maine Chapter Executive Committee meets every odd month (January, March, May, July, September, and November) on the second Thursday at the L.L. Bean facility in Brunswick to discuss chapter business. **Chapter members are welcome to attend.** Contact: chair@amcmaine.org or excom@amcmaine.org. **Meeting dates for 2016 are:** January 14, March 10, May 12, July 14, September 8 and November 10.

Wilderness Matters

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HIKING/SKIING/SNOWSHOEING

Saturday, January 9: Cranberry Peak Snowshoe, Stratton ME.

Experienced winter hikers with full winter gear needed for fun day in the Maine woods. With car spot we will snowshoe hike from trailhead near Stratton Maine to Cranberry Peak and on to Cranberry Pond and the junction with Appalachian Trail. We then head south on the AT to Route 27. Trip length 8 miles. Incredible views of the Bigelows and beautiful woods walk especially between the peak and the pond. Contact leader FMI. Leader: Peter Roderick, 207-293-2704, roderick1027@fairpoint.net.

Saturday, January 9: Harris Farm Cross Country Ski (Young Members, 20's and 30's). Cross country ski trip at Harris Farm in Dayton, ME, which is close enough for those coming from nearby states as well. Plenty of beginner trails with rolling hills and flat areas to work on technique. Ski rentals available. We'll pick trails that work well for group; beginners, intermediate, advanced skiers welcome. Bring lunch to enjoy in sunroom at lodge. Young Members and the young at heart are welcome. Leaders: Sara Keats, 207-756-4226, slkski@gmail.com; Jeanne Christie, 207-310-8708, jeanne.christie@aswm.org.

Friday to Sunday, January 15—18: Inter-chapter YM Weekend in the Whites (20's & 30's). Young Members from all AMC Chapters are invited to stay in the heart of the White Mountains at Joe Dodge Lodge in Pinkham Notch, NH. There will be a led hike of a 4,000-footer mountain as well as shorter snowshoe hikes and free Nordic skiing nearby at Great Glen included with your stay (discounted rentals available). Join one of our led activities or go off on your own. Stay one, two, or all three nights. Winter fun, great company, food, and comfortable lodging. Rates per person per night: Adult Bunkroom \$73.15 w/ tax, Adults in 4 Bunkroom (with option of King) / Queen/ Double/ or Family Rooms: \$82.96 w/ tax, Youth \$61.16 w/ tax, Child \$33.08 w/ tax. Rates include dinner & breakfast. Bed linens and quilts, bath towel are provided. To reserve: Call AMC Reservations Line at 603-466-2727 Mon-Sat, 9am to 5pm. Tell them you want to reserve into the AMC Young Members Group, Reservation # 309166. Leader: Denise Fredette, 207-939-3670, after 5PM, deniserae77@gmail.com.

Saturday to Monday, January 16—18: Maine Chapter Annual MLK weekend White Mountains Hut Trip. Hike/snowshoe to Zealand Falls Hut. On Saturday we'll snowshoe/ski 6.3 miles on roads and trails to the hut. Sunday climb a 4000-footer, take an easy snowshoe, x-c ski, or just lounge around the hut. Monday we'll hike/snowshoe back out. Limited space, reserve early. Leader: Ray Cooper, 207-929-2726, before 9PM, rcooper207@roadrunner.com

Saturday, January 16: Mt. Moriah - Young Members (20's & 30's). Winter 4,000-footer with magnificent views. We'll hike Mt. Moriah via Stony Brook and Carter-Moriah trails. R/T 10 miles and 3,150 ft. elevation gain. Hike is happening as part of an Inter-Chapter Young Members MLK Weekend at Joe Dodge Lodge, but is open to all. You MUST have recent winter hiking experience and appropriate winter hiking gear. Also, this hike is listed as "Young Members" but open to all. Leader: Denise Fredette, 207-939-3670, deniserae77@gmail.com; Frank Brooks, 207-749-0293, thenextb@aol.com.

Sunday, January 17: Cross Country Ski Trip to Great Glen, NH (Young Members, 20's and 30's). Cross country ski trip offered in conjunction with Young Members MLK weekend at Joe Dodge Lodge. Great Glen has beautiful views of Presidential Range, heated cabin on one of the trails. Beginner trails with rolling hills, flat areas to work on technique, and intermediate and advanced trails as well. Ski rentals available. We'll pick trails that work well for the group; beginners, intermediate, and advanced skiers welcome. Bring lunch or buy lunch at lodge. If you are staying at Joe Dodge Lodge, you should be able to ski for free, otherwise it's \$20 for trail pass. Young Members and the young at heart are welcome. Leader: Sara Keats, 207-756-4226, slkski@gmail.com.

Saturday, January 23: Brunswick area X-C Ski or Snowshoe Outing. Let's hope for snow and do some x-c skiing at local spots in Brunswick. Location based on conditions at the time. There are a couple great golf courses to ski or at Crystal Spring Farm. We'll head out in the morning for a couple hours and follow it up with lunch out. Good company and winter fun. Stan prefers to snowshoe so folks can join him for some snowshoe fun instead. Just don't snowshoe in the ski tracks please. In case of lack of snow, we will find an alternate hike in the area. Leader: Michelle Moody, 207-406-5221, meamc@micstan.us; Stan Moody, 207-319-7355, meamc@micstan.us.

AMC Maine Chapter Now Has a Site on Meet Up

Joining Meet Up is a quick way to browse upcoming activities, meet other outdoor enthusiasts, and check out who is already planning to attend the activity. The Meet Up site enables the members to ask questions, give feedback and get the latest information about the activity in a simple-to-use format.

Our first site is associated with the Portland area, but the hikes and activities are not limited to any geographic area. Signing up is very easy. Just go to <http://www.meetup.com/Appalachian-Mountain-Club-Maine-Chapter>, answer a few questions and you are on your way.

Meet Up also accessible from your mobile device. We already have over 200 members and a few more join each day. It's a great way to meet other people and have some fun!

Saturday, January 23: Burnt Mt. Winter Hike. If you have some experience with winter hiking, here's your chance to bag a snow-topped mountain. Mid-winter hike to 3595' summit of Burnt Mountain. Outstanding views of Sugarloaf, Abraham, Crocker and Bigelows. 6 miles total with vertical rise of 1600 feet. Good introduction to above-treeline conditions. Easy pace, intended for hikers with full winter gear and previous winter hiking experience. Snowshoes and other traction device (i.e. Kahtoola Micro-Spikes) required. Leader: Jeff Aceto, 207-650-5674, acetojt@gmail.com.

Saturday, January 30: Mt. Liberty and Mt. Flume (Young Members). Winter hike up two high peaks with outstanding views in all directions, especially Pemigewasset Wilderness and Mt. Bond. Hike Liberty Spring trail to Franconia Ridge Trail, where we will summit Mt. Liberty and Mt. Flume, weather permitting. R/T mileage 10.6 miles, elevation gain 3,500 feet. Trail is a steady and steep climb at times up to the ridge, summits are exposed. Full winter hiking gear required. Leaders: Sara Keats, 207-756-4226, slkski@gmail.com; Denise Fredette, 207-939-3670, after 5PM, deniserae77@gmail.com.

Saturday, February 6: Cross Country Skiing - Libby Trails, Gray ME. Day of intermediate cross-country skiing on 10k of beautiful groomed trails. No admission to use the trails. No ski rentals available. Come join the fun. Leader: Jeanne Christie, 207-310-8708, jeanne.christie@aswm.org; Larry DeHof, 207-310-8952, ldehof@access4less.net.

Sunday to Friday, February 7—12: Claybrook Lodge Ski Trip. Have you ever thought about checking out the new Maine Huts & Trails system but the thought of carrying an overnight backpack didn't appeal to you? We have the solution. Join us for a week of great cross-country skiing on the MHT 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 in Highland Plantation. Lodge is 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 Feb 7 (day of arrival) through and including lunch on Feb 12 (day of departure). We'll eat our trail lunch at one of the MHT huts whenever possible, so we can purchase hot food items as well. Claybrook Lodge has shared bath on each floor, plus living room area on each floor and large wood stove on first floor. Facility is clean, cozy and rustic, and is surrounded mountain peaks. Greg will act as our naturalist guide each day and give us information on tracking, wildlife identification, tree identification and historical perspectives of the area. Greg's skills will increase our enjoyment of the area while maintaining a good level of safety. There will also be two AMC trip leaders on the excursion, both of whom are trained in Wilderness First Aid/CPR. Leader: Ginette Beaudoin, 207-294-6302, ginette4000@yahoo.com.

Friday to Sunday, February 12—14: Maine Huts and Trails: Ski Flagstaff Hut to Poplar Falls Hut (Young Members). Hut to Hut cross-country ski trip in the Carrabasset Valley, skiing on trails maintained by Maine Huts & Trails, all well-groomed. The first day we'll ski into Flagstaff Hut 1.8 miles (if we have time we can explore more of the trails) and

then spend the night. The next day, we'll head to Poplar Falls Hut 11 miles away for our second night. Ski trips during the day will consist of skiing on groomed trails in the forest, about 12-16 miles. On Sunday we'll ski out to the cars, after either exploring more of the trails or there is also an option to ski at the Sugarloaf Outdoor Center once we return to the cars at an additional trail pass cost. Cost of trip includes mixed-gender bunkhouse lodging for two nights, and your meals Friday dinner through Sunday lunch. The lodge has great amenities, including hot showers and heated bunk rooms and main lodge. Flagstaff Hut is located right on beautiful Flagstaff Lake. Gear shuttle for a backpack (fee per trip section) available. Space is limited. Leader: Sara Keats, 207-756-4226, slkski@gmail.com.

Saturday, February 13: Baldpate West and East Peaks. Snowshoe hike to west and east peaks of Baldpate Mtn. from Grafton Notch. R/T distance 8 miles, elevation gain 2,280 ft. Extensive views of Western Maine mountains and lakes from East Peak. For experienced winter hikers with full winter gear. Contact the trip leader for details. Leader: Bill Brooke, 207-549-5100, bill@mesoft.org.

Saturday, February 13: Camden Hills Snowshoe. Start at parking area for Multi-Use Trail on the north side of the park, and traverse the Camden Hills southward to Mt. Megunticook. Approx. 6 miles R/T at moderate pace. Leaders: Debby Kantor, 207-854-3431, dlkantor@aol.com; Jeff Aceto, 207-650-5674, acetojt@gmail.com.

Saturday, February 28: Cross Country Ski Trip to the Chocolate Festival (Young Members) Enjoy both cross-country skiing and chocolate at 28th Annual Chocolate Festival in Intervale, NH. Ski on groomed trails with beautiful scenery between stops for chocolate treats located mostly along the trails. Total distance to check out the Festival is 15 km, or it can be as short as 9 km with a shuttle, but there are more trails that we can ski as well. Distance that we ski will depend on the group. Cost of event is \$30 in advance and \$35 the day of the Festival, and must be purchased from the Festival, which is a fundraiser for the Mount Washington Valley Ski Touring and Snowshoe Foundation. Rental places are listed on the Chocolate Festival website (you must reserve rentals on your own). Leader: Sara Keats, 207-756-4226, slkski@gmail.com.

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YOU'RE INVITED!

What: The Appalachian Mountain Club Annual Summit
A fun day of exciting trainings, meaningful meetings, and fun conversations

When: Saturday, January 30, 2016
Saturday Programs begin at 8am
140th Annual Business Meeting 5pm
Celebration Reception 6pm

Where: Four Points by Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center
Norwood, Massachusetts

Cost: **Early Bird Special! Pay only \$30 before January 1, 2016**
Regularly \$40 - includes buffet lunch, program materials, and Celebration Reception of drinks and hors d'oeuvres

Join us this January to kick off a fantastic year in the outdoors!

Whether you are a long time volunteer or are interested in becoming more involved as a volunteer in 2016, the Annual Summit will have something for you!

You can sign up for a series of sessions that will teach new skills and develop existing talents while giving you plenty of time to meet other people who share your interests and passions.

We have once again curated a great selection of useful and interesting courses, so whether you want to brush up on your trail tool knowledge, improve leadership skills, learn about conservation tactics, or outdoor photography, we will have a session that interests you.

For more information visit outdoors.org/AnnualSummit



140TH ANNUAL SUMMIT

A P P A L A C H I A N M O U N T A I N C L U B

Trip Listings - continued from previous page

Saturday, March 5: Mt. Jackson - Young Members Hike. Winter hike of 4,052' Mt. Jackson via the Webster-Jackson Trail. 5.2 miles with 2,150' elevation gain, moderate pace. Depending on weather and the group, we may choose to do a loop trip and include 3,910' Mt. Webster as well (this would add 1.3 miles to the trip). Winter hiking experience and full winter gear required. Limit 8 participants. Leaders: Carolyn Arcand, carolynarcand@gmail.com; Kim Sanders, kimberlyansanders@gmail.com.

Sunday to Tuesday, March 6—8: Camden Hills State Park Cabin Overnight. Celebrate coming of spring and bid winter a fond farewell. Who knows, we may still need all our winter gear on this one. Things should be pretty quiet here during the week. We are over 60 and hope other retired folks will join us. However, we are open to all. Join us for hikes and an overnight backpack to a cabin in Camden Hills State Park. This is the old ski lodge that was totally rebuilt. Wood stove, 6 bunks, picnic tables, flagstone floor, privy. First four persons to book get bunks. You can also join us and bring an air mattress for the floor or tables or bring a tent for camping outside. We will hike up the old road (Multi-Use Trail) to the cabin, drop off our stuff, start a fire to warm up the place, and then head out for a hike/snowshoe. First night, we'll do a potluck of appetizers. Rest of the meals are on your own. We'll do a loop hike the next day and then relax at the cabin. Last day we will hike out and maybe do a side trip to Bald Rock if we haven't hit that peak yet. Get a taste of backpacking without roughing it too much. Call Michelle to register. Note: Dates are not confirmed as reservations cannot be made until January 1. Payment due at time of reservation. No refunds. Leaders: Michelle Moody, 207-319-7355, meamc@micstan.us; Stan Moody, 207-319-7355, meamc@micstan.us.

Wednesday to Sunday, March 16—20: Avalanche Course for Backcountry Skiers. Join Al Mandell of Synnott Mt. Guides for an AIARE Level 1 Hut based avalanche course in Quebec's Chic Chocs. Hut-based avalanche courses allow complete immersion in the course curriculum and instant access to the Field sessions. The Chic Chocs are the best ski terrain on the East Coast. If you are thinking about taking an avalanche course this season, this is the best place to do so. Cost includes four days skiing, four nights lodging, all meals, course instructor, course materials, AIARE Level 1 certification, beacon, probe, shovel use during course. To register call (603) 733-8416 or www.newhampshireclimbing.com. Leader: Albert Mandell, 207-402-1089, 7-10PM, mandell.ah@pg.com.

Saturday, March 19: Little Bigelow Mountain Snowshoe Hike. Wrap up the calendar winter season with a nice hike to the summit of Little Bigelow Mountain. Moderate-strenuous hike to with spectacular views of Bigelow Mountain Range and Carrabassett Valley. Leader: Peter Roderick, 207-293-2704, roderick1027@fairpoint.net.

AMC Adventure Travel Awaits!



Photo Credit: Nova Scotia Official Tourism Bureau

If you're looking for an outstanding adventure travel trip in the next six months, AMC's Adventure Travel has spots available on some trips.

Trip offerings include: Winter in Yosemite—Skiing and Hiking, Exotic Hiking Holiday in the Azores, An Easter Island Adventure, and Family Exploration of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton Island.

Please visit www.outdoors.org/adventuretravel for a complete trip list and more information about the AT program.

Conservation Funding - continued from page 1

Land & Water Conservation Fund

AMC is also actively engaged across our region in supporting the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). LWCF is a federal source of outdoor recreation resource funding. The program specifically aimed to provide funding for the state and federal acquisition of lands and waters necessary to active participation in outdoor recreation. The program has provided funding for both small scale community recreation infrastructure (think tennis courts, boat launches, etc.) and landscape scale conservation efforts including Grafton Notch, Orbeton Stream in the High Peaks region and the Katahdin Iron Works project in the Mooshead Lake region. LWCF funding comes from several sources including royalties on offshore oil and gas drilling – but the program expired on September 30th, 2015 despite broad support and 50 years of success. On December 16, 2015 Congress announced the results of intense negotiations in the omnibus spending bill which includes a 3 year reauthorization of LWCF and an increase in allocated funding from \$300M in fiscal year 2015 to \$450M. This is a major victory for federal land and water protection, but permanent reauthorization is still the ultimate goal. AMC will continue to advocate for permanent reauthorization of this critical conservation program.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Contact Maine's Federal congressional delegation and thank them for their consistent work to support LWCF. Urge them to continue working towards permanent reauthorization of this valuable conservation program. You can find more information on AMC's [Conservation Action Network](http://www.outdoors.org) on [outdoors.org](http://www.outdoors.org).

For more information on either of these issues, please contact Kaitlyn Bernard, AMC's Maine Program Associate (kbernard@outdoors.org) or Peter Carney (conservation@amcmaine.org), Maine Chapter Conservation Chair.



2017 Appalachian Trail Biennial Conference To Be Held in Maine, Planning Underway

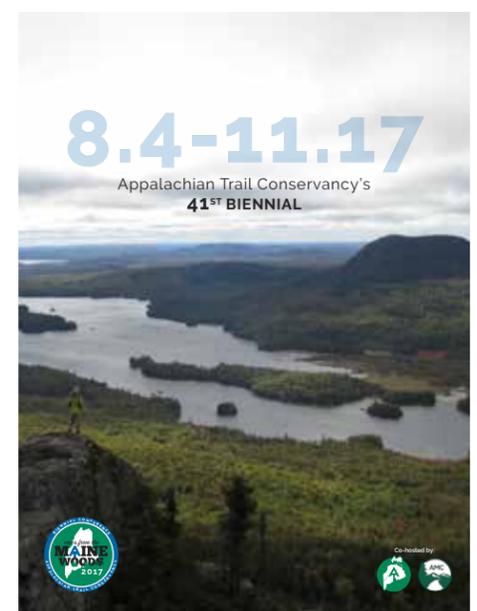
Summer 2017 will see the largest gathering of hiking enthusiasts in North America when the AMC Maine Chapter along with the Maine Appalachian Trail Club and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy join forces to celebrate the Appalachian Trail with the theme of "Views from the Maine Woods."

1,500 trail and hiking enthusiasts are expected to attend the gathering August 4—11, 2017 at Colby College in Waterville, Maine.

Planning is already underway by the Conference Steering Committee, but they need your help. Due to the lead time for publishing registration materials, many of the hikes, excursions, special events and workshops will be finalized in 2016.

Please pass on your ideas (also, your offer to help conduct and organize) for hikes, workshops, local excursions, exhibitors and special events to the following Steering Committee contacts:

- Workshops: Dave Field meeser3@roadrunner.com
- Exhibits: Tom Mullin tmullin@unity.edu
- Hikes: Peter Roderick roderick1027@fairpoint.net
- Excursions: Judy O'Neal judyoneal@fairpoint.net
- Volunteers: Dick Welsh richard.j.welsh@gmail.com





Reflecting on Two Thru-Hikes of the Appalachian Trail, 2015 and 1977

By Carey Kish



The Appalachian Trail is the most famous long distance footpath in the world, and with the recent release of the movie, *A Walk in the Woods*, it's likely to become more popular than ever. According to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, over 3 million people take to the trail each year, for a day, a weekend or a week, and for some, many months.

Hiking the entire AT is the adventure of a lifetime, and mastering the grueling 2,189.2 miles from Springer Mountain, Georgia to Baxter Peak on Maine's Katahdin is a crowning achievement for any backpacker.

From the time the Appalachian Trail was completed in 1937 through the end of 1969, just 59 people had walked the whole trail. During the 1970's, 764 hikers joined the ranks of end-to-enders, including this hiker in 1977. Between 1980 and 2010, over 10,000 more made the trek. Today, an estimated 20,000 backpackers lay claim to the "2000-miler" mantle.

This hiker was one of some 3,500 individuals who attempted the AT in 2015, and I feel fortunate to be counted among those who made it all the way, battered gear and bruised body parts notwithstanding. With an attrition rate hovering around 75%, the dreams of many others, despite their extraordinary efforts, were dashed.

Between March and October, I hiked and camped through four seasons of weather and the beautiful mountain scenery of 14 states, met friendly local people and enjoyed the camaraderie of hikers from around the country and the globe, experienced the hospitality of trail towns and the kindness of trail angels, survived several scary wildlife encounters (snakes, bears, bees), and coped with the many highs and lows of putting one foot in front of the other for six long months.

The AT is much different than when I hiked it 38 years ago. There were a lot fewer people on the trail then, which made for a much lonelier hike. The trail wasn't nearly as well known, even in the towns along its route. I hitchhiked or walked into towns to resupply; shuttles were unheard of. I

carried state road maps to locate towns, and once there, had to figure out where everything was.

Hostels were few, as were outfitters, and grocery stores carried little in the way of lightweight foods. Gear was heavy, and trail guides and maps were bulky. Spotty trail blazing and signage often left me wondering which way to go. Any trail magic during those days was a true blessing. Communication with home was by pay phone and letters in the mail.

Today, hikers are armed with a wealth of helpful information, and there are services and amenities aplenty. Everyone uses a smartphone to post to social media sites, check the weather, book accommodations and rides, write journals, take photos, and read e-books. Several GPS apps allow you to dispense with guidebooks and maps altogether. Ultra-lightweight gear and clothing are standard, as are packable foods.

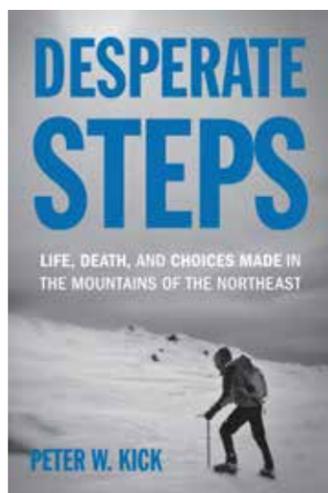
In 1977, the AT had yet to be fully protected, but today a conservation corridor encompassing 270,000 acres forms what is America's skinniest national park. Local volunteer trail clubs maintain the permanent trail route as well as hundreds of shelters, campsites and privies. Trail mileage on roads has decreased from 200 to twenty.

There may be more hikers than ever on the trail today, but ample solitude is easy to find, the natural beauty still beckons, the physical and mental challenge of months of continuous hiking is the same, and the overall experience remains life-changing.

Looking to the future, I've got my eye on a few long trails, including the Colorado Trail, New England Trail, GR 11 through the French Pyrenees, and across Britain from Land's End to John O'Groats. For now, however, I'm just happy to be home.

If you've got an AT thru-hike in mind for next year, now's the time to get planning in earnest. Let me know if I can help. Contact: maineoutdoors@aol.com or 207-838-9669.

DESPERATE STEPS: Death, Survival, and Choices Made in the Mountains of the Northeast



A warm day on the trail turns unseasonably cold, an avalanche barrels downhill, a foot slips on icy terrain, a trail gives way unexpectedly. In an instant, lives are lost or forever changed. In the backcountry, a single piece of gear could mean the difference between a comfortable night under the stars or a tragic news report the next day.

In this all-new collection from the publisher of *Not Without Peril* and *No Limits But the Sky*, author Peter W. Kick recounts 20 true tales of backcountry misadventure and misfortune, including incidents along the famed Appalachian Trail, and seeks the

lessons to be learned in each. From close-calls to unsolved mysteries, these stories illuminate the realities faced by outdoorspeople across the Northeast. Weather is unpredictable. The best laid plans go awry. And in the worst of times, even the best decision may not be enough to turn the tides.

In the tradition of Appalachia journal's renowned "Accidents" section, Kick reports on the facts as they were known on the ground—with the help of first-hand accounts of victims, families, witnesses, and Search-and-Rescue (SAR) professionals. As each story unfolds, Kick and his sources in the SAR community offer a retrospective analysis to help readers discover for themselves what went wrong and how disasters, big and small, might be averted in the future. Route maps and photos further bring each story to life.

Readers who immerse themselves in these near-misses, tragedies,

methodical searches, and the gut-wrenching clarity of hindsight will be better prepared for whatever the wilderness brings. Each section features a list of safety notes based on the lessons learned from each story. An appendix that details the importance of adhering to basic outdoor safety seeks to prepare readers for their next adventure in the wilderness with the knowledge and skills to make it home unharmed.

Inside *Desperate Steps* you'll find:

- 20 true tales of backcountry misadventure and misfortune
- Route maps and photos that bring each story to life
- Analysis of what went wrong and how each disaster could have been avoided
- Safety notes on each section to help readers prepare for a safe adventure into the backcountry

Author Peter Kick is a native of the Catskill Mountains, a New York State licensed guide, and author of several hiking and cycling guides. His previous books with AMC include *AMC Catskill Mountain Guide*, *AMC's Best Day Hikes in the Catskills & Hudson Valley*, and *Discover the Adirondacks*. Kick's work has also appeared in *Backpacker*, *Sailing*, *Cruising World*, and *Adirondack Life*. He is a life member of AMC and an Adirondack Mountain Club trip leader. Kick lives in Tenants Harbor, Maine.

AMC Books are available nationwide through booksellers and outdoor retailers. Members and the general public may order directly from AMC at outdoors.org/amcstore or by calling 800-262-4455. (Members receive a 20% discount.) The e-book versions are available online through Amazon, iBooks, and Barnes & Noble.

AMC August Camp 2016: Hike, bike and kayak on Washington's Olympic Peninsula!



There's a brand new site for AMC's annual August Camp, and it's just outside the Olympic National Park, on the shore of Lake Leland in Quilcene, Washington, in the foothills of the Olympic Range.

In addition to great hiking each day in and around Olympic National Park, opportunities abound for sea kayaking, biking, beach walks, boat tours and other activities unique to the area.

Hikes are offered at every level each day, all your meals are provided, as well as transport from and to the Sea-Tac Airport (Seattle-Tacoma), and to and from daily activities. All you need to do is get yourself to the airport and get there!

Experienced and well-trained volunteers lead the daily hikes and other trips. Large two-person tents with cots, shower stalls for your sun showers, chemical toilets and handwashing stations make "roughing it" easy. Nightly campfires, ranger talks and (optional) sing-alongs make for great camaraderie.

August Camp will be held July 16 to August 13. Since this is a new and exciting location for August Camp, we expect the trip to fill quickly. Participants may join August Camp for one or two weeks, starting any Saturday. Details and application materials online at www.augustcamp.org. Check the next issue of AMC *Outdoors* magazine as well. Registration opens January 1, 2016.

Questions? Sam Jamke, August Camp Committee Chair and hike leader, samjamke@myfairpoint.net.



Summary of AMC Maine Chapter 2015 Annual Meeting

November 7, 2015 at Camp Wavus, Jefferson, ME

Peter Roderick spoke about looking for an Outings Co-Chair. Kristen Grant spoke about membership and increasing member engagement through social media, Meet Up and Facebook. Denise Fredette spoke about Young Members and their efforts to have beginner activities, provide more leader training and hold more inter-chapter events.

Elections for the Executive Committees for 2016 were held. Officers for the coming year are (please note several vacancies needing to be filled):

Chair: Doug Chamberlin
Vice-Chair: VACANT
Secretary: Mary Riendeau
Treasurer: Cindy Caverly
At Large and Nominating: Paul Hahn
At Large: Dave McCarthy
Conservation: Pete Carney
E-Communications: Tim Flight
Historian: VACANT
Meetings and Education Co-Chair (North): Nancy Jacobson
Meetings and Education Co-Chair (South): Lisa Pengel
Membership: Kristen Grant
Maine Wood Initiative: Paul Hahn
Newsletter: Carey Kish
Outings Co-Chair: Peter Roderick
Outings Co-Chair: VACANT
Past Chair: Roger David
Trails: Jeff Pengel
Young Members Co-Chair: Denise Fredette
Young Members Co-Chair: Sarah Keats

After the official meeting, Tony Barrett and Sherri Langlais, Co-chairs of the MATC Steering Committee provided an update on ATC 2017 Biennial Conference planning efforts to date. Finally, Kevin Breunig, AMC's VP of Communications, provided an overview of AMC's activities in 2015.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR MAINE CHAPTER OPEN OFFICER POSITIONS

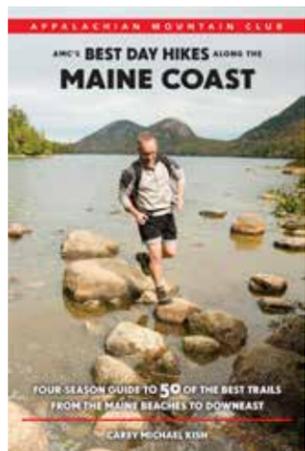
Chapter Vice-Chair

Description: The Chapter Vice-Chair's primary duty is to assist the Chapter Chair. The Vice-Chair serves as the Chapter Chair when the Chair is absent. The Vice-Chair also sits on the AMC Chapters Committee, but does not have voting status (generally the chair and vice-chair will work together to formulate a voting position). The Vice Chair of the Maine Chapter is responsible for planning the Maine Chapter Annual Meeting. FMI, contact Doug Chamberlin, Chapter Chair, chair@amcmaine.org, (978) 761-3815. Thanks!

Outings Co-Chair

Description: The Outings Committee Co-Chairs are responsible for the coordination and execution of the Chapter's outdoor-based outings and trips (hiking, backpacking, paddling, biking, family trips, etc.). This includes maintaining communication with Chapter leaders and co-leaders and providing them with the necessary resources and trainings (such as Wilderness First Aid and Leadership Training) to reach their goals. The Chapter and the Outings Committee is committed to providing opportunities to its members and the public (all AMC trips are open to the public, regardless of AMC membership status). The Outings Committee downloads and compiles the calendar listings for each issue of *Wilderness Matters*. FMI, Peter Roderick, Outings Co-Chair, outings@amcmaine.org, (207) 293-2704.

AMC's Best Day Hikes Along the Maine Coast: Four-Season Guide to 50 of the Best Trails from the Maine Beaches to Down East



This new guide from the editor of AMC's popular *Maine Mountain Guide* lets hikers explore the full length of the rugged coast of Maine. Between the century-old stands of white pine in Vaughan Woods Memorial State Park near Portland, and the oceanfront cliffs and maritime forests of Quoddy Head State Park—the easternmost point in the US—readers will find 50 of the best hikes in the state that can be completed in less than a day.

Several hikes in Acadia National Park are described, as are multiple hikes in the York County, Casco Bay, Midcoast, and Downeast

regions. Beginner hikers and seasoned trekkers alike will discover trails that will satisfy their longing for classic views of the rocky coast of Maine. For short outdoor excursions along the spectacular coast of the Pine Tree State, this guide will prove invaluable. Inside *AMC's Best Day Hikes Along the Maine Coast* you'll find:

- 50 of the best coastal day hikes in Maine, carefully selected by the editor of AMC's *Maine Mountain Guide*
- At-a-Glance Trip Planner to help hikers find the perfect trip, including family- and dog-friendly hikes, and wintertime trip options
- Detailed maps, trail descriptions, difficulty ratings, distances, elevation gain and estimated times
- Directions to trailheads and GPS coordinates for parking areas
- Trip planning, safety tips, and Leave No Trace information

"AMC's *Best Day Hikes Along the Maine Coast* is enthusiastically written, thoroughly researched, and a pleasure to read. Carey Kish does a terrific job selecting and describing A-list trips and offers excellent advice on hiking safely and responsibly. Carey's insightful expertise combined with intriguing bits of local knowledge make this book a must-read for any coastal hiker." —Steve Spencer, Stewardship Director, Damariscotta River Association

The book's author, Carey Kish, has been exploring the hiking trails along the coast and in the mountains of Maine for more than four decades. Carey is a freelance outdoors and travel writer and photographer, editor of AMC's *Maine Mountain Guide*, and writes a regular hiking and camping column for the *Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram*. His writing and images have also appeared in a variety of online and print publications, including *AMC Outdoors* magazine. A Registered Maine Guide and Wilderness First Responder, Carey has thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail twice and completed more than two dozen other long-distance backpacking treks in the US, Canada, and Europe. He lives on Mount Desert Island in Maine.

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Kudos to Doug Chamberlin on a job well done filling in for thru-hiking WM editor

With little ado or fanfare, Maine Chapter Vice-Chair and now Chair, Doug Chamberlin, stepped right into the role of newsletter editor for the 2015 Spring, Summer and Fall editions of *Wilderness Matters*, filling in for me for those long 6 1/2 months while I was away thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine.

Doug did such a great job that I never even heard from him the entire time I was gone, not one question. Thank you Doug for doing double-duty, for making it look easy, and making it all happen so very seamlessly. And with a big smile no less! —Carey Kish

Peter Carney Is Maine Chapter's New Conservation Chair



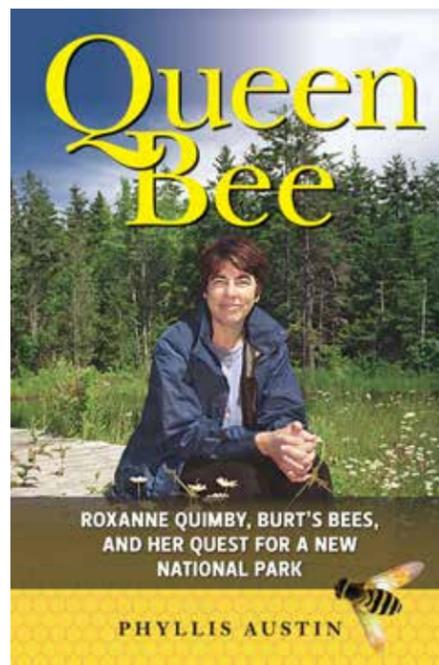
In November 2015, Peter Carney joined the Maine Chapter's Executive Committee as Conservation Chair. Most recently, Peter worked for over eleven years in licensing, compliance, and enforcement with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. Prior to that he was in private legal practice in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Peter graduated from the University of Maine School of Law where he was the editor-in-chief of the *Ocean & Coastal Law Journal*. He also holds an ecology-oriented degree in Landscape Architecture from the S.U.N.Y. College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Peter grew up in New York City and began hiking in Bear Mountain State Park, Harriman State Park, and the Catskills with his local Boy Scout troop.

After college, he worked as the manager of a fly-fishing outfitter and for the down-products manufacturer Feathered Friends, both in Seattle. While in the Northwest, Peter had the opportunity to float most of the rivers on the east and west sides of the Cascades in Washington, mountain-bike throughout the West, and make a few failed attempts at climbing Mount Rainier.

Peter currently resides in Portland. He and his wife completed the New Hampshire 4,000's this past August. For any of you who have seen the locally-produced film "48," you will find a much younger Peter when he was interviewed for the film on the top of Mount Madison when he first started "the list." In addition to hiking, Peter is an avid cyclist, Nordic and backcountry skier, sport rock climber, and trail runner.

Queen Bee: Roxanne Quimby, Burt's Bees, and Her Quest for a New National Park



Roxanne Quimby, who turned a tiny business into a skin-care powerhouse and is trying to establish a new national park in Maine, is the focus of a new biography from Tilbury House Publishers. *Queen Bee* offers an intimate portrait of Quimby and a sweeping history of the north woods of Maine.

Author Phyllis Austin spent six years investigating why the opposition to a new park has been so vehement and why, despite enduring years of often personal attacks, Quimby perseveres in her effort to make the gift.

Drawing from her decades of reporting on the north woods,

Austin roots the park opposition in the decline of the paper industry beginning thirty years ago. And *Queen Bee* traces Quimby's rise from poverty with her world-conquering Burt's Bees brand of personal care products. Endowed with creative brilliance and unrelenting drive, Quimby rode the American dream skyward while the paper mill towns were riding it down.

In this fascinating, tightly woven narrative, the two trajectories meet head-on in the north woods. *Queen Bee* is the multifaceted story only Austin, with her thirty years of north woods reporting and her two years of direct access to Quimby, could have written.

Phyllis Austin is an award-winning journalist, the author of *Wilderness Partners: Buzz Caverly and Baxter State Park*, and co-editor of *On Wilderness: Voices from Maine*. Her writing has appeared in the *Boston Globe*, the *Washington Post*, *Wild Earth*, *SELF*, and other newspapers and magazines. For thirty years she reported on environmental issues for the *Maine Times*. Austin lives in Brunswick, Maine.

Young Members Section

Our focus is to get young folks in their 20's and 30's and the young-at-heart involved in outdoor recreation, raise awareness of conservation and sustainability and have fun!

Learning to Love Winter *By Denise Fredette*

Before I called myself a hiker, winter in Maine was the time of year when I would count down to summer. One summer a few years ago I began an endless series of adventures into the higher peaks of New England. I loved the feeling of exercising outdoors, the challenges the mountains brought, and so many breathtaking views. However, I soon discovered that autumn in the mountains often brings cold, ice, and even snow. My summer gear approach was just not going to cut it and I couldn't go back to hiding indoors for ten months out of the year. I had to learn to love winter, and I do.

My first winter season using microspikes and snowshoes, not to mention carrying a much bigger pack, was an interesting learning experience. I didn't trust the spikes to sink in and hold onto the ice at first, but they did. I didn't know that snowshoes were right and left foot specific, but they are. I overdressed not realizing how warm I could get while hiking. I learned to set a pace that was comfortable and regulate my body because sweat in the winter can be dangerous. I attended the Maine Chapter AMC Winter Workshop and some beginner winter hikes. I absorbed all of the tips and recommendations other hikers would offer me. Hiking in the winter is a different ball game than in any other season, but it is also so rewarding.

I love winter in Maine. It's now my favorite season. There are no bugs and no humidity. You burn more calories hiking in the winter than you do in the summer. Food stays fresher for longer. Butt sliding is fun. The views are clearer. I've even started cross-country skiing both in Maine and New Hampshire. At first, I was afraid to ski down hills and I fell... a lot. Now, I am still a work-in-progress, but I can get down the hills without taking the skis off. I love the feeling of the wind on my skin, the gliding motions of my legs and that every time I put my skis on I get a little better, more confident.

I got started a little later with enjoying the outdoors in winter. Others were raised to appreciate winter, like Angela Bigonia of Dover, NH, who said, "I grew up in Maine and always played outside—XC skiing, ice skating, and of course, sledding! I had the little kid plastic skis that your regular boots go



Beautiful day on South Kinsman in NH, March 2015. Photo by Jason Sevigny.

into...For me, nothing has changed much—it's always been a way of life."

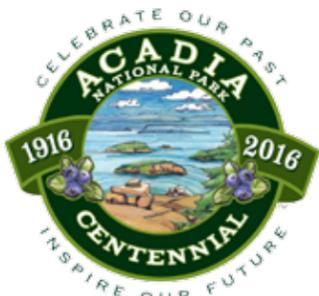
Others found a love for outdoor winter activities in college. Kate Keefe of Maine said, "I started snowshoeing at the environmental campus in college and then started guiding for the AMC. I later learned to cross country and downhill ski while working in the Whites. I had all of these knowledgeable people working with me that I couldn't help but improve. I've come a long way."

Whether you have hibernated every winter in the past or you grew up loving the wintry landscape, there are so many opportunities to get outside and play. Snowshoe across a field, hike up a mountain, go skiing, grab a sled and find a hill. It makes the winter go by faster, you'll be getting exercise and fresh air, and before you know it, you may be having fun!

If you're interested in getting started with winter hiking, the AMC Maine Chapter offers a Winter Hiking Workshop every December and the Maine Young Members group will be offering its second annual Beginner Winter Hiking Workshop and Snowshoe this January. The Young Members also has a limited number of items such as microspikes and snowshoes to loan. There are beginner winter hikes and ski events posted as well. Get out there and enjoy the season!

To be added to our Events mailing list, email: amcyoungmembers@amcmaine.org
Join our group on Facebook: [amcmaineyoungmembers](https://www.facebook.com/amcmaineyoungmembers)

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK TURNS 100 IN 2016!



Acadia National Park, Friends of Acadia, and the Acadia Centennial Partners are planning a year-long, Maine-wide celebration highlighting the previous hundred years of world-class conservation at the park and inspiring and launching the next hundred years of stewardship of Acadia.

Acadia's official "birthday" is on July 8, 2016. Will you mark the day with a sunrise hike to the top of Cadillac? Bring friends to a picnic at your favorite Acadia spot?

Take some time to just notice anew the wonders of this very special place? But that's only one special day in a very full year.

Throughout 2016, the Acadia Centennial Partners will offer events, activities, products, and more. We invite you to:

- Learn more about Acadia's past, present, and future through lectures, exhibits, publications, or films
- Try a new activity or discover a new special spot in the park
- Experience Acadia through the eyes and ears of the artists who are inspired by this remarkable place
- Bring home the memories with centennial commemorative products produced by businesses and artisans from Acadia's surrounding communities
- Give back to Acadia and help inspire its next century of conservation through special volunteer opportunities or by making a donation to Acadia's centennial

Throughout the entire year of the Acadia Centennial, you'll find something for everyone for to enjoy! Discover a wealth of information about this huge year in Acadia history at: www.acadiacentennial2016.org.



Hiker at sunset on Beech Mountain overlooking Long Pond, Acadia National Park. Photo by Carey Kish.