



WILDERNESS MATTERS

Maine Chapter
Appalachian Mountain Club
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State Conservation Commissioner to Address Maine Chapter

Dr. William Beardsley, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Conservation, will talk on Tuesday, October 19th to members of the AMC Maine Chapter, the Maine Audubon, and the public. Commissioner Beardsley will talk on the direction of the LePage Administration, the Department of Conservation's role as part of the Administration, and the role of non-profit conservation organizations. The Commissioner's talk is co-sponsored by Maine Audubon and will be held at their Fields Pond Center in Holden Maine, just outside of Bangor.

The Maine Department of Conservation is the natural resources agency within the state whose bureaus and staff oversee the management, development, and protection of Maine's most special places, including 17 million acres of forest, 10.4 million acres of unorganized territory, almost 600,000 acres of public reserved and non-reserved lands, and 48 state parks and historic sites that provide education, recreation, and renewal for both Mainers and visitors.

Beardsley believes that Maine's economic vitality and conservation are not only interlinked, but can prosper together. Current issues within



Dr. William Beardsley, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Conservation, will talk to the chapter on the direction of the LePage Administration and the Department of Conservation's role as part of the Administration.

the Department of Conservation include the call for a North Woods National Park adjacent to Baxter State Park and the legislative study on the future of LURC. Beardsley chairs the panel that is tasked with studying the future of land-use regulation in the 10 million acres of unorganized territory.

"Mainers strongly value the wealth and diversity of natural resources within the state," says Carrie Walia, completing her second year as AMC Maine Chapter Chair. "AMC aims to protect the remaining wild places in Maine, a goal that is in harmony with many goals of the Maine DOC. It is these unique natural places that provide opportunities to more deeply reflect on our place in the natural world and our responsibilities to make these places accessible to future generations. We will be especially interested in the recommendations of the LURC study panel when they are released in January."

On Wednesday, October 19th, Commissioner Beardsley will talk and take questions in the meeting room of Maine Audubon's Fields Pond Center, 216 Fields Pond Rd, Holden, ME 04429, about 15 minutes south of Bangor. His talk will begin at 7:00 pm and is free and open to the public. For more information email Education Chair John Mullens at education@amcmaine.org or Audubon Naturalist Holly Twining at htwining@maineaudubon.org

Annual Meeting: Final Call for Registration

The Annual Meeting of the Maine Chapter and weekend of activities is just around the corner. We will meet again at Camp Kieve in Nobleboro on October 21-23. Registrations will be accepted through October 15th so please download your registration form today at www.amcmaine.org (click on the Annual Meeting tab) or contact Larry Dyer at vice@amcmaine.org or (207) 655-9097 to have a copy of the form e-mailed or mailed to you.

Friday night will feature a chili/soup cook-off courtesy of the Executive Committee, as well as lots of socializing and reminiscing. Saturday will include hikes in nearby Camden Hills, a nature walk, a paddle on Damariscotta Lake, a bike ride, as well as indoor workshops.

Saturday evening features a social hour starting at 5 pm, a full dinner at 6 pm, a business meeting to elect officers at 7 pm, and our guest speaker, Jim Witherell, who is a registered Maine Guide and wrote the book titled "*L. L. Bean: The Man and His Company*" at 8 pm.

Members can stay for a full weekend for just \$99, including all meals and lodging in clean, comfortable cabins, or register for only a single meal or a night's stay.

The final Annual Meeting agenda of activities, including a list of outings, workshops, and the slate of committee members looking to serve the Chapter will be posted at <http://www.amcmaine.org/2011-annual-meeting/> at least two weeks prior to the event for viewing. We look forward to receiving your registration form soon and will see you in Nobleboro in late-October!

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..and lots and lots of trips and activities to get out there before the snow flies!

TRIP LISTINGS GENERAL

The trip and event listings below include only trips posted prior to the submission deadline for this issue of *Wilderness Matters*. For the most complete and accurate trip listings, please periodically check out the Calendar at www.amcmaine.org. For general questions or comments regarding trip listings, please contact Jeff Aceto, Outings Chair, 207-650-5674, outings@amcmaine.org.

MEETINGS

Maine Chapter Annual Meeting. October 21 - October 23, 2011 (Fri - Sun).

Camp Kieve, Nobleboro, ME. Join members of the Maine Chapter for a three-day weekend full of outings, speakers, and social events intended to provide fun experiences for all. See full article in this newsletter for more information. Leader: Larry Dyer, (207) 233-1984, vice@amcmaine.org.

Maine Chapter Executive Committee Meeting. November 10, 2011.

Freeport McDonald's, Freeport, ME. Important conservation topics, outdoor and educational activities, finances, and other items are discussed. Open to all. Meetings held in upstairs meeting room from 6:30-8:30 pm. Leader: Chapter Chair, chair@amcmaine.org.

MEETINGS & EDUCATION

Living Lightly on the Land: Container Homesteading in Ellsworth.

September 28, 2011. Fields Pond Center, Holden, ME. Jennifer and Trevor Seip will describe how they transformed their goals into reality to live lightly on the land and explain their choices of alternative energy sources, alternative structures, local agriculture, and homesteading. See full article in this newsletter for more information. Leader: Education Chair John Mullens, education@amcmaine.org, (207) 361-1210. See full article on Page 8 for more information.

Doing Wind Right: Falmouth Forum on Land-Based Wind Power.

September 28, 2011, 7 -8:30 p.m. Gilsland Farm, Falmouth ME. How can Maine develop land-based wind power as a renewable energy source while protecting ecological health and natural heritage? Join us to address this question and hear a panel of speakers of scientists, an environmentalist, and a wind industry representative to discuss what it takes to "do wind right." The panel speakers will address land-based wind power in Maine and its potential contribution to energy production; its ecological, scenic, and recreational effects; and its relative costs and incentives. We will follow up with a tour of a wind farm on October 1 (tour signups at the panel, or by contacting education@amcmaine.org). Co-sponsored by Maine Audubon. Leader: Education Chair John Mullens, education@amcmaine.org, (207) 361-1210.

State Conservation Commissioner to Address Maine Chapter. October 19, 2011.

Fields Pond Center, Holden, ME. Dr. William Beardsley, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Conservation, will present to members of the AMC Maine Chapter, the Maine Audubon, and the public. See full article in this newsletter for more information. Leader: Education Chair John Mullens, education@amcmaine.org, (207) 361-1210. See full article on Page 1 for more information.

Tramping New Zealand's Great Walks. October 25, 2011.

Freeport Community Library, Freeport, ME. Ruth (Sam) Jamke, a veteran hiker and hike leader will talk about tramping in New Zealand, home to the largest national park system in the southern hemisphere. See full article in this newsletter for more information. Leader: Education Chair John Mullens, education@amcmaine.org, (207) 361-1210. See full article on Page 5 for more information.

Tramping New Zealand's Great Walks. November 15, 2011.

Fields Pond Center, Holden, ME. Ruth (Sam) Jamke, a veteran hiker and hike leader will talk about tramping in New Zealand, home to the largest national park system in the southern hemisphere. See full article in this newsletter for more information. Leader: Education Chair John Mullens, education@amcmaine.org, (207) 361-1210. See full article in this newsletter on Page 5 for more information.

Kayaking the Maine Coast--the Entire Maine Coast! Wednesday,

November 16, 2011. Freeport Community Library, Freeport, ME. Bob Arledge of Georgetown, Maine, and a crew of four other paddlers kayaked the entire Maine coast from Kittery to Eastport in a single trip. See full article in this newsletter for more information. Leader: Education Chair John Mullens, education@amcmaine.org, (207) 361-1210. See full article on Page 4 for more information.



Breathtaking vista on the Bold Coast trip led by Jason and Sarah Toner on July 23, 2011.

Lighten Up! Buying New Gear and Getting the Most (or Least) for Your Money. December 06, 2011.

Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick, ME. Max Neale, Review Editor at Outdoor Gear Lab, will share his knowledge about the lightest and best outdoor gear on the market. See full article in this newsletter for more information. Leader: Education Chair John Mullens, education@amcmaine.org, (207) 361-1210. See full article on Page 8 for more information.

100 Classic Hikes in New England: December 14, 2011.

Fields Pond Center, Holden, ME. Outdoor writer Jeff Romano will present a slideshow-illustrated talk showcasing favorite local hikes from his latest book, *100 Classic Hikes in New England*. See full article in this newsletter for more information. Leader: Education Chair John Mullens, education@amcmaine.org, (207) 361-1210. See full article on Page 6 for more information.

TRAILS

Trail Work - Waterford Land Trust. More work on historic Mill Trail.

September 24, 2011. Waterford, ME. Working with land trust to rehabilitate old trail. Leader: Keith Chapman, (207) 799-5212 (best time to call: Before 9pm).

Trail Work Weekend at Gorman Chairback Lodge and Cabins. October 07, 2011 - October 10, 2011.

Gorman Chairback Camps, ME. Volunteer trail work at AMC's newest full-service facility. See what all the excitement is about! We'll stay in the newly-constructed bunkhouse and work on trail and boundary maintenance assignments as required. Not to be missed! Leader: Peter Roderick, (207) 293-2704 (best time to call: before 9pm), roderick1027@fairpoint.net.

Trail Work - Black Mountain - Peru. October 22, 2011.

Peru, ME. First visit to this location in several years. We will see what needs to be done. Leaders: Peter Roderick, 207-293-2704 (best time to call: before 9 pm), roderick1027@fairpoint.net and Keith Chapman.

YOUNG MEMBERS

Young Members - Baldface Circle Hike. October 01, 2011.

Evans Notch, ME. Young members (20-30's) that have been actively hiking this year and are ready for a difficult, long day of hiking will tackle the 10-mile loop in Evans Notch of the White Mtn Nat'l Forest on the ME/NH border. Rain date- Sunday, 10/2. Leader: Kim Sanders, kimberlyannsanders@gmail.com. Co-Leader: Sarah Keats, slkski@gmail.com.

Young Members - Burnt Meadow Mountain Hike. November 05, 2011.

Brownfield, ME. Young Members (20's-30's) will explore the new loop trail that the ME-AMC trails committee built on Burnt Meadow Mtn in Brownfield, Maine. We'll hike the 3.8 mile loop with moderate elevation gain to 1575 feet. Rain date- Sunday, Nov. 6. Leaders: Kim Sanders, kimberlyannsanders@gmail.com, and Andrea Hafner, arhafner@gmail.com.

SEA KAYAKING

Autumn Sea Kayaking Weekend. October 07 - October 09, 2011 (Fri

- Sun). Georgetown, ME. Wetsuits/drysuits and good sea kayaking skills required for this last hurrah of the season on the beautiful Maine coast. Lodging at Knubble Bay Camp. Three meals provided. \$80 AMC members (\$90 non). This is a Knubble Bay Camp Committee outing. Leader: Gail Fensom, gailrond@comcast.net.

BIKING

Road Biking – Wiscasset. October 02, 2011. Wiscasset, ME. Let's go to the Wiscasset area and ride. Leader: Denise Courtemanche, decacct@comcast.net.

Bike Ride in Waldo County. October 08, 2011. Waldo County, ME. Beautiful country backroads with rolling hills, great views, and little traffic. Approx 20 miles at a moderate pace. Leader: Judy Oneal, judyoneal@fairpoint.net.

Bike three ocean-front parks in just 25 miles! October 14, 2011. Searsport, ME. Meet at Moose Point State Park in Searsport. Bike to Sears Island and Fort Point State Park in Stockton Springs and return to Moose Point. Beautiful ocean views and a unique lighthouse. A morning ride of approximately 25 miles at a moderate pace. Rolling hills. Leader: Judy Oneal, judyoneal@fairpoint.net.

Road Biking - Popham Beach. October 15, 2011. Phippsburg, ME. Join us for a ride to Popham Beach. Leader: Denise Courtemanche, decacct@comcast.net.

Road Biking - Camden Foliage. October 22, 2011. Camden, ME. Join us for a ride to the Camden/Rockport area to view the foliage. This trip is part of the Annual Meeting. Leader: Denise Courtemanche, decacct@comcast.net.

NATURE OUTINGS

Deer Hills Nature Hike. October 15, 2011. Evans Notch, ME. A pleasant nature oriented loop hike to Big and Little Deer Hills in Evan Notch. We will be hiking through a variety of terrain to the summits of Big and Little Deer Hills where there are some great views. Leader: Peg Nation, (207) 583-2720 (best time to call: Before 9:00 p.m.), mjnation11@earthlink.net.

HIKING

Bald and Speckled Mountain, Peru. September 30, 2011. West Sumner, ME. Two little known summits with extensive views east of Peru, Maine. 1600' gain, 5.2 mi. r.t. Some ledges to climb. 360 degree views of lakes and western Maine Mountains. Varied terrain including sheer cliffs. Easy moderate pace. Leader has helped build new rerouting of trail. Leader: Jane Gibbons, (207) 647-3987, patnjane@wildblue.net and JoAnne Diller, (207) 647-2117, jsdiller@roadrunner.com.

East Royce (3114') & West Royce (3210'). October 01, 2011. Evans Notch, ME. Enjoy fall foliage on a moderate but steady 10 mi loop over East Royce and West Royce Mountains. Planning to spot cars and come out at The Basin. Leader: Debby Kantor, (207) 854-3431 (best time to call: before 9pm), dlkantor@aol.com. Co-Leader: Tom Pettingill, (207) 781-2219.

Fall Foliage and a Full Moon in Camden. October 11, 2011. Camden Hills State Park, ME. Hike Mount Megunticook and Mount Battie during peak fall foliage on the coast. From Mount Battie, enjoy the full moon rising over Camden Harbor (and other surprise treats). This will be a late afternoon hike of about 5 1/2 miles. Optional campout in Camden Hills State Park after the hike. Leader: Judy Oneal, judyoneal@fairpoint.net. Co-Leader: Roger David

BACKPACKING

Backpack - Downeast Maine. September 26 - September 28, 2011 (Mon - Wed). Hancock County, ME. A moderate backpack over three mountain peaks with camping on sandy beaches. Fantastic views of Acadia and the Schoodic area. For backpackers with some experience, tent required. Leader: Judy Oneal, judyoneal@fairpoint.net. Co-Leader: Ray Cooper, (207) 929-2726 (best time to call: Before 9 pm), rcooper207@yahoo.com.

WEEKENDS

Acadia Hike and Bike Weekend. October 28 - October 30, 2011 (Fri - Sun). Bar Harbor, Maine, Downeast and Acadia. Hit the trails of Acadia for two days of hiking &/or bicycling. Lots of views. Arrive Friday depart Sunday. Lodging at downtown Bar Harbor hotel. \$110 double, &170 single (queen bed), \$190 single (king bed if available). Private bath, refrigerator, phone and WiFi. Meals in restaurants. Bring snacks for happy hour Friday and Saturday. Leaders: Don Parker and Ginette Beaudoin, ginette4000@yahoo.com. Registrar: Don Parker, 320 Manchester Rd, Steep Falls, ME 04085, (207) 642-4198 (best time to call: Before 9), donp04085@gmail.com.

Zealand Falls Hut Weekend: January 14 - January 16, 2012 (Sat - Mon). Zealand Falls, NH. Join us for our annual winter weekend at beautiful Zealand Hut. Saturday; snowshoe or ski 6.3 mi. on roads and trails. Sunday; climb a 4,000 footer, take an easy snowshoe, x-c ski, or just lounge around the hut. Bring wine and cheese to share for Sunday night. Monday back out. \$99 covers 2 nights lodging, 2 great dinners and breakfast. Limited space, reserve early. Leader: Wayne Newton, (207) 897-3072, hikerfig@myfairpoint.net. Co-Leaders: Susan Sharkey, (781) 961-3203 (best time to call: 10am to 2pm) and Roger David, (207) 737-2933 (best time to call: before 10pm).



On the Bold Coast on July 23, 2011



It's Time to Enter the 2011 AMC Photo Contest!

AMC's 17th annual photo contest is now open to all members, with more prizes than ever up for grabs. This year's Grand Prize winner will receive a spot in an upcoming photography workshop and an accompanying stay at an AMC destination. Winners of the "Kids, Families, and Adults Outdoors," "Scenics and Nature," "AMC in Action," and "People's Choice" categories will receive prizes from Black Diamond, Deuter, Merrell, and Outdoor Research. For full rules and entry instructions, visit www.outdoors.org/photocontest. Entries will be accepted until November 15, with the winners appearing in a spring 2012 issue of AMC Outdoors.



Learn How To Talk About Climate Change and Energy Conservation

On Tuesday, October 25 a web-based volunteer presenter training for AMC's Energy Conservation and Action for Climate Change Program will take place. This training helps presenters put these concepts in simple terms for audiences aged kindergarten and up. At the training participants will be able to review sample presentations, receive access to background materials, and ask questions of experienced presenters. This evening webinar training takes 90 minutes and requires access to the internet. Contact Faith Salter at fsalter@outdoors.org or for details.



The AMC Adventure Travel Program

The AMC Adventure Travel Program is preparing for the Leadership Training on November 18 - 20, 2011. This workshop provides important training to people who have AMC activity leadership experience (not for beginners) to transition from leading weekend chapter activities to more complex and longer trips, both domestically and overseas. Previous outdoor leadership training is highly desirable. Emphasis is on planning, cost estimating, trip management, people skills, and risk management. Includes procedures and guidelines for researching, proposing, and leading Adventure Travel trips. Exchange ideas, problems, and solutions with some of the AMC's most skilled leaders. For more information, email Colleen Yout at cyout@outdoors.org

Kayaking the Coast of Maine—the Entire Coast!



Approaching some islands off the coast of Maine

Many of us launch our kayaks for an afternoon paddle on a friendly lake or even a full day paddle exploring an inland waterway. Fewer of us launch our boats into salt water to explore the coast and its islands. And very few of us attempt to kayak the entire Maine coast from Kittery to Eastport in a single trip. Bob Arledge of Georgetown, Maine, however, did just that this summer.

Bob and a crew of four other paddlers launched their kayaks in Kittery on July 1st, carrying food, water, and camping gear. A long and strenuous 25 days later they reached the Eastern-most point of land in the U.S. Along the way, they camped on islands, visited the mainland to re-supply their food and water, experienced every type of ocean-generated weather, paddled with and alongside marine mammals, and encountered precious few other kayakers.

On Wednesday, November 16th, at the Freeport Community Library Bob Arledge and his fellow paddlers will share their experiences with the Maine Chapter, describing what worked well and what didn't, showing photos from their high points and low points, and offering advice and incentive to anyone else wanting to attempt such a journey.

This program will be perfect for anyone dreaming about a similar expedition-length paddle, thinking about multi-day ocean kayak adventures, or simply wondering what an overnight ocean kayak trip might be like.

Join us for a potluck dinner (open to the public) just prior to the talk at the Freeport Community Library, 10 Library Drive, Freeport, 04032. The dinner begins at 6pm; the presentation at 7pm. Bring a potluck item to share and your own dinnerware (plate, utensils etc.). Drinks will be available. See driving directions to this location in a separate article in this edition. For more information email Education Chair John Mullens at education@amcmaine.org.

New and Additional Locations for M&E Evening Events

By John Mullens and Kathy Claerr, the Meetings and Education Committee

During our summer "vacation", the Meetings and Education (M&E) Committee investigated over 25 locations to find additional and new locations for members to gather for the monthly evening M&E events that have become a regular AMC Maine tradition in the past four years.

Additional southern locations were necessary since one well-used public facility became less attractive for our use when budget cuts required all event patrons to be out of the building by 8pm. Further, the Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick, a longtime favorite with all the right amenities including a separate door for late night exits, has become so popular with other community groups that their Morrell room is difficult to schedule, limiting our programming flexibility.

We also looked for additional meeting locations in the north since early closing hours at our favored Bangor facility limited the timing of our programs in that area.

We researched locations, talked with administrators, and visited churches, veteran's homes, libraries, and other facilities from Scarborough to Brunswick. And we are pleased to report that we now have three terrific locations for M&E programs in southern Maine, and one excellent facility outside of Bangor. Directions to each are at the end of this article.

We will continue to use the Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick, but we have also scheduled fall programs in the Freeport Community Library, just north of the stoplight at MacDonald's on Route 1/Main Street. The Freeport Library has all of the amenities we love: a separate late-night exit, a kitchen, tables and chairs, and a screen and A-V equipment, all in a lovely setting.

And when our program ideas mesh with those of Maine Audubon, we hope to continue to co-sponsor programs in their fine facilities in Falmouth and in Holden (just south of Bangor). We value our relationship with Maine Audubon, especially as it facilitates our outreach to interested non-AMC members through joint programming.

We are excited about the upcoming M&E season of evening events as we seek out intriguing and informative topics that educate

members and the public about the natural world and our place in it. We hope you want to attend them all and will note them in your personal calendar as you peruse this issue. As always, the most current information about M&E events will continue to be on our chapter website: www.amcmaine.org/calendar/. If you want monthly notices by email of programs in your area, email Education Chair John Mullens at education@amcmaine.org.

And we certainly hope that the new facilities enhance your enjoyment and appreciation of the M&E programs. Let us know what you think about each location!

[Directions to Curtis Memorial Library, 23 Pleasant Street, Brunswick, 04011:](#) From the north or south, take exit 28 off I-295 and go 2.5 miles toward Route 1. From the right lane at the stoplight, go straight onto Pleasant Street 0.5 miles to the library on the right. Parking is on Middle Street or in a public lot off Union Street.

[Directions to the Freeport Community Library, 10 Library Drive, Freeport, 04032:](#) From I-295, take exit 22 and turn on Mallet Drive toward Freeport. In 0.4 miles at the stoplight with Main Street (MacDonald's Restaurant is on the right corner), turn left (north) onto Main Street/U.S. Route 1. In 0.1 mile just before the Freeport Baptist Church on the left turn left (uphill) on Library Drive. The library is at the end of the Drive with parking on the right.

[Directions to Gilsland Farm, 20 Gilsland Farm Road, Falmouth, 04105:](#) From the south, take exit 9 off I-295 and follow Route 1 north 1.9 miles. Turn left onto Gilsland Farm Rd and drive to the end. From the north, take exit 10 Bucknam Rd off I-295, then left toward Route 1 south. Turn right (south) and follow Route 1 for 1.4 miles. Turn right onto Gilsland Farm Rd and drive to the end.

[Directions to Fields Pond Nature Center, 216 Fields Pond Rd, Holden, 04429:](#) At Exit 5 from I-395 near Bangor, go right on Parkway South for 0.3 mile. Go right on Dirigo Drive 0.5 mile. Go right on Green Point Road 0.8 mile. Go left on Wiswell Road 1.5 miles. At Fields Pond Road, go right 1 mile. Audubon Center is on the left.

Tramping New Zealand's Great Walks

The best way to explore New Zealand's rugged mountains and stunning coastline is by tramping (hiking) it yourself.

The second-best way to explore New Zealand is to listen to Ruth (Sam) Jamke, a veteran hiker and hike leader who has already tramped it twice and still wants to go back for more! Sam will talk about New Zealand and tramping in two locations: Freeport on October 25th and again in Holden on November 15th. Details are at the end of this article.

New Zealand is home to the largest national park system in the southern hemisphere, and has preserved a full one-third of its landscape as parks or wilderness areas. As part of an AMC Adventure Travel Excursion in 2007, Sam backpacked the Abel Tasman Coast Track, the famed Milford Track and the challenging Routeburn Track, all on New Zealand's South Island. Sam enjoyed that experience so much that she signed on to co-lead a similar trip in 2010 with John Lisker, then Chair of the Boston Chapter. They repeated the Abel Tasman and Routeburn Tracks but added the highly-recommended Kepler Track in place of the Milford.

Sam will describe all four of these adventurous tracks, narrate some fabulous pictures, and perhaps entice you to travel halfway around the world to explore the enchanting land where the "Lord of the Rings" movies were filmed. Sam (and John Lisker) will lead a similar trip in February 2013.

Sam Jamke has been a member of the AMC since 1983 and has led numerous day and weekend hiking trips. She is a Past Chair of the New Hampshire Chapter, a hike leader for the New Hampshire Chapter and AMC's August Camp, an information volunteer, a member of the Club's Board of Directors, and the Regional Director-North, a liaison position of the Board serving the Maine and New Hampshire Chapters. Sam has hiked the 115 Northeast 4,000 footers and has hiked all of the New England Hundred Highest summits in winter. She began leading AMC Adventure Travel excursions in 2008 and has an Ireland walking trip planned for May of 2012.

Sam's talk in Freeport is on Tuesday, October 25th. Join us for a



Sam Jamke and AMC hikers take a break in New Zealand.

potluck dinner that evening just prior to the talk at the Freeport Community Library, 10 Library Rd in Freeport, 04032. The dinner begins at 6pm; the presentation at 7pm. Bring a potluck item to share and your own dinnerware (plate, utensils etc.). Drinks will be available.

Sam's talk is in Holden is at 7pm on Tuesday, November 15th. It is co-sponsored by Maine Audubon and will be held at their Fields Pond Center, 216 Fields Pond Rd, Holden, ME 04429, about 15 minutes south of Bangor. Parking is free and plentiful.

All events, including the potluck dinner in Freeport, are free and open to the public. AMC members, Maine Audubon members, and members of the public are invited to attend. See driving directions to each location in a separate article in this edition. For more information on either event email Education Chair John Mullens at education@amcmaine.org.

As Maine and New Hampshire's Regional Director on the AMC Board of Directors, I would like to invite you to an upcoming Adventure Travel trip on May 19 to 27, 2012 that I'm leading with Cindy Martell, AMC staff member and active volunteer. The walking tour of the Beara Peninsula on the lush southwest coast of Ireland will be a wonderful opportunity to experience tramping this beautiful country.

The price is \$1575 for AMC members; \$1675, non-members. This includes all lodging, baggage transport, breakfasts and lunches on our walking days and transportation from and to Shannon airport (airfare not included). Consult this link for full details: <http://snebulos.mit.edu/majorexursions/trips/1217.pdf>. Do consider joining us!

"Sam" (Ruth) Jamke
AMC Adventure Travel Leader
603-472-2536
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Wilderness Matters

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

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Maine Woods Initiative Office

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Please send address corrections to the AMC Membership Department at 5 Joy Street, Boston MA 02108, 1-800-372-1758, amcmembership@outdoors.org

National Trails Day near Burnt Meadow Mountain By Douglas D. Ofiara, Trails Co-Chair



National Trails Day held on June 4, 2011 was a huge success in Southwest Maine. Our volunteer party worked on a new trail system near Burnt Meadow Mountain in Brownfield. The past few years have involved active expansion of trails on the Burnt Meadow Mountain range, as we continually work with the landowners in the area to expand the trails and put new trails on their land.

On National Trails Day a total of six volunteers, along with AMC Trails Co-Chair and leader Keith Chapman, completed close to two miles of new hiking trail up the west side of a peak tentatively named "Hastings Hill" to its summit overlooking the Burnt Meadow Mountain Range to the northeast, Pine Hill to the east, the peaks of Rattlesnake Mountain, and Devil's Den (all located in Porterfield except for Burnt Meadow Mountain). This section of the trail is ready for blazing now to better orient hikers.

We are grateful to the Hugh Hastings, Jr. family of Fryeburg for their generosity in making this possible. This trail section is a critical piece which will connect with a trail to the Burnt Meadow Mountains (NE-direction), and Pine Hill (SE-direction), and Moose Mt. and Cragged Mt. (NH) to the West. We hope to be able to offer rustic camp facilities to contribute to a multi-day experience and more local business activity in the area through the expansion of hiking trails and other recreational opportunities. Please check the Wilderness Matters newsletter, the Maine Chapter website, or contact me at trails@amcmaine.org for fall season opportunities to help the AMC Maine Trails Committee!



This idyllic spot may be Jeff Romano's favorite hike in New England. What is yours?

Author of 100 Classic Hikes in New England to Talk in Holden

On Wednesday, December 14, outdoor writer Jeff Romano will present a slideshow-illustrated talk showcasing favorite local hikes from his latest book, 100 Classic Hikes in New England. Jeff's talk is co-sponsored by Maine Audubon and will be held at 7pm at their Fields Pond Center in Holden Maine, just south of Bangor. AMC members, Maine Audubon members, and members of the public are invited to attend.

Do you have a favorite hike? Or do you want to know the favorite hike of this man who writes about great hikes for a living? Here is a chance to learn from a professional about the many hiking opportunities New England has to offer and add to your list of next hiking adventures.

Released in March 2010, Jeff's book 100 Classic Hikes in New England features 100 iconic "can't miss" hikes from the rocky coast of Maine to the forested hills of Connecticut, from the lofty peaks of the White and Green Mountains to the sandy shores of Long Island Sound. Sometimes called the most comprehensive and up-to-date hiking guide for all of New England, the book features color photos, maps, and descriptions of scenic trails for all levels of fitness and abilities, from day hikes close to metropolitan centers to more remote backpacking trips.

For more than thirty years, Jeff has been hiking extensively throughout the wild places of each of New England's six states. His first book Best Loop Hikes: New Hampshire's White Mountains to the Maine Coast was published in 2006. He is also a regular contributor to the Boston Globe. Jeff currently resides in Hallowell, Maine with his wife and son.

So bring your hiking buddies and join us on Wednesday, December 14th, to hear Jeff Romano in the meeting room of Maine Audubon's Fields Pond Center, 216 Fields Pond Rd, Holden, ME 04429, about 15 minutes south of Bangor. See driving directions in a separate article in this edition His talk will begin at 7:00 pm and is free and open to the public. For more information email Education Chair John Mullens at education@amcmaine.org.



OUTINGS UPDATE

The Outings Committee would like to thank our members for making the Summer 2011 Series a great success. It was a summer full of hiking, backpacking, nature outings, paddling, biking, and even a couple dog-friendly events that left tails wagging from the Bold Coast to Kittery. Please join me in thanking our 62 leaders and co-leaders for their continuing volunteer service to our Chapter. It's their hard work that keeps the good times coming and reflects great credit on the Maine Chapter's reputation for safe, fun, and terrific outdoor activities.

A hearty "welcome back" to leaders Joe Gagne, Kim Sanders, and Judy O'Neal after taking 'sabbaticals' from the Outings Committee. I also offer special recognition to leaders Michelle and Stan Moody for a very successful four trip paddling series offered in association with the Brunswick/Topsham Land Trust. This is a great example of our leaders helping to create partnerships with similar organizations to provide new outings opportunities.

Hurricane Irene's path through New England in late August left wide-spread destruction causing temporary closures to the White Mountain National Forest, the Green Mountain National Forest, AMC destination facilities, and major highways. At the time of this writing (September 6), the Green Mountain Club has closed the Appalachian Trail in Vermont and trail damage and bridge failures have been reported along and near the AT in Maine. The most severe damage in Maine occurred in the western mountains including Oxford and Franklin Counties, which received approximately 8.5 inches or more of rain. It is likely that full damage assessment will take more time, particularly in more remote areas. I strongly recommend that our members not take previous conditions for granted and check both road and trail routes before heading out for an adventure.

There's no nip in the air yet, but there will be soon! The Maine Chapter's Winter Series 2011-2012 will be kicking off in December and run through March to give our members lots of opportunities to enjoy "the Fourth Season". The always popular Winter Hiking Workshop will return in early December, with great things-to-know-before-you-go for all outside winter activities. Look for a new Winter Skills Workshop this season which will provide outdoor training on advanced skills such as ice axe and crampon use, self-arrest, and belaying. There will be winter trips of all abilities, many locations, and, if experience is a good judge, lots of different conditions! Look for more information on our website in late autumn and get ready for an active winter with the Maine Chapter.

Fall is a great time to get outdoors, too, and we have a great variety of trips in September and October. Check out the trip listings in this newsletter and you can always log on to the calendar at www.amcmaine.org for the most current information. Please contact me with any suggestions or improvements that you may have and I hope you join us on an outing soon. See you outdoors! -Jeff Aceto, Outings Chair

Chinking at Chairback and Other Important Volunteer Tasks

July 2011 was a prime time to do anything outdoors in Maine. Two groups of intrepid AMC members spent their summer vacations volunteering for AMC's Maine Wilderness Lodges and the Maine Woods Initiative (MWI). And despite a few raindrops and more than a few meddlesome mosquitoes, every single volunteer would do it all over again!



AMC volunteers Susan Mullens, Barbara Thornbrough, and Kathy Claerr plant flowers at Gorman Chairback Lodge.

While most of the new construction at Gorman Chairback is proceeding on schedule, the new log cabin-style bunkhouse had yet to be chinked when the construction crew departed Chairback. Gary Dethlefsen, Operations Manager for the AMC Maine Wilderness Lodges, knew two things: that filling in the inevitable

spaces between the horizontal wall logs (chinking) would keep out the wind and cold and make the bunkhouse warmer and easier to heat during its first winter, and that chinking would be an ideal task for willing volunteers! While old-style chinking used to be either dried mosses or a mortar combination of clay, lime, and straw, modern chinking is a flexible caulk applied with large caulking guns, easy enough even for volunteers!

So for three days in early July, a small group of volunteers chinked the outside of the bunkhouse during the day and slept inside the bunkhouse at night! On the one rainy day when chinking wasn't advisable, the volunteer chinkers traded their caulking guns for spades and cultivators to dig in the dirt. They finished the plantings along the new stone steps up to the main lodge at Chairback and crafted and installed a post for a new dinner bell at the back entrance to the dining room.

The volunteers—Dave McCarthy, Kathy Claerr, Susan Mullens, and John Mullens from the Maine Chapter, plus Tom Crowley from the Worcester Chapter, and Barbara Thornbrough from the New Hampshire Chapter—all agree that volunteering to help out around a new lodge is a sure way to make it feel like home!

Later in July, another group of Maine chapter volunteers worked together to spruce up some old campsites on Third and Fourth Roach Ponds and to create new campsites. These two ponds are relatively close to Medawisla Cabins and Lodge, but are seldom used by lodge guests since they are somewhat difficult to get to. In the long-range plans for AMC's north woods property, however, these ponds (and now these water-access-only campsites) will be one part of AMC's spectrum of recreational possibilities.

The volunteers camped out on Third Roach Pond, sleeping in their own tents and sharing group cooking and cleaning duties. They canoed to their worksites each day, whether it was raining or not.

The volunteers cleared and blazed two walk-in access trails to the ponds and a portage trail between the ponds. They constructed new fire pits, leveled tent sites, and cleared overhanging trees and

branches on the two seldom-used campsites. At two brand-new campsites the volunteers did all of that plus clear foliage from the site of future picnic tables and connecting paths between tent sites, picnic tables, and fire pits.

The fire pits, in particular, were not simply circles of random stones in a designated spot as one might think, but a unique blend of science and art. Each fire pit was excavated to reach the layer of mineral content below the forest duff, sometimes as much as 14 inches below. That is the scientific part. The artistic part was carefully selecting and positioning stones to totally cover the bottom and sides of the pit, with the sides sloping outward to allow adequate room for future campfires. This scientific method lessens the chance that an improperly extinguished fire might continue to burn underground and spread undetected through the thick layer of organic and flammable duff. Mike Zimmerman and Dave McCarthy won the group's accolades for the most artistic and effective fire pits.

The volunteers were directed in their work by Ariana Hunt, AMC Trails Supervisor for the MWI, who had previously flagged the work sites. Professional crews will come in next to construct the tables, privies, and signage. In teaming volunteers and the pro crew, Ariana knew the volunteers would make it possible for the professionals to work more effectively by using their skills where only they can do the work.

Of particular interest in this work group were two 12 year-old volunteers, each on their first AMC volunteer work trip. Wyatt Smith of Maryland and Avery Wallis of Vermont were participating with their grandfathers, but very quickly



A "formal" portrait of the Roach Pond work trip volunteers looking uncharacteristically clean and dry.

paired together to form not only a fabulous fishing partnership but a remarkable work team. Avery and Wyatt specialized in clearing foliage and dragging cut branches deep into the woods where they'll never be seen by the campers. Working together during the days maintained their interest and enthusiasm while contributing to the group goals. And wide-ranging conversations with the adult volunteers in the evening developed their sense of equalness within the group. Such pairings may not work successfully with every potential AMC member at 12 years old, but it contributed mightily to these individuals and this group. And, we suspect, they will be back for more.

Trip participants were Wyatt Smith, Avery Wallis, Peter Roderick, Roger David, Mike Zimmerman, Dave McCarthy, and John Mullens.

Are you interested in helping AMC by participating in a volunteer work group in Maine's north woods? Check our website calendar at www.amcmaine.org/calendar/ for upcoming volunteer trips or contact MWI Co-Chairs Peter Roderick and Scott Dyer at mwi@amcmaine.org.

Biking Season Winding Down

So far the 2011 bicycling season has been good, but not as good as 2010. We have been able to have 17 scheduled rides. The rest were rained out. We will continue to ride in October on the weekends including:

- Sunday, October 2nd – Lets go to the Wiscasset area and ride
- Saturday, October 15th – Ride to Popham Beach
- Saturday, October 22nd – Annual Meeting ride to Camden/Rockport area and view the foliage

Thanks for a great season of fun and laughs. We have made new friends and ridden in new places. Not to mention all the good food we have consumed! - Denise Courtemanche



Maine Chapter bicyclists Larry, Mary, Andy, Dave, Sandy and Al (l to r)

Lighten Up! Tips for Buying New Gear



Max Neale, Review Editor for OutdoorGearLab.com will talk to the chapter on Tuesday, December 6th in Brunswick. Max will bring lots of equipment for hands-on demonstrations of new gear.

Are you looking to upgrade your gear or, like my wife (I'm sure), find the best new piece of camping equipment to give your spouse for the holidays? Then here is the perfect evening for you.

On Tuesday, December 6, 2011, at the Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick, Max Neale, Review Editor at Outdoor Gear Lab, will share his knowledge about the lightest and best outdoor gear on the market. Outdoor Gear Lab is an independent online evaluator of outdoor gear and clothing with a

searchable website featuring product comparisons on the expensive pieces of equipment we all secretly covet.

When it comes to traveling in the backcountry, lighter is better and less is more. A lighter pack reduces the strain on your body and allows you to move faster and lighter on your feet and have more fun. Less gear also means less maintenance and less negative impact on the environment. At the same time, however, lighter gear is generally less durable, less strong, perhaps less comfortable, and certainly more expensive. So, is going light worth it? What is the best use for your lightweight dollar?

From sleeping bags, sleeping pads, and softshells to tents, tarps, and top-of-the-line hardshells, Max will discuss how computer design and new materials influence product performance and which products are worth your consideration. As a bonus, Max will bring a collection of the lightest, the best, and the best value outdoor gear and clothing so you can make your own hands-on comparisons. He'll also share his strategy for buying good gear as cheaply as possible. With the holidays right around the corner, this will be an ideal way to maximize your gift-giving budget. The evening will include a slideshow of global rock and alpine climbing adventures.

Max Neale, global traveler, rock climber, and mountaineer, reports that he has been camping and traveling in the backcountry since the day he was conceived nearly 25 years ago. Growing up in Freeport, Max's outdoor exploits began in Baxter State Park where he has spent at least seven nights annually for 23 consecutive years. Through the Semester in Patagonia program with the National Outdoor Leadership School and four years of running the Climbers' Coalition at Hampshire College, Max developed extensive experience rock climbing, mountaineering, skiing, and sea kayaking. Max has traveled to 25 nations including isolated areas in Chilean Patagonia, Eastern Siberia, and South-Central Africa. When not exploring the Sierra Nevada to test gear for Outdoor Gear Lab, Max researches and controls aquatic invasive species for the Tahoe Resource Conservation District in South Lake Tahoe, California.

On Tuesday, December 6th join us for a potluck dinner (open to the public) just prior to Max's talk at the Curtis Memorial Library, 23 Pleasant Street, Brunswick, 04011. The potluck dinner begins at 6pm; the presentation at 7pm. Bring a potluck item to share and your own dinnerware (plate, utensils etc.). Drinks will be available. See driving directions to this location in a separate article in this edition.

To get an online preview of the clothing and equipment Max will be talking about and to develop questions for Max, visit www.outdoorgearlab.com. You might even see Max on some review videos! For more information email Education Chair John Mullens at education@amcmaine.org.

Living Lightly on the Land: Container Homesteading in Ellsworth



Jennifer and Trevor Seip will talk to the Chapter on how marine shipping containers help them live lightly on the earth without sacrificing comfort.

Are you intrigued by the idea of living off the grid? Do you want your own place but still have a smaller footprint? Want to live small, but have modern conveniences? Do you want to know the first step in realizing your dreams?

On Tuesday, September 27th in Holden, Jennifer and Trevor Seip will describe how they

transformed their goals into reality to live lightly on the land right now. Jennifer and Trevor sought out a living solution that fit their philosophy and their budget, and they are now living their dream in Maine. They will explain their choices of alternative energy sources, alternative structures, local agriculture, and homesteading. Theirs is not rough board and plank living. Two marine shipping containers have been transformed with highly polished wood paneling, heating systems, and windows into a very livable structure. Their early successes, future plans, and contagious enthusiasm will surely pique your interest. Jennifer and Trevor will describe their experiences, show slides, and share advice for others with similar interests.

This program is co-sponsored by the Maine Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club and Maine Audubon and will be held on Tuesday, September 27 at 7 pm at Maine Audubon's Fields Pond Center, 216 Fields Pond Rd, Holden, ME 04429, about 15 minutes south of Bangor. The talk is the first in a series of "Living Lightly" and is free and open to the public. For more information email AMC Education Chair John Mullens at education@amcmaine.org or Audubon Naturalist Holly Twining at htwining@maineaudubon.org.

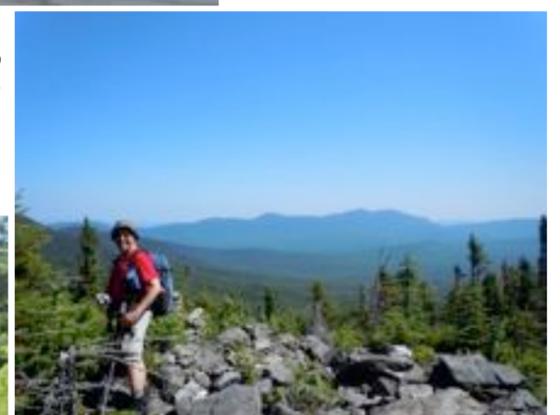
Out and About.. Recent Trips and Workshops



◀ *Peter Roderick and John Mullens make smooth sailing of rough seas on an AMC Maine sea kayak trip in July.*

Join us!
See listings inside..

▼ *AMC Member Eileen Scannell earns the right to lean on the North Crocker Summit Sign during the Triple Summit Challenge Hike on July 16.*



▲ *AMC member Charlie Dingman soaks in a rare view of Bigelow Mountain from North Crocker during the Triple Summit Challenge.*

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