New AMC Maine Mountain Guide completely updated, includes 200 new trails!

The new 10th edition of the AMC Maine Mountain Guide, exhaustively researched and revised (and available now!), features updated and expanded descriptions for hundreds of existing trails. In addition, the guide features 75 new mountains and more than 200 new trails, thereby increasing the already wide variety of hiking possibilities available for every level of hiking interest and ability.

Join Carey Kish, editor of the new Maine Mountain Guide, for a look inside the features of new guidebook, some notes on its history, and an overview of what went into its compilation. Two dates and locations are planned: Wednesday, April 25 at 6:30 PM at the Bangor Public Library, 145 Harlow St., Bangor and Tuesday, May 15 at the Curtis Memorial Library, 23 Pleasant St., Brunswick (potluck at 6, program at 7).

The AMC Maine Mountain Guide has served as the comprehensive hiker’s reference to the mountain trails of Maine since 1961. This latest edition promises to carry on with the long tradition as a trusted pathfinder for hikers seeking outdoor pleasure and healthful exercise in the woods and mountains of Maine. The new guide took more than a year of research, editing and writing to complete. In all, more than 1,000 hours, plus about 1,500 miles of driving and hundreds of miles of hiking. And that’s just by Carey! Fortunately, he had lots of able assistance, which ranged from the many local, state, and federal agencies and organizations to many caring individuals, including several fanatical AMC hikers as well as his lovely wife Fran.

In all, more than 450 trails are now described, totaling well over 1,000 miles of hiking opportunities ranging from easy woodland walks to moderate hill climbs to strenuous mountain traverses. Complementing the hike descriptions is a series of detailed topographic sheet maps highlighting seven popular hiking destinations, and five topographic, in-text maps. At the end of each section of the guide is an expanded list of suggested hikes, selected to provide hikers with a variety of options.

The mountains of Maine are scattered across a large and geographically diverse area ranging from the coast to the inland hills to the remote mountains of the northern interior. Accordingly, the trails are organized into ten geographic...

- continued on page 5

Jeff Aceto Awarded Major AMC Honor

The Appalachian Mountain Club Board of Directors has recognized Maine Chapter member Jeff Aceto with the AMC Volunteer Leadership Award. Jeff was one of only five volunteers across the entire AMC honored with this award at the AMC annual meeting on January 28, 2012.

The Volunteer Leadership Award recognizes AMC’s outstanding volunteers who demonstrate the desire to share their time and expertise in the pursuit of AMC’s recreation, conservation, and education mission. The Volunteer Leadership Award recognizes one or more dedicated volunteers who, in addition to contributing many hours, demonstrate outstanding passion and commitment and are instrumental to AMC’s activities, programs and mission.

As most Maine Chapter members know, Jeff has served the Maine chapter during the...
OUTINGS/EVENTS/MEETINGS/EDUCATION: A Note about the Listings

The listings below—presented in date order by category—include only those posted prior to the submission deadline for this issue of Wilderness Matters. For the most complete and accurate listings, and so you don’t miss spontaneous outings, please periodically check out the Calendar at www.amcmaine.org. For general questions or comments regarding these listings, please contact Jeff Aceto, Outings Chair, 207-850-5674, outings@amcmaine.org.

Deadline, Wilderness Matters, Summer Issue: June 1, 2012. Wilderness Matters is your chapter newsletter. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to contribute, be it stories, opinions, photos or whatnot. We want to hear from you! Send submissions to newsletter@amcmaine.org. Thank you! (FYI: Subsequent deadlines are September 1 for the Autumn issue and December 1 for the Winter issue).

MEETINGS

Thursday, May 10: Maine Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, Freeport, ME McDonald's. Your Maine Chapter Executive Committee meets every odd month (January, March, May, July, September, November) on the second Thursday. Important conservation topics, outdoor and educational activities, finances, and other items are discussed. Open to all. Meetings are held in the upstairs meeting room of Freeport McDonald’s (jct. of Main St. and Mallett St. from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. Leader: Larry Dyer, chair@amcmaine.org.

Tuesday, April 24: New Opportunities to Enjoy the North Maine Woods, Freeport Community Library, 10 Library Drive, Freeport, ME. Staff and volunteers of the Appalachian Mountain Club will present a slide-illustrated program on how AMC members and the public can enjoy AMC’s 66,500 acres in the 100-Mile Wilderness region east of Greenville, ME, and 3 hours north of Portland. The program will cover AMC’s long-range plans in northern Maine, their conservation and land management goals, and recreational opportunities like the AMC wilderness lodges, campsites, shelters, and trails and waterways for hiking, canoeing, sking, and snowshoeing. Learn about future canoe camping opportunities on the Roach Ponds and mountain biking trails on other nearby lands. Please see full article on this program on p. 6 of this newsletter. Join us for a potluck dinner at 6 PM and the program at 7 PM. Bring a potluck item to share and your own dinnerware (plate, utensils etc.) if possible. Drinks will be available. FM1 and driving directions check www.amcmaine.org under Meetings and Education Committee or email Education Chair John Mullens at education@amcmaine.org.

Wednesday, April 25: Introduction of 2012 Maine Mountain Guide: The Maine Hiker’s Bible, Bangor Public Library, 145 Harlow St., Bangor, ME. Carey Kish, editor of the 2012 Maine Mountain Guide will introduce the long-awaited, brand new guidebook at 6:30 PM. This will be the first public showing and availability of the thoroughly revised guide containing the most up-to-date, comprehensive descriptions and maps of trails in Maine. Kish will use personal anecdotes to highlight new information and updates and will share interesting experiences encountered while researching trails and verifying trail data. The book can be purchased that evening and signed by Kish. Be the first on your block to own the 10th edition of the Maine Mountain Guide! Please see full article on this program on p. 1 of this newsletter. Carey’s talk will begin at 6:30 PM in the library’s downstairs Story Room behind the Children’s Section. The talk is free and open to the public. FM1, email Education Chair John Mullens at education@amcmaine.org.

Tuesday, May 15: Introduction of 2012 Maine Mountain Guide: The Maine Hiker’s Bible, Curtis Memorial Library, 23 Pleasant St., Brunswick, ME. Carey Kish, editor of the 2012 Maine Mountain Guide will introduce the long-awaited, brand-new guidebook. See above program description for specifics. Please see full article on this program on p. 1 of this newsletter. Join us for a potluck dinner (open to the public) beginning at 6 PM, followed by the program at 7 PM. Bring a potluck item to share and your own dinnerware (plate, utensils etc.). Drinks will be available. See driving directions at www.amcmaine.org under Meetings and Education Committee. FM1, email Education Chair John Mullens at education@amcmaine.org.

Tuesday, June 5: Old-fashioned Recreation in Maine: An AMC Historical Film Fest, Curtis Memorial Library, 23 Pleasant St., Brunswick, ME. Hiking and camping around Katahdin in the 1940s will be the feature at this AMC Maine Chapter potluck and program (this program and all AMC events are open to the public). Join AMC Librarian and Archivist Becky Fullerton for an historical film fest of epic, Maine proportions featuring footage from AMC’s collection! Travel back to the 1940s for a trip into Piscataquis County for hiking and camping in the Katahdin Region with able AMC leader Ron Gower. See the trails, streams, and peaks in dazzling Kodachrome color while observing Mainers in their natural habitat. Becky will narrate the action and speak about the club as it was just after World War II. The footage to be shown was transferred to digital media from its original 16mm reels at Maine’s own Northeast Historic Film in Bucksport. Please see full article on this program on p. 7 of this newsletter. Potluck dinner begins at 6 PM and Becky’s talk at 7 PM. Bring a potluck item to share and your own dinnerware (plate, utensils etc.) if possible. Drinks will be available. See driving directions at www.amcmaine.org under Meetings and Education Committee. FM1, email Chair John Mullens at education@amcmaine.org.

TRAITS


Saturday, May 5: Trail Work on Mt. Cutler, Hiram, ME. Participate in volunteer work on Mt. Cutler trails. Work will involve rerouting of Barnes Trail, small tree removal, raking, brushing and blazing. Dress accordingly with work pants, gloves, bring clippers and loppers. Leader: Douglas Ofiara, (207) 885-9183 (best time to call: Before 9 PM), dofiara@maine.rr.com; Co-leader: Richard York, (207) 893-1828 (best time to call: Before 9 PM).


Friday to Monday, May 25 to 28: Memorial Day Weekend Trail Work on Little Lyford Lodge and Cabins Trails, Bowlidoin College Grant East, ME. Volunteer trail work weekend at Little Lyford Lodge and Cabins on AMC’s Maine Woods Initiative Property. Cruise trails in preparation for prime hiking season. The trail work involves clearing blowdowns and opening trails primarily. During leisure time, fly fishing is often excellent. Paddling, hiking or just taking it easy are options after work day. Gulf Hagas and Indian Mtn. are nearby and well worth visiting. Trip difficulty: Moderate to strenuous. Leader: Peter Roderick, (207) 293-2704 (best time to call: Before 9 PM) roderick1027@fairpoint.net.

Monday to Thursday, July 9 to 12: Trail Work at Gorman Chairback Lodge and Cabins, Bowlidoin College Grant East, ME. Volunteer trail work at Gorman Chairback Lodge and Cabins. Mid-week trip replaces annual July 4th trip. A great opportunity to visit AMCs Maine Woods Initiative area during the summer season while
giving back to the club. A variety of recreational opportunities available during non-work hours including moose spotting. Come join the fun. Trip difficulty: Moderate to strenuous. Leader: Peter Roderick, (207) 293-2704 (best time to call: Before 9 PM) roderick1027@fairpoint.net.


YOUNG MEMBERS

Sunday, April 1: Tuckerman Ravine, Pinkham Notch, NH. Young Members and non-members 5-18 years old are invited to hike the Tuckerman Ravine Trail to the snow bowl to watch Spring skiing and have lunch. This trip is not intended for skiing and riding and will not include trail areas beyond the base of the bowl. Depending on snow conditions, snowshoes or traction devices may be necessary. Leader: Kim Sanders, kimberrlyannsanders@gmail.com.

WORKSHOPS

Sunday, April 21: Maine Chapter Leadership Training. Maine Chapter Leaders and Co-Leaders and those interested in becoming Leaders and Co-Leaders are invited to join us for a day of leadership training. Meet on Saturday morning at 9:00 AM. Leadership training will include five instructional sessions. Contact leader for additional details. Leader: Jeff Aceto, outings@amcmaine.org.

Saturday to Sunday, May 5 to 6: Wilderness First Aid. Learn to assess and treat injuries in outdoor situations. Course is two full days and is taught at the Pine Point Fire Station in Scarborough by Stonehearth Outdoor Learning Opportunities (SOLO). Fees cover instruction and materials, but do not include lodging or meals. Topics include patient assessment, immediate life threats, disabling injuries, hypothermia and other environmental hazards, plus fractures, sprains and more. CPR is not included in this course. Cost is $20 for Maine Chapter Leaders, $35 for non-members, $60 for AMC members and $100 for non-members. This course has been a sell-out for the last two years, so sign up early. Leader: Michelle Moody, (207) 319-7355 (best time to call: before 9 PM), mmecm@mcstaus.com.

Saturday, June 2: Sea Kayak Rescue Workshop, Windham, ME. Get ready for the upcoming paddling season by brushing up on your kayak safety skills! Whether a rookie paddler or an experienced sea touring kayaker, there’s something for everyone in this workshop. Professional instructors will demonstrate and coach both guided and independent practice of wet exits, self rescue, braces, and paired rescues. This material is great stuff-to-know—before-you-go for the Maine Chapter’s Summer 2012 sea kayaking trips. The workshop will run from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon at Highland Lake in Windham. Cost is $10 for members, $20 for non-members. Leader: Jeff Aceto, outings@amcmaine.org.

FLATWATER PADDLING

Friday, June 30: Pedal and Paddle Outing, Brunswick, ME. A joint venture with the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust biking along and then paddling down the Androscoggin River in Brunswick. We’ll drop off our boats then spot cars at the take out. We’ll head back to our kayaks on our bikes by way of the Androscoggin River Bike Path. After securing our bikes, we’ll paddle down the river to the take out while enjoying the flow as the tide goes out and exploring the islands in the channel (including Cow Island which is protected by BTLT) while watching for eagles and ospreys. If timing works out, we’ll enjoy lunch on the water near the island. If you wish to join us for only one portion of this outing, please contact leaders listed above to make this. Trip difficulty: Easy to moderate. Leader: Michelle Moody, (207) 319-7355 (best time to call: before 9 PM), mmecm@mcstaus.com.

Saturday, April 28: Brunswick Bike Ride and Potluck, Brunswick, ME. Time to tune up the bikes and test them out! We will meet at my home in Brunswick at 2 PM and take a tour of Brunswick to warm up our legs. There will be a potluck to begin at 5 PM. If you cannot make the ride, come for the food and socialize. Leader: Denise Courtemanche, (207) 841-4366, decacct@comcast.com.

Tuesday, May 1: South Portland Bike Ride, South Portland, ME. Meet at the parking lot for Back Cove near Hannaford’s. We will ride around the cove, over to East End Beach, and down to the Narrow Gauge Railway and perhaps a surprise side trip. This is primarily off road and flat with a couple slight inclines. Both longer and shorter rides are possible. Supper at Silly’s on Washington Ave is an option; other suggestions? Leader: Joyce Donald, (207) 939-0482, 1tdonald@yahoo.com.

Tuesday, May 8: Old Orchard Beach Bike Ride to Old Orchard Beach, ME. Early season ride, flat – no hills in the Old Orchard area. We’ll start from Camp Ellis parking lot, bike to Old Orchard Beach, Ocean Park, Pine Point and return for what they say are the best clam cakes anywhere. Riding about 15 miles at a comfortable pace set by the group. Leader: Denise Courtemanche, (207) 841-4366, decacct@comcast.com.

Sunday, May 13: Pineland Center Bike Ride, Yarmouth, ME. Let’s meet at Yarmouth High School at 10 AM and ride to Pineland Center – 22 miles. Leader: Denise Courtemanche, (207) 841-4366, decacct@comcast.com.

Tuesday, May 15: Smell the Roses Bike Ride, South Portland, ME. 10 miles for the “Smell the Roses” folks, all off road to Bug Light. About 15 miles for the more hearty – some nice neighborhoods in South Portland to Willard Beach, a few slight inclines, and Bug Light return to the rest of the group. Dinner – group choice. Leader: Joyce Donald, (207) 939-0482, 1tdonald@yahoo.com.

Tuesday, May 22: Goose Rocks Bike Ride, Biddeford, ME. We’ll meet at the University of New England in Biddeford off Route 9, and ride to Biddeford Pool, Fortunes Rock and Goose Rock Beach. If we have timed this right, the lupines will be gorgeous! This could be made into a 10-mile ride and an 18-mile ride for those who wish to “smell the roses.” Leader: Joyce Donald, (207) 939-0482, 1tdonald@yahoo.com.

Sunday, May 27: Mackworth Island Bike Ride, Yarmouth, ME. Let’s meet at Yarmouth High School at 10 AM and ride to Mackworth Island – 25 miles. Leader: Denise Courtemanche, (207) 841-4366, decacct@comcast.com.

Tuesday, May 29: Eastern Trail Bike Ride, Saco, ME. Let’s explore some of the new sections of the Eastern Trail! Meet at Thornton Academy in the back at ET entrance. We will cross the new Route 1 bridge and go through wooded and marsh land – bring your binoculars – good birding here! Mostly flat, “smell the roses” folks can turn at about 5 miles to make it 10 – the rest will go on to 17 miles. Leader: Denise Courtemanche, (207) 841-4366, decacct@comcast.com.

Tuesday, June 5: Cape Elizabeth Bike Ride, Scarborough, ME. Meet at 5:30 PM for the longer ride at St. Maximillion Catholic Church, Black Point Rd., Scarborough or at 5:45 PM at Grange Hall at the corner of Ocean House Rd. and Fowler Rd. for a tour of the beaches and lighthouses of Cape Elizabeth. Leader: Denise Courtemanche, (207) 841-4366, decacct@comcast.com.

Tuesday, June 10: Freeport Bike Ride, Brunswick, ME. Let’s meet in Brunswick and ride to Freeport – 30 miles. Leader: Denise Courtemanche, (207) 841-4366, decacct@comcast.com.

Tuesday, June. 12: Leader’s Choice Bike Ride, Brunswick, ME. Let’s take a trip to Brunswick – leader’s choice and possible pot luck! Leader: Denise Courtemanche, (207) 841-4366, decacct@comcast.com.
Tuesday, June 19: Yarmouth Bike Ride, Freeport, ME. Meet at Freeport High School and ride to Yarmouth to see the waterfall. Then back in time for a chocolate fix at Wilbur’s. Leader: Denise Courtemanche, (207) 841-4366, decacct@comcast.com.

Sunday, June 24: Popham Beach Bike Ride, Bath, ME. Let’s meet in Bath and ride to Popham Beach – 32 miles. Leader: Denise Courtemanche, (207) 841-4366, decacct@comcast.com.

Tuesday, June 26: Kennebunkport Bike Ride, Kennebunkport, ME. Time for wild roses and riding in Kennebunkport. We’ll meet at Federal Jack’s parking lot and ride along the ocean for either 10-12 or 18 miles – amazing scenery. Dinner at Federal Jack’s for those who wish. Leader: Denise Courtemanche, (207) 841-4366, decacct@comcast.com.

Friday, June 29: Bike and Hike Outing, Brunswick, ME. A hiking and hiking sojourn in Brunswick and a joint venture with the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust. We’ll bike from Crystal Spring Farm (a BTLT property) to Bunganuc Rd., then hike to Maquoit Bay on land also protected by BTLT. Morning departure with a picnic lunch on the bay. We may also hike the trails at the farm upon our return. Bike helmets are required. Trip difficulty: Easy. Leader: Michelle Moody, (207) 319-7355 (best time to call: before 9 PM) meamc@micstan.us.

HIKING

Wednesday, March 28: Paugus Pass, East Sandwich Range, NH. Sandwich Range loop hike into Paugus Pass. 7 miles and 1500’ vertical gain on Cabin, Lawrence, and Kelly trails, and Gorden Path. Visit this beautiful isolated region at an easy pace on mostly easy/moderate terrain. Trip difficulty: Moderate. Leader: Jane Gibbons, (207) 647-3987 patnjane@wildblue.net. Co-leader: Herb Kingsbury, (207) 439-6449 (best time to call: 7 to 9 PM).

Wednesday, April 11: Land Conservation Projects in the Works, Georgetown, ME. A joint venture with the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust with 2 nights at Knubble Bay Camp and kayaking outings on the Sasanoa River. Experience required for kayaking; sea kayaks preferred. Enjoy a group potluck on Friday night, a day of paddling on Saturday past Lower Hell Gate to the Back River, a quick hike on one of KELT’s properties if we have time, then we may do a lobster dinner and even a paddle in Robinhood Cove before leaving. Come learn about the area and enjoy watching for eagles, ospreys and endangered sturgeon. Trip difficulty: Moderate. Leader: Michelle Moody, (207) 319-7355 (best time to call: before 9 PM) meamc@micstan.us.

BACKPACKING, CAMPING, AND WEEKENDS

Friday to Sunday, July 6 to 8: Knubble Bay Camp Weekend, Georgetown, ME. A joint venture with the Kennebec Estuary Land Trust with 2 nights at Knubble Bay Camp and kayaking outings on the Sasanoa River. Experience required for kayaking; sea kayaks preferred. Enjoy a group potluck on Friday night, a day of paddling on Saturday past Lower Hell Gate to the Back River, a quick hike on one of KELT’s properties if we have time, then we may do a lobster dinner and even a paddle in Robinhood Cove before leaving. Come learn about the area and enjoy watching for eagles, ospreys and endangered sturgeon. Trip difficulty: Moderate. Leader: Michelle Moody, (207) 319-7355 (best time to call: before 9 PM) meamc@micstan.us.

Thursday to Sunday, September 13 to 16: Special Maine Chapter Weekend at Cold River Camp, Evans Notch, NH. Join the Maine Chapter for a long weekend stay at AMC’s Cold River Camp in Evans Notch (on the border of Maine and New Hampshire) from Thursday, September 13 through Sunday, September 16. Early registration is required to guarantee your spot, hence the advanced notice. Cold River Camp features great cabins for singles, couples and families. The rate is $65 per adult per night with all meals ($75 for non-members). Check them out at www.amccoldrivercamp.org. Or you can stay at any of the 4 White Mountain National Forest Campgrounds in the area (Basin, Wild River, Cold River or Hastings). There are many hiking options available in the area including the Deer Hills, Speckled, Caribou, Bald Face and Royce Mts., The Roost and the Wild River Trails. Check out the calendar for a list of outings that are already posted. This is a great time to enjoy the area after the bugs are gone. You can hike on the Maine side or the New Hampshire side, do flat hikes or tackle challenging terrain, or just spend time fishing. Or join us for a paddle or bike ride as well. We will try to offer some programs in the evenings or you can enjoy the stars and a camp fire (you can throw in some music and singing too). Come for 2 or 3 nights. Registration is required upon your arrival to reserve your spot! Trip difficulty: Easy to Difficult. Leader: Michelle Moody, (207) 319-7355 (best time to call: before 9 PM) meamc@micstan.us.

WALKS

Friday, April 6: Full Moon Beach Walk, Old Orchard Beach, ME. Full Moon Beach Walk from Fine Point to Old Orchard Beach Pier. Trip difficulty: Easy. Leader: Lorraine Hussey (207) 619-9444 (before 9 PM), rlhussey@maine.rr.com.

CONSERVATION

Wednesday, April 11: Land Conservation Projects in the Works, Gilsland Farm Audubon Center, 20 Gilsland Farm Rd., Falmouth, ME. Why do Wall Street jitters make it harder for Maine nonprofits to protect land? What about severe constraints on funding of state and federal conservation programs? Can land preservation happen in a tough economy? Rare opportunities for land and easement purchases in Maine could add to acreage protected for recreation and wilderness. Representatives from the Trust for Public Land, the Forest Society of Maine, Downeast Lakes Land Trust, and AMC will describe the land acquisitions they are working on, and the challenges they face. Citizens can make a difference whether these projects get done. Find out how. Program runs from 7 – 8:30 PM. Event co-hosted by Maine Chapter of AMC and Maine Audubon. FMI, contact Karen Herold at conservation@amcmaine.org, (207) 829-6146.

Biking Season Just Ahead

March came in like a lion, but soon we will see crocuses, longer days, and hear birds singing their love songs. But the real first flowers” option. On most Sundays, the pace is brisker and length of ride is longer and we have seen some beautiful country/seaside scenes. But the real first spring of spring is when the bikes are dusted off, air in the tires, and really ready to hit the road. We look forward to a wonderful season of rides both on Tuesday evenings and Sunday mornings. We have a wonderful group and would love to add you to the list. The biking group rides on Tuesdays for about 2 hours at a moderate pace, but most rides have a slower, flatter “smell the roses” option. On most Sundays, the pace is brisker and length of ride is longer and we have seen some beautiful country/seaside here in Maine. Many rides have an option of a meal with the group and some have hosted a potluck after the ride. FMI, please contact Denise at decacct@comcast.com or 725-6285 and check the outings calendar for a list of scheduled rides.
regions: Katahdin and Baxter State Park (and a few summits east of the park), 100-Mile Wilderness and Greater Moosehead Lake, Western Lakes and Mountains, Oxford Hills and Evans Notch (including the White Mountain National Forest), Kennebec and Moose River Valleys, Southwestern Maine, Midcoast, Downeast, Acadia National Park (returning to the guide for the first time in several editions), and Aroostook County.

In addition to new and revised trail descriptions and maps, the introductory sections of the guide have also been extensively reworked and expanded.

The important “How To Use This Book” section outlines the mechanics of the trail descriptions, the criteria behind the suggested hikes, details on the distance, time and elevation data in the summary table of each trail description, and advice on using the maps as well as tips on navigation.

New to this guide is a description of Maine’s public and private lands, information on trail courtesy, overviews of the Appalachian Trail and International Appalachian Trail, descriptions of Maine’s geography, geology, climate and vegetation, tips on trip planning, weather and safety, following trails and what to do if you’re lost, gear suggestions for the trail, notes on camping and fire regulations, and winter hiking considerations. Backcountry hazards covers falls and injuries, hypothermia, heat exhaustion, lightning, wildlife, insect pests, poison ivy, stream crossings, hunting seasons, drinking water, sanitation, search and rescue. Thoughts on stewardship and conservation, including trail maintenance and Leave No Trace, conclude the introduction.

A comprehensive Helpful Information and Contacts rounds out the book.

Editor’s personal note: This hiker has been tramping the woods and mountains of Maine for four decades, since moving to the state in 1971 at the age of twelve. As a kid, I always had a curiosity for any patch of woods, whether behind a neighbor’s house or out back beyond the ball field fence. Blazing trails into those dark and mysterious woods always meant great adventure, and my friends and I would emerge hours later dirty from head to toe with cuts and scratches and insect bites, and smiles a mile wide. Living in Maine, where big woods were seemingly everywhere, certainly changed the scale of these childhood explorations. When the forests and trails around Bangor had been thoroughly covered and mentally mapped as far as our feet and bikes could take us, my adventurous group of pals moved on to hitchhiking to the hills east of town, then south to the mountains of Acadia. And when my dad finally took me up to Baxter State Park and I climbed Katahdin, I might as well have been standing atop Mt. Everest, such was the elation. I was irrevocably hooked on hiking. I bought my first Maine Mountain Guide in 1976 and with that, realized the amazing wealth of mountain peaks big, medium and small to be discovered on foot in the beautiful state of Maine. Open the guide wide, thumb through the pages, scribble some notes, pore over the maps, dream a little, then plan your next adventure or two. So many wild and scenic natural places in Maine await your footsteps, your eyes and ears, and the company of family and friends. Start your own journey here with this guide, then go and enjoy and savor time well-spent in the Maine woods.

On Wednesday, April 25, join Carey at Bangor Public Library, 145 Harlow St., Bangor. His talk will begin at 6:30 PM in the library’s downstairs Story Room behind the Children’s Section.

On Tuesday, May 15 join Carey for a potluck dinner (open to the public) just prior to his talk at the Curtis Memorial Library, 23 Pleasant St., Brunswick. The potluck dinner begins at 6 PM with Carey’s presentation starting at 7 PM. Bring a potluck item to share and your own dinnerware (plate, utensils etc.). Drinks will be available. See driving directions at www.amcmaine.org under meetings and education committee.

Both talks are free and open to the public. For these events, contact Education Chair John Mullens at education@amcmaine.org.

—Submitted by Carey Kish

Jeff Aceto

Jeff Aceto

AMC Volunteer Leadership Award Winner

Jeff Aceto in his natural environment.

Enjoy Seeing the World?
Consider Becoming an AMC Adventure Travel Leader!

If you’ve ever thought about extending your trip leadership skills to further out in the field, join us at AMC’s Noble View Outdoor Center, April 13-15, 2012, for AMC-AT’s Annual Spring Retreat to find out more about the program and get your questions answered. Contact Nancy Holland, Adventure Travel Program Coordinator, at nholland@outdoors.org or 617-391-6887 for more details.

www.amcmaine.org • Spring 2012
Evening Program on AMC’s Maine North Woods

New ways to enjoy the north Maine woods will be the feature of a Maine Chapter potluck and program on Tuesday evening, April 24th, at the Freeport Community Library. Members of the AMC Staff and the Chapter Maine Woods Initiative (MWI) Committee are combining to present a slide-illustrated program to highlight ways that AMC members and the public can enjoy AMC’s 66,500 acres in the 100-Mile Wilderness region outside of Greenville, Maine, about three hours north of Portland.

Bryan Wentzell, AMC Maine Policy Director, and Steve Tatko, AMC Land and Recreation Supervisor, will headline the program. Bryan works daily on conservation and land-use policies and regulations in Maine, while Steve is responsible for day-to-day land management, timber, and conservation; creating recreational opportunities; and working with volunteers. Also speaking will be members of the Chapter’s MWI Committee, including Peter Roderick and Scott Dyer, co-chairs of the committee tasked with developing opportunities for AMC volunteers to experience the Maine woods, support outdoor recreation, encourage nature-based tourism, and promote sustainable forestry.

The program will address AMC’s long-range intentions in northern Maine, their goals in buying the land, and how they plan to manage and sustainably harvest it. The speakers will explain AMC plans for conservation and land management in the 100-Mile Wilderness region, sustainable forestry, AMC-style logging, and how that differs from large-scale commercial logging.

The program will also include photos and descriptions of recreational opportunities available in the area, including trails highlighting the area’s natural resources, Maine wilderness lodges, campsites, shelters, and lakes and ponds for activities in all seasons. Learn about AMC naturalist-guided activities at each location, focused activity weekends and educational weeks, and visitor services available at AMC’s Greenville office.

In addition to the hiking, canoeing, skiing, and snowshoeing opportunities available currently, the program will also highlight AMC plans for future recreation opportunities on the Roach Ponds, on the KIW lands south of the Appalachian Trail, and on other adjacent lands. These additional plans include mountain biking, canoe camping, and special programs for youth and seniors. Arranging carpooling and shared transportation options that target first-time visitors to the area is also a goal of the MWI Committee.

A 6 PM potluck dinner precedes this program at the Freeport Community Library on Tuesday, April 24th. Bring a potluck item to share and your own dinnerware (plate, utensils etc.) if possible. Drinks will be available. The North Woods program begins at 7 PM. See driving directions at www.amcmaine.org under meetings and education committee. FMI, email Education Chair John Mullens at education@amcmaine.org.

Special Maine Chapter Weekend in Evans Notch

Join the Maine Chapter for a long weekend stay at AMC’s Cold River Camp in Evans Notch (on the border of Maine and New Hampshire) from Thursday, September 13 through Sunday, September 16. Early registration is required to guarantee your spot, hence the advanced notice.

Cold River Camp features great cabins for singles, couples and families. The rate is $65 per adult per night with all meals ($75 for non-members). Check them out at www.amccoldrivercamp.org.

Or you can stay at any of the 4 White Mountain National Forest Campgrounds in the area (Basin, Wild River, Cold River or Hastings).

There are many hiking options available in the area including the Deer Hills, Speckled, Caribou, Bald Face and Royce Mts., The Roost and the Wild River Trails. Check out the calendar for a list of outings that are already posted.

This is a great time to enjoy the area after the bugs are gone. You can hike on the Maine side or the New Hampshire side, do flat hikes or tackle challenging terrain, or just spend time fishing. Or join us for a paddle or bike ride as well. We will try to offer some programs in the evenings or you can enjoy the stars and a camp fire (you can throw in some music and singing too).

Come for 2 or 3 nights. Registration is required soon to guarantee your spot! Contact Michelle Moody at meamc@micstan.us or 207-319-7355.

Maine Chapter Volunteers Receive AMC Volunteer Service Awards

Fifteen Maine Chapter volunteers were recognized by the Appalachian Mountain Club for their volunteer work with the club. At its January annual meeting the club honors AMC volunteers who carry on the tradition of public service activity and contribute to the protection, enjoyment, and wise use of the public lands. The awards recognize and encourage Chapter members and grassroots public service volunteers who typically volunteer on trail work, conservation, or other stewardship projects.

Volunteers qualify for these awards at two levels. The Marian Pychowska Award recognizes volunteers who have contributed at least 96 hours in a year and the Warren Hart Award recognizes those who have volunteered at least 224 hours.

The 2011 Marian Pychowska Award for volunteering at least 96-223 hours was awarded to the following Maine Chapter members: Jeff Aceto, Matt Colello, Larry Dyer, Jon Evans, Carrie Wiala, and Richard York.

The 2011 Warren Hart Award for volunteering at least 224 hours was awarded to the following Maine Chapter members: George Brown, Keith Chapman, Roger David, Todd Flagg, David McCarthy, John Mullens, Peg Nation, Douglas Ofiara, and Peter Roderick.

Congratulations to these Maine Chapter super volunteers!

If you’d like to volunteer with AMC and/or the Maine Chapter, there are plenty of opportunities. Check the online calendar of the Maine Chapter at www.amcmaine.org or email Peter Roderick at mwii@amcmaine.org or Douglas Ofiara at trails@amcmaine.org for upcoming volunteer trips.
Old-fashioned Recreation in Maine: An AMC Historical Film Fest

Hiking and camping around Katahdin in the 1940s will be the program at an AMC Maine Chapter potluck and program on Tuesday evening, June 5th, at Brunswick’s Curtis Memorial Library. This program and all AMC events are open to the public.

Join AMC Librarian and Archivist Becky Fullerton for an historical film fest of epic, Maine proportions featuring footage from AMC’s collections! Travel back to the 1940s for a trip into Piscataquis County for hiking and camping in the Katahdin Region with able-AMC leader Ron Gower. See the trails, streams, and peaks in dazzling Kodachrome color while observing Mainers in their natural habitat. Becky will narrate the action and speak about the club as it was just after World War II. The footage to be shown was transferred to digital media from its original 16mm reels at Maine’s own Northeast Historic Film in Bucksport.

Becky has been Librarian and Archivist for AMC since 2005. She holds a Master’s in Museum Studies from the Harvard University Extension School and is a member of the Society of American Archivists. A lifelong outdoorsperson, she grew up in Vermont and New Hampshire and has hiked and paddled extensively throughout New England and in Quebec. Over the past 13 years she has worked at four different club facilities and just can’t seem to get enough of AMC!

On Tuesday June 5th, join Becky at the Curtis Memorial Library, 23 Pleasant St. in Brunswick for a potluck dinner at 6 PM and her talk at 7 PM. Bring a potluck item to share and your own dinnerware (plate, utensils etc.) if possible. Drinks will be available. See driving directions at www.amcmaine.org under meetings and education committee. FMI, email Chair John Mullens at education@amcmaine.org.

AMC Librarian and Archivist Becky Fuller will show historical films of Maine outdoor recreation on June 5.

New Trips Announced for AMC’s Adventure Travel Program

Looking for some place different to take an active vacation? Check out these brand new trips just released by the AMC’s Adventure Travel Committee.

- Sedona (hiking) – November 10-18, 2012
- New Zealand (hiking) – February 9-25, 2013
- Spain (biking) – May 18-25, 2013
- Yosemite (hiking) – June 1-8, 2013

For a complete listing of all trips, go to www.outdoors.org/adventuretravel

AMC Launches New Mobile Website

Smartphone users can now connect to www.outdoors.org and access a new, mobile-optimized version of AMC’s website. AMC has made the most common online tasks, including checking lodging availability, finding local chapter programs, checking current conditions, and renewing your membership much easier to do with a mobile device. Check it out and let AMC know what you think!

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 the AMC or its Maine Chapter.

Send all address corrections to: AMC, 5 Joy Street, Boston, MA 02108, 800-372-1758, amcmembership@outdoors.org

Send newsletter submissions and photographs to: newsletter@amcmaine.org

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Newsletter Designer: Lauren A. Mier, brightredbicycledesign

Maine AMC on Facebook!

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

www.amcmaine.org • Spring 2012
Maine Members in the News

Trust Director Works to Preserve Land

Bridgton-based Loon Echo Land Trust has hit a milestone. This year marks 25 years of preserving parcels in the Lakes Region and events are planned throughout the year to celebrate. Steering this ship since 2008 is executive director and past Maine AMC Chair Carrie Walia.

A Wisconsin native, Walia first came to Maine about 10 years ago following graduation from the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point where she studied land use planning and natural resource management.

“Wisconsin is a beautiful state, but I wanted to get out and explore,” Walia said. “My husband and I came out to the White Mountain National Forest to become campground hosts. We really wanted to be near the mountains and the ocean.”

The area felt right and the couple soon moved across the border into Maine. Shortly after, Walia started working with Loon Echo as a campaign assistant to the Pleasant Mountain Phase I Project. She went to full-time employment with the land trust in 2005.

Loon Echo Land Trust is one of the oldest organizations of its kind in the Lakes Region. Walia said many local land trusts got their start around the same time because of what was happening in the conservation community.

“There was this need for local conservation,” Walia said. “We started in Naples and Casco because most of our founders were from there.”

Since those early beginnings 25 years ago, Loon Echo has helped preserve about 4,000 acres in seven towns throughout the Lakes Region. Walia, 32, said current goals include finalizing the transfer of Pondicherry Park to the town of Bridgton and fundraising toward the purchase of Hacker’s Hill (Quaker Ridge) in Casco. Walia said the organization hopes to double its conservation acreage to 8,000 acres by 2017, as well as looking at conservation opportunities along the Crooked and Tenney rivers. Ensuring all seven towns have their own local land-preserve is another area of focus.

With only two staff members and one volunteer under her, Walia must wear many hats and answers to 12 board members.

“What I like about my job and what I feel like I don’t always have enough time to do is talk with land owners,” she said. “I love everything about it -- from that first meeting through seeing things come to fruition years later. I have to be project manager and develop a strategy.”

Legal and financial aspects are complex in most conservation projects. One future challenge will be the organization’s capacity to meet current demand.

“There’s a lot of land either marketed for sale or that’s available,” she said. “We’re trying to become more well-known and differentiate ourselves from the partner (Lakes Environmental Association) we shared an office with for the last 10 years.”

Part of that included moving to a new, separate headquarters last year.

“We’re trying to make people more aware of what we do,” she said. “We’re based on land dealings, which include keeping forests working.”

Walia currently lives with her husband Kelly Rusmussen, a builder and contractor, in Stoneham on a parcel that borders the White Mountain National Forest. Her work ethic is motivated by far more than just paying the bills. It’s about making a difference for future generations.

“Everyone has a story about a farm, meadow or forest that has been developed in their lifetime and that they wished could have stayed the same,” she said. “I work every day to conserve portions of the local landscape so that future generations can experience what I am able to do it all.”

Chapter President Larry Dyer attributed the growth to the hard work of the Chapter Executive Committee and the previous Chapter Chairs. “Laura Flight and then Carrie Walia did a tremendous job invigorating the ExCom and the Chapter to ramp up our offerings of outdoor activities, offerings for families and young people, outings in all seasons, and educational events. These opportunities were the catalyst for members to become more knowledgeable about state conservation and land management issues while enjoying a recreational outing.”

The Chapter is not about to slow down, either. Committee Chairs have planned new events to encourage families, school-age groups, young adult members, and others into the outdoors.

“We see our mission as getting as many people outside and engaged as possible,” Dyer said. “We want to make a difference in Maine’s future.”

Maine Chapter Membership Increases

The Maine Chapter has had two years of solid membership increases according to AMC Executive Vice President Walter Graff. Speaking informally on March 1 to Maine Chapter Executive Committee members Peter Roderick and John Mullens at AMC’s Little Lyford Lodge outside of Greenville, Maine, Graff said the growth suggests an appreciation of the Maine Woods and its recreation opportunities.

As shown by the chart below, Maine Chapter members have now topped the 4,400 mark. The Maine Chapter grew its membership by 13% in 2011, a wonderful testament to the hard work the chapter and AMC are doing in Maine. This was a continuation of a trend that began in 2010. AMC’s Membership Director, Teri Morrow, attributed it to a number of factors, including a variety of new trails, additional lodging opportunities, and the chapter’s commitment to serving its members with a variety of fun, educational, and exciting activities.

“There’s nothing more rewarding than watching a chapter’s membership grow,” Morrow said. “Whether it’s keeping more longtime members, engaging newer members, or bringing in new members, Maine managed to do it all.”

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John Judge Is New AMC President

John D. Judge assumed the role of AMC president on February 1, 2012, replacing Andy Falender who retired after 23 years at the AMC helm. Judge will oversee the nation’s oldest outdoor recreation and conservation organization with more than 100,000 members, advocates, and supporters in 12 chapters from Maine to Washington, D.C.

“We are excited about John’s experience, talent, and passion for AMC’s mission, particularly in getting young people engaged with the outdoors,” said Laurie Gabriel, chair of the AMC Board of Directors. “We can’t think of anyone we would rather have leading AMC as we work to broaden and diversify our constituents, help more kids and families get outdoors, and expand our role as a conservation leader in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions.”

AMC advocates for the conservation and protection of the mountains, rivers, and forests in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. The club offers over 8,000 outdoor trips each year, maintains over 1,500 miles of hiking trails, and hosts over 150,000 overnight guest visits at its huts and lodges.

Over the last eight years, AMC has conserved 66,500 acres of land in Maine’s 100-Mile Wilderness region used for outdoor recreation, education, and sustainable forestry, where AMC manages over 90 miles of hiking and cross-country ski trails and three year-round lodges.

“I am energized by the challenges AMC has committed to taking on over the next decade,” said Judge. “Attracting 500,000 constituents, helping 500,000 kids experience wild places, fulfilling our vision for the Maine Woods Initiative, and engaging more people in our conservation and trail stewardship efforts is a tall order, but an exciting one. I am looking forward to using my experience in building partnerships to increase the impact of AMC in the region.”

Judge joins AMC as a respected nonprofit and government leader, having served in executive and senior development, finance, and marketing roles. Judge, who lives in Boston, holds a B.A. in economics from Stonehill College and a Master’s of Public Administration from Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government.

“John possesses an extensive understanding of management issues as well as a commitment to our mission,” said Falender. “The diversity of his nonprofit experience will be extremely valuable as AMC takes on new initiatives” and continues “the momentum we have created in support of AMC’s long-term strategic plan, Vision 2020.”

Welcome John! All of us at the Maine Chapter wish you the very best!

Read the full AMC press release at: http://www.outdoors.org/about/newsroom/press/2012/john-judge-president.cfm

Volunteer in the North Maine Woods

One of the best ways to experience the outdoors and northern Maine is to volunteer for a work session helping AMC prepare its facilities and trails. And this is a great time of year to put a volunteer trip or two on your calendar!

Being part of a volunteer crew has multiple benefits. First and foremost, it’s an opportunity to give back to the woods and the wilderness in an organized and thoughtful way that supports a larger plan for conservation and recreation. All AMC volunteer projects are part of AMC’s long-range maintenance and improvement plans that further conservation goals for their 66,500 acres Maine Woods Property. Second, volunteering is a legitimate, no-argue way for you to be outside enjoying the woods and feeling good about what you accomplish. And third, it’s a great opportunity to meet other like-minded people who love to be outside. All in all, however, it’s simply good-old outdoor fun in the name of a good cause.

Improvements can be a simple re-routing around unstable ground or installing bog bridging over perennially wet sections. Cutting and installing new bog bridging is perhaps the most rewarding trail improvement activity since the bog bridging will be there for some time to come and is a visual reminder of good times and satisfying cooperative effort. This year’s July volunteer trip is July 9-12, a midweek opportunity.

Other people think October is the ideal time for a north woods sojourn, so AMC and the Maine Chapter have a volunteer weekend that takes advantage of the fall colors. Of course, a primary focus is getting the trails and lodges ready for the upcoming winter, so winter ski trail maintenance and firewood processing may be primary efforts for this group. October 5-8 are the dates for this year’s efforts.

Volunteer activities at all three lodges are coordinated by AMC’s Land and Recreation Supervisor Steve Tatko and longtime AMC volunteer coordinator Peter Roderick. For more details or to sign up for any of these volunteer weekends, go to www.amcmaine.org and filter the calendar listings by Trails Committee. If these dates don’t work for you or if you’d like more information about other opportunities to join a volunteer work crew, contact the Maine Chapter Co-Chairs of the MWI Committee, Peter Roderick and Scott Dyer at mwi@amcmaine.org —Submitted by John Mullens
Sonny said with a smile, no that yet in tune with winter hiking. They showed up for his hike with one pair of snowshoes between them. Sonny also helped the Chapter administratively. For nine years in the 1980’s he was Chapter newsletter editor, typing the text at home then mailing it to the print shop. And for five years he was Chapter Trails Chair before turning that over to Roger Marchand and Keith Chapman in 1998.

Sonny cites a lot of changes in the Chapter over the years, most of them, he says, positive. “The chapter has come a long way since my early days,” says Sonny, “and the changes are good.”

As an example, Sonny says that mountain leadership and Wilderness First Aid training is much more comprehensive now. “Back then training was more like tribal knowledge passed down from the elders,” says Sonny. “Now professionals teach the courses, which are more comprehensive, and much of the instruction is based on current research.”

In his early days, Sonny recalls that hike leaders were expected to pre-hike their intended route, flagging the trail with orange tape. On hike day, the leader and hikers followed the flags up and removed them on the way down. Since the leaders already knew most of the trails they were guiding, Sonny convinced them that flagging was unnecessary and by the late 1970’s the practice of pre-flagging stopped.

Sonny sees today’s hikers as better educated about the out-of-doors perhaps because of the proliferation of college outing clubs, rock gyms, and even better news coverage such as the outdoor section of the Portland Press Herald. Sonny remembers one couple who wasn’t yet in tune with winter hiking. They showed up for his hike with one pair of snowshoes between them. Sonny said with a smile, no that wouldn’t do, they couldn’t go. The couple thought a minute, and then offered to wear them alternately, trading them back and forth. Sonny shook his head “no” and chuckled to himself. After another quick conference the couple offered to wear one snowshoe each for the whole trip. This time, Sonny couldn’t contain himself and said no with a loud guffaw. The couple finally got the message and turned away. “That wouldn’t happen today,” Sonny says. “People are much wiser now about safety and the importance of traction devices.”

Sonny is a “list” hiker and an accomplished one at that. Since he first started list hiking, he has completed the NH 4,000-footers, NH 3,000-footers, NH 100 Highest, NH 200 Highest, NH 69 fire-tower peaks, New England 100 Highest, New England 4000-footers, New England 3,000-footers, Northeast 111 Highest, ADK 46ers, ADK 100 Highest, Katahdin in winter 8-9 times, and the 48 state highpoints.

After all these years and many hikes, Sonny has zeroed in on some favorite hikes. His top pick is Mt. Chocorua in the off-season. Sonny likes its rocky summit and excellent views, but finds it far too crowded in season. In winter Sonny’s choice is Mt. Washington because it’s unpredictable: one never knows what the conditions are going to be like and the only people you encounter are those who have worked to get there. One magical summer hike to the summit sticks in Sonny’s mind, however. Many years ago, Sonny and two friends hiked Mt Washington on the night of the full moon in June. Starting from Pinkham at 7 PM they reached Lion’s Head in time to watch the huge full moon rise on a crystal clear night. On the summit, it was so clear and still they could see Portland. Amazingly, they made it back to Pinkham by 3 AM without needing their headlamps and without seeing anyone else on the entire hike. They were home by 5 AM and Sonny went to work that day, a bit late but with a great excuse.

Even with all his accomplishments and nearing retirement, Sonny is still leading Chapter trips once a month and working on a few lists. While he’s done the lower 48 state highest points and tried Alaska twice, he still wants to summit Denali, then finish in Hawaii. He has a few other hikes left to complete, including the Catskills’ 35 highest in winter, Maine’s 127 fire-tower peaks, the Colorado 14-teeners, and the Northeast 770. With this list, Sonny figures he has at least a couple of years before he’ll need to set some new goals!

—Submitted by John Mullens

### WANTED:

Maine Chapter, AMC – Membership & Public Relations Committee

**Job Description**

The Membership and Public Relations Chair (or co-chairs) serves as a member of the Maine Chapter of the AMC’s Executive Committee or “ExCom.” The Membership/PR Chair is to organize the programs and functions of the Membership and Public Relations Committee in accordance with the mission of the Club and Chapter.

The purpose of the Membership/PR Committee is to maintain an accurate and current list of the Maine Chapter membership and membership category totals as provided by the Club’s Membership Department. The Committee will also assist new and existing Chapter members with membership related questions. The Committee organizes and provides relevant materials at events where there is a potential for new member recruitment and interaction with the general membership, as well as organizing the merchandise for sale by the Chapter.

The following activities are the responsibility of the Chair and/or designated Committee members:

1. Responds to informational inquiries from Chapter and Club members and the general public to assist them in their membership inquiries and/or becoming an AMC member.
2. Maintains the membership related lists and spreadsheets as provided by the Club and keeps such information private and secure.
3. Informs the ExCom of the status of Chapter members and reports out on the number of active members/membership categories at meetings of the ExCom.
4. Creates and/or updates and stocks membership promotional materials, such the informational display, and assists the ExCom with use of such materials.
5. Manages the stocking and sale of the Chapter merchandise, including t-shirts, and mails the purchased merchandise to buyers in a timely fashion.
6. Organizes (or plays the lead role if AMC staff organize) a Chapter booth/table at statewide events and directs volunteers to help at such events.
7. Other duties as deemed necessary or desirable.
AMC Maine Chapter
2012 Annual Meeting Announcement

For the past two years we have gone to Camp Kieve for our annual meeting. As a result of conversations with Maine Chapter AMC members there and at other venues, the Executive Committee has decided to try a new format. This year’s annual meeting will be held at DiMillo’s Floating Restaurant on Commercial St. in Portland on Saturday, November 3rd.

Some of the things we have heard… Getting away for a weekend if you have kids can be difficult. If one has pets, then that poses a problem. With the cost of gas, some places are just too far to travel to. We want you to know that we have listened and have tried to come up with an alternative. It is our hope that having the annual meeting at DiMillo’s will allow more members to attend, especially, it being a one-evening affair.

Please know that we have not ignored those of you who want hiking, paddling, biking and workshops such as map reading or using your GPS to name a couple. Michelle Moody has planned a 4-day program at AMC’s Cold River Camp in Evans Notch (on the border of Maine and New Hampshire) for Thursday, September 13 through Sunday, September 16. (Please see outings calendar and article elsewhere in this newsletter for more details and registration information. Registration information is below.)

Agenda:
5 PM Social hour (cash bar)
6 PM Dinner
7 PM Business meeting
8 PM Featured Speaker: John Judge, new AMC president

We are excited to have John Judge, the new AMC president, as our guest speaker. As you might imagine, we don’t get the president to be our speaker very often.

The meal will consist of a caprese salad, lobster bisque, a choice of one of the following: farfalle with lemon asparagus and mascarpone, baked stuffed chicken breast, apple and sausage stuffed pork chop with sage butter, broiled haddock or cider pork and cabbage. Finish the meal with a piece of sour cream chocolate cake. Cost is $35 per person, which covers the meal, gratuity and tax. Parking is free. Please make checks payable to AMC-Maine Chapter and send to Larry Dyer, 10 Homestead Rd., Casco, Maine 04015.

It is important to register early as space is limited. All who register by September 11th will have his or her name entered into a drawing for a free night at Hampton Inn, compliments of an anonymous donor. FMI, contact Larry Dyer at 207-655-9097 or chair@amcmaine.org. We hope to see you at this year’s annual meeting!

REGISTRATION FORM

AMC Maine Chapter – 2012 Annual Meeting – Saturday, November 3rd
DiMillo’s Floating Restaurant in Portland, 25 Long Wharf (off Commercial Street)

Name: _______________________________ Phone Number: _______________________________

Email address: _______________________________

Mailing Address: _______________________________

City: __________________________________ State: __________ Zip: __________

Cost per person is $35, which includes free parking and two appetizers, a main course, and dessert. Please make checks payable to AMC-Maine Chapter and send to Larry Dyer, 10 Homestead Rd., Casco, Maine 04015.

MENU

• Caprese salad and lobster bisque

• Select ONE of the following: please, don’t forget to check one
  All entrees include chef’s choice of vegetables, thyme-roasted potatoes, Italian bread, coffee, tea or soda.
  _____ Farfalle with lemon asparagus and mascarpone
  _____ Baked stuffed chicken breast
  _____ Apple and sausage stuffed pork chop with sage butter
  _____ Broiled haddock
  _____ Cider pork and cabbage

• Sour cream chocolate cake

All who register by September 11th will have his or her name entered into a drawing for a free night at Hampton Inn, compliments of an anonymous donor.
Hooked on the AMC (and Hiking and Bushwhacking)

Sonny Martineau is a seasoned Maine Chapter member and outdoorsman with nearly 50 years of hiking experience in New England and beyond, many of those as a hike leader. After nearly 15 years on the Chapter’s Executive Committee, Sonny has now settled into a routine of leading one hike a month year-round.

Recently, Sonny gave me a tour of his library and the estimated 65,000 slides of his adventures plus his extensive collection of mountaineering books, magazines, and periodicals. His collection includes a set of Appalachia starting with the June 1876, Volume 1, Number 1 edition and the English Alpine Journal from the 1840’s. Sonny recently turned over to the chapter a number of historical documents from its early days as the Portland Chapter.

This is the story of Arthur (Sonny) Martineau, Member Number 11448, AMC and Maine Chapter member since March 1970.

Sonny’s hiking career began as a lark when he and a friend set out to explore a mountain simply because it looked fun. Carrying blankets, cans of beans, beef stew, and Sterno, they were ready to walk straight up the hill. In talking with a ranger they were amazed that the mountain had a name (Mt. Willey) and that they needed a fire permit, there were established trails, and there were maps of the trails published by some group named AMC. They didn’t make it far up the hill before dark that day, so they cooked their dinner and slept on the trail in their blankets, feet propped against roots so they didn’t slide back down. Shortly after daybreak they made it to the top and were transfixed by the early morning beauty of the mountaintop vista. Sonny was hooked on hiking. He was 18.

Sonny soon discovered that the AMC did more than print maps. By the end of his first organized hike with AMC, Sonny had applied for AMC membership, sponsored (as was required then) by his hike leaders Soren Christensen and Dick Brown. Joy Street soon welcomed Sonny to the club and he was hooked on the AMC.

Hiking nearly every weekend with the chapter for a number of years taught him a lot, and in 1975, Sonny completed a weekend workshop on Wilderness First Aid and Mountain Leadership and began leading Maine Chapter hikes. On a subsequent hike up Bondcliff, Sonny’s co-leader taught him how to use a compass to cut off long mileage, and Sonny was instantly hooked on bushwhacking. It was on such a bushwhack in the mid-1980s that Sonny met his future and still current hiking partner Dennis Crispo from Tewksbury, MA.

Sonny has led over 200 hikes, many of them bushwhacks that garnered a large following. Because many 4,000-footers didn’t have trails to their summits, Sonny was soon teaching bushwhacking skills on his hikes, and remembers leading 20-30 participants on. - continued on page 10