



WILDERNESS MATTERS

Maine Chapter
Appalachian Mountain Club
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Portland, Maine 04104

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Maine Chapter, Appalachian Mountain Club

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REGISTER NOW!

Maine Chapter Annual Meeting is November 3rd



This year's AMC Maine Chapter annual meeting is scheduled for the evening of Saturday, November 3, 2012 at DiMillo's Floating Restaurant on Commercial St. in Portland. We hope to see as many chapter members there as can make it! This promises to be a fun evening of socializing and good food in a different format than in past years. We are very 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. Please let's get a good crowd together for John!

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



Our 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, or broiled haddock. 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. To register, please fill out and return the registration form on page 11, or go to www.amcmaine.org/2012-annual-meeting. There you can complete your registration in either of two ways:

1. Download the registration form and mail in with your payment, or
 2. Click on the PayPal button to register online by credit card. Registration questions are included in the PayPal processing.
- We hope to see you at the AMC Maine Chapter Annual Meeting! FMI, contact Larry Dyer at 207-655-9097 or chair@amcmaine.org.

Paddling with Privies: An AMC Volunteer Adventure

You've undoubtedly heard about paddling with friends and family, paddling on some of AMC's pristine Maine lakes, and even paddling in ocean waters off the coast, but paddling with privies might be a new one for you.

No, "paddling with privies" is not a canoe trip where extreme *Leave No Trace* paddlers carry their own privy from campsite to campsite.

Instead, it was one of the more unusual volunteer opportunities offered by the Maine Chapter in which a group of AMC volunteers from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York installed privies and picnic tables in two water-access-only campsites in AMC's MWI region, thus opening the campsites to the public.

The project began last summer when AMC volunteers created or rehabilitated campsites on Third and Fourth Roach ponds close to Medawisla Lodge and Cabins (Wilderness Matters, Fall 2011). They created



There's already a line! Construction volunteers waiting for a chance to baptize the new privy.

two new campsites on lovely waterfront sites by digging a firepit, leveling tent sites, and clearing spaces for a picnic table and privy. For an existing site without facilities they cleaned the location, leveled a tent site, and built a firepit.

Since then, officials from Maine Dept. of Health & Human Services (DHHS) visited and evaluated two of the sites and gave approval for specific privy locations far away from the waterfront and with sufficient depth and foundation material to satisfy

Inside:

- 🍁 Lots of trips and activities, meetings and events to get you out there and enjoying autumn in Maine! **p.2-3**
- 🍁 The Canadian Rockies **p.4**
- 🍁 Want a Solution to Human-Induced Climate Change? **p.4**
- 🍁 Outdoor Gear and Clothing Expo **p.6**
- 🍁 Trekking the Tour du Mont Blanc **p.7**
- 🍁 Member Opinion: Save Medawisla! **p.8**
- 🍁 AMC Response: Saving Medawisla **p.9**
- 🍁 Member Profile: Dick Leslie **p.10**
- 🍁 Winter Outings Workshop **p.11**
- 🍁 Out and About Photos **p.12**

OUTINGS/EVENTS/ MEETINGS/EDUCATION

The listings below—presented in date order by category—include only those posted online prior to the submission deadline for this issue of Wilderness Matters. For the most complete, accurate, and up-to-date listings—and so you don't miss spontaneous outings—*please periodically check out the Calendar online at www.amcmaine.org*. For general questions or comments regarding these listings, contact Jeff Aceto, Outings Co-Chair, 207-650-5674, outings@amcmaine.org or Michelle Moody, Outings Co-Chair, 207-319-7355.

Next Deadline, Wilderness Matters, Winter Issue: December 1, 2012. *Wilderness Matters* is your chapter newsletter. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to contribute, be it stories, news, opinions, photos, or whatnot. We want to hear from you! Send submissions to newsletter@amcmaine.org. Thank you!

MEETINGS

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

Thursday, January 10: Maine Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, Freeport, ME. See above for details.

EDUCATION

Tuesday, October 16: Trekking the Tour Du Mont Blanc, Freeport, ME. Join AMCers Carey Kish and Fran Leyman for tales and images of their recent trek along the Tour du Mont Blanc, a two-week, 170-kilometer circumnavigation of the Mont Blanc Massif. En route the duo tackled a dozen high mountain passes and cumulatively gained nearly 33,000 feet of elevation through strikingly beautiful Alpine terrain. The TMB, as it is known, is a good introduction to European trekking because there are excellent guidebooks and maps, the path is well-marked and graded, there's a fine string of good accommodations, great food, beer and wine, and just enough other international trekkers for company. And you get to experience hiking through France, Italy, and Switzerland! *Please see full article on this potluck and program on page 7 of this newsletter.* Join Carey, Fran, Chapter members, and friends on Tuesday, October 16th at Freeport Community Library, 10 Library Drive, Freeport, ME 04032. We'll start with a potluck dinner at 6pm and Carey and Fran at 7pm. Bring a potluck item to share and, if possible, your own dinnerware (plate, utensils etc.). Drinks will be available. See driving directions at www.amcmaine.org under Meetings and Education Committee. Their talk will begin at 7 and is free and open to the public. FMI, contact John Mullens, Meetings and Education Chair, at education@amcmaine.org.

Wednesday, October 24: Trekking the Tour Du Mont Blanc, Bangor, ME. Join AMCers Carey Kish and Fran Leyman for tales and images of their recent trek along the Tour du Mont Blanc, a two-week, 170-kilometer circumnavigation of the Mont Blanc Massif. En route the duo tackled a dozen high mountain passes and cumulatively gained nearly 33,000 feet of elevation through strikingly beautiful Alpine terrain. The TMB, as it is known, is a good introduction to European trekking because there are excellent guidebooks and maps, the path is well-marked and graded, there's a fine string of good accommodations, great food, beer and wine, and just enough other international trekkers for company. And you get to experience hiking through France, Italy, and

Switzerland! *Please see full article on this program on page 7 of this newsletter.* On Wednesday, October 24th join us at the Bangor Public Library, 145 Harlow St, Bangor, ME 04401, at 6:30pm. See driving directions at www.amcmaine.org under meetings and education committee. The talk is free and open to the public. Leader: John Mullens, (207) 361-1210, education@amcmaine.org.

Thursday, November 15: Outdoor Gear and Clothing Expo, Freeport, ME. The AMC Maine Chapter and L.L. Bean in Freeport are teaming up for an educational look at new gear and clothing for the upcoming seasons. Learn about what qualities are important when buying new equipment. This informative, behind-the-scenes glimpse of new gear and clothing will feature the L.L. Bean Outdoor Equipment Team for a lively discussion on Equipment Product Design and Development. *Please see full article on this potluck and program on page 6 of this newsletter.* On Thursday, November 15th join L.L. Bean staff, Chapter members, and friends at the L.L. Bean conference facility in Freeport, for a potluck dinner at 6pm and the Expo at 7pm. Bring a potluck item to share and, if possible, your own dinnerware (plate, utensils etc.). Drinks will be available. The Expo will begin at 7 and is free and open to the public. Final details, including the names of the gear companies represented, will be posted online as they become available. Leader: John Mullens, (207) 361-1210, education@amcmaine.org.

Tuesday, December 11: The Canadian Rockies: Accessible Paths, Peaks, and Glaciers, Brunswick, ME. The AMC has a long tradition of leading trips to the Banff and Lake Louise areas of Canada. Whether part of the early 20th century explorations by early AMC members, or more recent visits by AMC's August Camp and AMC Adventure Travel trips, the area remains a unique and dynamic destination for travel of all stripes. On Tuesday, Dec 11th, hear Roger Scholl, AMC Director of Chapter and Volunteer Relations, report on a recent AMC excursion he led to the Canadian Rockies. The group spent 20 days exploring the paths, peaks, and glaciers in both provinces. Roger will show slides of great hikes in Lake Louise and Banff, Moraine Lake, Marion and Gorman Lakes, Helen Lake, Wolverine Pass, and others. Through Roger's great slides and narrative, you can vicariously explore the alpine meadows, scenic summits, and limpid lakes of Alberta and British Columbia, Canada. *Please see full article on this potluck and program on page 4 of this newsletter.* Join Chapter members and friends for a potluck dinner at 6pm and Roger at 7pm. Bring a potluck item to share and, if possible, your own dinnerware (plate, utensils etc.). Drinks will be available. See driving directions at www.amcmaine.org under Meetings and Education Committee. The talk is free and open to the public. Leader: John Mullens, (207) 361-1210, education@amcmaine.org.

WORKSHOPS

Monday, December 17: Winter Outings Workshop. The Maine Chapter is hosting an evening workshop on winter outings at the Gilsland Farm Audubon Center in Falmouth. Workshop participants will learn what is needed for clothing and gear to safely travel and be warm and dry in the winter. It's not as hard as you might think! Information on backpacks, boots, snowshoes, clothing, food, water, and other outdoor hints will be presented. FMI, please check activities calendar online at www.amcmaine.org/calendar.

TRAILS

Saturday, September 22: Trail Work on Frost Mountain, Brownfield, ME. Volunteers needed to help with trail reconnaissance and routing on Frost Mountain. Leaders: Keith Chapman, Douglas Ofiara (207) 885-9183 (before 9pm), dofiara@maine.rr.com.

Friday–Monday, October 5–8: Trail Work at Gorman Chairback Lodge and Cabins. Foliage is peak, the temperatures are moderate, and the biting insects have retreated, so this is an ideal time to support our trail work mission while staying at one the great lodges in the Maine Woods Initiative area. Join other volunteers for a fun weekend of giving back to the club, comfortable accommodations, and backwoods recreation. Moderate to Strenuous. Leader: Keith Chapman, (207) 799-5212 (before 9pm).

Friday–Monday, October 5–8: Trail Work at Little Lyford Lodge and Cabins. Foliage is peak, the temperatures are moderate, and the biting insects have retreated, so this is an ideal time to support our trail work mission while staying at one the great lodges in the Maine Woods Initiative area. Join other volunteers for a fun weekend of giving back to the club, comfortable accommodations, and backwoods recreation. Moderate to Strenuous. Leader: Peter Roderick, (207) 293-2704 (before 9pm), roderick1027@fairpoint.net.

Saturday, November 3: Trail Work on Burnt Meadow Mountain, Brownfield, ME. Volunteers needed to help with opening the new Blake Trail. Work includes brush cutting, developing switchbacks, blazing, etc. Moderate to Strenuous. Leaders: Douglas Ofiara (207) 885-9183 (before 9pm), trails@amcmaine.org; Richard York (207) 893-1828 (before 9pm).

YOUNG MEMBERS

Friday–Sunday, September 28–30: Advanced Hike on Katahdin, Baxter State Park. Plan to arrive at the Park Friday night by 8pm (carpooling is available). We will summit Baxter Peak on Saturday, with an option to do Hamlin Peak, then spend the night at Chimney Pond (2,910 ft.) Saturday night. Hike out Sunday morning and return to Portland. Katahdin is a serious mountain to consider and the screening process with reflect that. Backcountry experience preferred. Space limited, AMC members priority. The rules and regulations for the Park are quite clear and rigid; please visit their website at www.baxterstateparkauthority.com before trip inquiry. Trip expected to be full, so please express interest early; there will be a wait list. Difficult. Leaders: Kim Sanders, kimberlyannsanders@gmail.com; Sarah Keats, slkski@gmail.com.

ROAD BIKING

Sunday, September 23: Leader's Choice Bike Ride. Leader: Denise Courtemanche, (207) 841-4366, decacct@comcast.net.

Sunday, September 30: Bike Riding in Harpswell. Take a 30-mile ride from Brunswick to Harpswell. Leader: Denise Courtemanche, (207) 841-4366, decacct@comcast.net.

HIKING

Thursday, September 27: Early Fall Waterfalls Hike, Crawford Notch, NH. Arethusa and Ripley falls hike in Crawford Notch. Easy hike at moderate pace to two of the tallest waterfalls in NH. 4.5 mi. RT. Leaders: Roger David & Ray Cooper, (207) 929-2726, rcooper@207@yahoo.com.

Monday, October 1: Mt. Eisenhower, Crawford Notch, NH. Hike Mt. Eisenhower (4,760 ft.) via Edmands Path. Moderate-paced hike to wonderful views from bald summit. 6.6 mi RT. Rain postpones to October 2. Moderate. Leaders: Roger David & Ray Cooper, (207) 929-2726, rcooper@207@yahoo.com.

Saturday, October 13: Speckled Mtn. in Evans Notch, ME. 7-mile intermediate hike via Link & Cold Brook trails to 2,906-foot summit. Elevation gain 1,481 feet. Great views from open ledges and summit. No dogs please. Leaders: Lorraine Hussey, (207) 619-9444 (before 9pm), mlhussey@maine.rr.com; Debby Kantor, (207) 854-3431 (before 9pm), dlkantor@aol.com.

Thursday, November 8: Pleasant Mtn. Thru-hike, Bridgton, ME. Climb Southwest Ridge/MacKay Pasture Trail with great views of lakes most of the way up. Descend via Bald Peak and North

Ridge trails, and go over top of Shawnee Peak ski area. Great views of the Presidentials. Hike 6 miles, 1,500 feet elevation gain. 6.5-mile car shuttle. Happy Hour after at leader's old house in Sweden, ME, 9 miles from trailhead. May need micro-spikes or snowshoes, depending on weather conditions. Moderate. Leaders: Jane Gibbons, 207-647-3987, patnjane@wildblue.net; Herb Kingsbury, 207-439-6449 (before 9pm).

Sunday, November 11: Burnt Meadow and Stone Mtns., Brownfield, ME. 4.7-mile intermediate hike with views from steep open ledges and summits. No dogs please. Leaders: Lorraine Hussey, (207) 619-9444 (before 9pm), mlhussey@maine.rr.com; Debby Kantor, (207) 854-3431 (before 9pm), dlkantor@aol.com.

Saturday, December 1: Whiting and Flat Hills, Amos Mtn., Lovell, ME. Early winter hike over three peaks: Whiting Hill (800 ft.), Amos Mtn. (955 ft.), and Flat Hill (891 ft.) in Heald & Bradley Ponds Reserve. 6-mile moderate hike with lovely views. No dogs please. Leaders: Lorraine Hussey, (207) 619-9444 (before 9pm), mlhussey@maine.rr.com; Debby Kantor, (207) 854-3431 (before 9pm), dlkantor@aol.com.

Saturday, December 22: Bradbury Mtn. Intro to Winter Hiking, Pownal, ME. New to winter hiking? This is a follow up to our winter hiking workshop. Learn the basics for winter outings including: snowshoes, traction, clothing, how to layer, what to eat and drink and how to keep it from freezing, staying warm and safe, how to have fun in the winter. Bradbury Mtn. is a good place to learn with only 300 ft. of elevation gain, yet offers a variety of terrain including steps, slopes with ice, rocks, bare ledge and the possibility of wet spots. There may be no snow, a few inches or more than a foot, but we are almost always guaranteed some ice at this time of year, so we should be able to practice with traction footwear. Microspikes or similar foot traction is recommended. Feel free to call to discuss gear if you do not have any yet and are planning to purchase some for winter hiking. Call early to reserve spot. Easy to Moderate. Leaders: Stan Moody, Michelle Moody, (207) 319-7355 (before 9pm), meamc@micstan.us.

BACKPACKING, CAMPING, AND WEEKENDS

Saturday–Sunday, September 22–23: Downeast–Bold Coast, Cutler, ME. Join us for a seaside hike along the Bold Coast in Downeast Maine. Entire route is 9.2 miles RT and will be hiked about half each day with almost 4 miles along the ocean. The campsites are right on the shoreline and, unless the seas are very calm, you will hear the soothing sounds of bells on the navigation buoys and the waves crashing onshore during the night. Portions of the hike require scrambling over rocks. Trip participants are limited due to the number and size of campsites. Contact leader FMI; go to <http://www.mainetrailfinder.com/trail/cutler-coast-public-reserved-land> for great description of the area. Moderate to Strenuous. Leader: Roger David, (207) 737-2737, rd04342@gmail.com.

Friday–Sunday, September 28–30: Great Maine Outdoor Weekend – AT Waterfalls, Elliottsville, ME. Did you know Maine has two national parks? Come explore a bit of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (better known as the AT) with us for the day or weekend. Join AMC leaders and Maine Appalachian Trail Club (MATC) maintainers Michelle and Stan Moody and learn more about the AT as we hike to Little Wilson Falls on Saturday. The falls are among the highest on the AT and are located in the 100-Mile Wilderness. We can extend the hike on the AT by spotting cars. Group will decide when we meet. On Sunday, hike to Slugundy Falls on the AT and if the group is up to it, we'll continue on the AT to Barren Ledges and views of Borestone Mtn. and Lake Onawa and beyond. Registration required, group size limited. Camping is available for the weekend. Contact leader FMI. Easy to Moderate. Leaders: Stan Moody, Michelle Moody, (207) 319-7355 (before 9pm), meamc@micstan.us.

The Canadian Rockies: Paths, Peaks, and Glaciers You Would Enjoy

A Meetings and Education Program



For every dramatic sweeping vista in the Canadian Rockies, there are more intimate ones like this bubbling glacial stream.

From their southern border with Montana and Idaho the Canadian Rockies sweep northward through Alberta into British Columbia, encompassing some of the highest and most glaciated peaks in North America.

The AMC has a long tradition of leading trips to the Banff and Lake Louise areas. Whether part of the early 20th century explorations by AMC members, or more recent visits by AMC's August Camp or AMC Adventure Travel trips, the area remains a unique and dynamic destination for travel of all stripes.

Roger Scholl, AMC Director of Chapter and Volunteer Relations, will report on the recent AMC excursion he led to the Canadian Rockies. His group spent 20 days exploring the paths, peaks, and glaciers in both provinces. Roger will show slides of great hikes in Lake Louise and Banff, Moraine Lake, Marion and Gorman Lakes, Helen Lake, Wolverine Pass, and others. Through Roger's great slides and narrative, you can vicariously explore the alpine meadows, scenic summits, and limpid lakes of Alberta and British Columbia, Canada.



Dramatic Rockies: A glacial lake in the Canadian Rockies showing its long-ago path and what remains of the glacier.

On Tuesday, December 11th join Chapter members and friends at Curtis Memorial Library, 23 Pleasant St., Brunswick, Maine 04011, for a potluck dinner at 6pm and Roger at 7pm. Bring a potluck item to share and, if possible, your own dinnerware (plate, utensils etc.). Drinks will be available. See driving directions at www.amcmaine.org under Meetings and Education Committee. The talk is free and open to the public. FMI, contact John Mullens, Meetings and Education Chair, at education@amcmaine.org.

Land for Maine's Future Needs Your Vote

This November 6th, a \$5 million bond will be on the ballot to fund the Land for Maine's Future (LMF) program. This successful program has provided critical funding to protect forestlands, shorelines, mountains, working farms, forests, and waterfronts, and other iconic landscapes of Maine. LMF's resources are close to dry, and this small bond would be extremely helpful to protect the places we all love for their recreation and conservation value. The AMC was very happy to receive a LMF grant to help purchase our Maine Woods property and create opportunities for water access. Please vote "Yes on Three" on November 6th in support of the Land for Maine's Future program.

Want a Solution to Human-Induced Climate Change?

Maine planting weather arriving in March, deadly drought in the U.S. is forecasted to be the norm, the smallest Arctic sea ice ever recorded—these are attention-grabbers. Though scientists can't attribute any single weather event to global warming, they agree that climate change is happening before our eyes, and that human activity is largely responsible.

If you lived in an apartment building and saw there was a fire in the basement dumpster, you would do something about it. You wouldn't wait just because it's expensive to put the fire out, or because your neighbors are occupied with other worries. You would act immediately.

Our environment is changing because of global warming. The science is in, and the effects are visible. We have to do whatever it takes to end greenhouse gas emissions. But for change to happen, leaders have to hear from us that we want real solutions.

If AMC members asked their political candidates to act on this man-made disaster, and told their friends to ask too, our leaders would know they can't ignore this tough issue. It's no longer radical to conclude that human activity is the major driver of global warming. It's radical to ignore the changes we are witnessing.

If we focus only on fixes that help a little, we will not stop the terrible progression. It's too-little, too-late to sit back after we've changed our light bulbs to CFLs, traded for a high mpg car, and even installed solar panels. The warming continues despite our private sacrifices. We need a fundamental, comprehensive solution. Let the discussion get serious about what this solution should be.

Some people say it's pointless to limit carbon emissions in the U.S.A. because the developing world's growing emissions will dwarf our efforts. That argument is a decision to let the building burn down. Let's tackle the problem, not ignore it because it's difficult.

You don't have to be an expert to ask a politician to lead on climate change. You could ask a question as simple as, "What will you do about climate change?" You could step it up and ask, "Will you reject the manufactured 'debate' and speak out in support of climate science?" You could go all out and ask, "Will you work for the reduction in greenhouse gases recommended by scientists of 80% below 1990 levels by 2050?"

The Maine Chapter will be posting climate change questions for political candidates on its Facebook page at "AMC Maine," and on the Conservation section of its website, www.amcmaine.org/conservation. We will also post examples of climate change provided by AMC scientists, and resources about climate change.

We can solve the global catastrophe of human-induced climate change, but only if we get going on fundamental solutions. In this election season, asking candidates about climate change will give politicians the impetus and the political cover to lead.

—Submitted by Karen Herold, AMC Maine Chapter Committee



AMC paddlers in Broad Sound near Harpswell. See the page 12 for more photos of recent AMC activities.



Nearly finished: AMC volunteers put on finishing touches to the new privy.

state regulations. The Maine Chapter volunteer job this summer was to dig the privy pits where DHHS sited them, construct the privy buildings in place, and make them functional.

The volunteers faced two major obstacles: limited

access and no power. The remote campsites are accessible only by water and so all construction materials and tools had to be planned ahead and transported either by watercraft or snow machine. And the campsites had no electricity, so construction had to be done with hand tools. And, oh yes, they had only three days to do it.

Steve Tatko, AMC Maine Land and Recreation Supervisor, and Andrew Norkin, AMC White Mountain Trails Manager, helped address the tactical decisions: what privy design to use, whether to take raw materials and work start-to-finish at the campsites, or whether to build the privies on the mainland and ferry them over in summer by canoe or powerboat, or in winter by snow machine.

For the first decision, they chose a privy plan devised by retired Dover-Foxcroft shop teacher Eric Anderson for the MATC and used at shelter locations on the AT in Maine. And for the second issue, they decided on a composite building approach: cut and assemble large privy components on the mainland where there was access to power and heavy hand tools, ferry by canoe to the campsites, and assemble onsite. And, as long as they were going there anyway, the volunteers were asked to build picnic tables at each site, clear blowdowns, and make the campsites ready for public use.

A week before departure, the lumber and hardware was delivered to volunteer team leader Peter Roderick's house. Peter and two volunteers cut the walls, floors, doors, and seat sections, and over the next three days completely assembled the two privies, then disassembled them for transport.

The volunteers discovered that building privies in one's driveway

is a great conversation starter for neighbors whose curiosity was understandably piqued by the sight of two new privies going up in the neighborhood!

The wall panels, tools, ladders, and other materials for two privies and two tables were transported by pickup truck to the trailhead, then hand-carried to the Third Roach Pond put-in, then paddled by canoe to the campsites along with the volunteers' food, camping, and cooking gear.

Once on site, the first task was to prepare the privy holes themselves. Following official plans and site layouts, Mike Zimmerman, chief privy pit builder, got to work. Using a scientific and thoughtful combination of transported pressure-treated 4x4's plus locally available rocks, sand, and dirt, Mike and his crew created an ecologically-sound, functionally-sized, and officially-approved privy pit. With group effort the floor was nailed on a short time later, walls assembled and screwed together, door and roof attached, vent stack assembled, door hardware attached, porcupine barriers affixed, and outside landscaping completed.

When team members took a break, they built a picnic table, brushed out the privy path, cleared tentsites, and cleaned fire pits. With the experience gained at the first campsite, the team completed the second campsite in record time and within their three-day goal. At the end of their trip, two campsites were fresh, complete, and ready for occupancy.

These two new complete campsites on Third Roach Pond are already identified on the 2012 AMC Recreation Guide and Map available online at www.outdoors.org. Or ask any AMC Maine Wilderness Lodge staff member or any of this year's campsite builders: Peter Roderick, Roger David, Mike Zimmerman, Tina Gomberg, Sara Hart (NY/NJ), John Darak (NH), Avery Wallis (VT), and John Mullens.

This trip was a testimony that AMC Maine Chapter volunteer opportunities can provide new experiences that will broaden your horizons! They'll be a good talking point on your next resume, and they'll definitively get the neighbors talking!

Is there a privy in your future? Are you interested in helping AMC Maine by participating in the next volunteer work group? Check www.amcmaine.org/calendar for upcoming volunteer trips.

—Submitted by John Mullens

WANTED: Maine Chapter, AMC – Membership & Public Relations Committee

Job Description The Membership and Public Relations Chair(s) 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/member 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.

Contact Paul Hahn, Nominating Chair, nominating@amcmaine.org, (207) 222-2837.



Learn about how best to replace your old gear at the M&E potluck on November 15th in Freeport.

Outdoor Gear and Clothing Expo

A Meetings and Education Program

The AMC Maine Chapter and L.L. Bean in Freeport are teaming up for an educational look at new gear and clothing for the upcoming seasons. Whether you are currently in the market for a new sleeping bag, winter jacket, boots, or backpack, you are bound to learn about what qualities are important when buying new equipment and clothing. The session is scheduled for the evening of Thursday, November 15th in Freeport.

This informative, behind-the-scenes glimpse of new gear and clothing will feature the L.L. Bean Outdoor Equipment Team for a lively discussion on Equipment Product Design and Development. Team members Kurt Hiesler, Mike Simensky and Scot Balentine—the trio has more than 75 years of combined product design and development experience—will discuss the evolution of products from the initial concept to delivery to the customer. There will be plenty of time for questions and individual discussions after the presentation.

On Thursday, November 15th join L.L. Bean staff, Chapter members, and friends at the L.L. Bean conference facility on Casco St. in Freeport for a potluck dinner at 6pm and the Expo at 7pm. Bring a potluck item to share and, if possible, your own dinnerware (plate, utensils etc.). Drinks will be available. Free and open to the public. Look for details, including directions to the facility and names of the gear companies represented, on www.amcmaine.org/calendar as they become available. FMI, contact John Mullens, Meetings and Education Chair, at education@amcmaine.org.

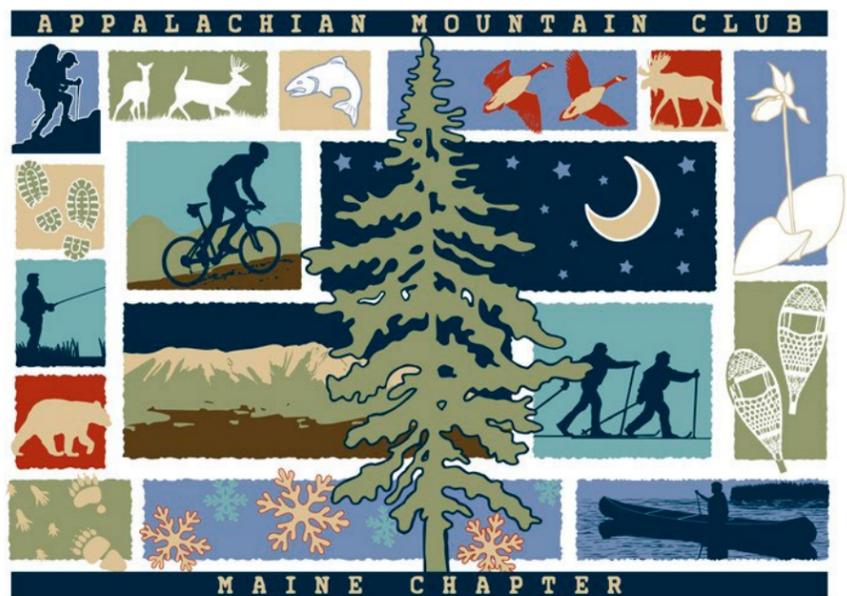
Great Maine Outdoor Weekend

The AMC Policy Office in Maine is pleased to be the lead in coordinating the second ever Great Maine Outdoor Weekend, a biannual effort to help introduce Mainers to wonderful organizations and opportunities to be active outdoors.

Are you looking to get outside on September 28, 29, and 30 and meet some new folks and try a new activity? Then check out www.greatmaineoutdoorweekend.org for a listing of events all across the state! We have 50+ events listed and more are being added every day. This year we are featuring the Downeast Region; check out the 15+ events happening in Washington and Hancock counties and go see a new part of Maine!

FMI, contact Lindsay Bourgoine, AMC Maine Policy Associate, at lbougoine@outdoors.org.

Order a Maine Chapter T-Shirt!



- Short and long sleeve shirts
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FMI contact Carrie Walia at (207) 928-2277
or past_chair@amcmaine.org

AMC Maine Chapter 2012 Biking Season Wrap-Up

The beginning of this past biking season was a very wet one. The first six Tuesday nights were rained out. It was soon becoming a reminder of the 2010 season when it rained 27 days out of 30 for the month of June. But the rain did let up and the Tuesday nights rides got under way.

My leaders and I would like to declare the 2012 riding season a success! I was contacted by several members who read the events from our AMC website. We talked about what our rides are like and the equipment required in order to participate. The outcome was that several new people have joined us for the Tuesday night and Sunday morning rides. And they have enjoyed the rides! Many have stayed for eats after the rides and a time to socialize and learn more about us. I call that a success!

I have also met some people who are on my e-mail list who want to know about the rides but have not been able to participate as of yet. So if you find something of interest in the newsletter or on the website, please contact me for more details.

I have not put in a schedule of rides since the newsletter will not be out until October. Be sure to check the website for ride listings. The group will continue to ride on weekends as long as the weather is good.

If you have any interest in becoming a leader, please contact me, Denise Courtemanche, at decacct@comcast.net FMI.

Thanks again for a great riding season! And special thanks to my leaders who always do a great job of leading the rides and coming up with new areas to ride! See you next year!

—Submitted by Denise Courtemanche



ADOPT-A-TRAIL VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

The AMC Adopt-a-Trail Program for Maine's 100-Mile Wilderness area needs adopters for the "orphaned" trails listed below. AMC staff and volunteers have built some really great trails in the Maine Woods Initiative area and now we need volunteers to give them the proper care and maintenance to make sure they are in good shape for hikers to use at all times.

Ideally, trail adopters would live within an easy travel distance to Greenville or Brownville so that getting to your trail assignment is not a barrier to making two or three visits per year to your adopted trail. There are, however, adopters who live longer distances from their trails, so that is not necessarily an insurmountable problem.

If you are interested, please contact Peter Roderick at mwi@amcmaine.org. Scroll down to the Adopt-a-Trail box and click on "Orphaned Trails." Maine Woods Initiative - 100 Mile Wilderness Area, Maine trails are right at the top of the list.

Thanks and see you on the trails.

Maine Woods Initiative - 100 Mile Wilderness Area, Maine Adoptable Trails (updated 06/8/2012)		
Trail	Section Available	Miles
Hedgehog Gate Ski Trail	Greenville Road - Upper Valley Road	4.5
Indian Mountain Circuit Ski Trail	Little Lyford - Horseshoe Pond	2.6
Laurie's Ledge Trail	Indian Mountain	0.9
Long Pond Trail	Gorman Chairback - Outlet of Long Pond	4.2
Pleasant River trail	Little Lyford - West Branch Pond	7.8

Trekking the Tour Du Mont Blanc *A Meetings and Education Program*

Have you ever thought about hiking in Europe, but didn't know which country to focus on or how to organize a multi-day trek from a distance? We've got a short answer and a long answer for both questions. The short answer is in this article; to hear the better long answer with all the details you have to come to a Meetings and Education talk in October!

Here's the short version: Hike the Tour du Mont Blanc, a two-week, 170-kilometer classic long-distance walking trail that encircles the Mount Blanc Massif. Walk through Switzerland, Germany, and France enthralled by the distant views and local experiences.

The TMB, as it is known, is a good introduction to European trekking because there are excellent guidebooks and maps, the path is well-marked and graded, there's a fine string of good accommodations, great food and beer and wine, and just enough other international trekkers for company. And you get to experience hiking through France, Italy, and Switzerland!

Maine Chapter members Carey Kish and Fran Leyman will tell tales and show pictures of their recent circumnavigation of the Mont Blanc Massif. En route the duo tackled a dozen high mountain passes and cumulatively



On the TMB: High mountain lake, historic wooded hut, clouds and high peaks: what more could one want?



On the TMB: Classic alpine huts with amenities await trekkers at strategic locations.

gained nearly 33,000 feet of elevation through strikingly beautiful Alpine terrain.

Get the long version of the story and get your questions answered on how to organize such a journey by joining Carey, Fran, Chapter members, and friends on **Tuesday, October 16th at Freeport Community Library, 10 Library Drive, Freeport, ME 04032.**

We'll start with a potluck dinner at 6pm and Carey and Fran at 7pm. Bring a potluck item to share and, if possible, your own dinnerware (plate, utensils etc.). Drinks will be available.

See driving directions at www.amcmaine.org under Meetings and Education Committee. Their talk will begin at 7 and is free and open to the public. FMI, contact John Mullens, Meetings and Education Chair, at education@amcmaine.org.

A second program on Trekking the Tour Du Mont Blanc will be held on Wednesday, October 24th at the Bangor Public Library, 145 Harlow St, Bangor, ME 04401, at 6:30pm. See driving directions at www.amcmaine.org under meetings and education committee. The talk is free and open to the public. Leader: John Mullens, (207) 361-1210, education@amcmaine.org.

Member Opinion: Save Medawisla!

Do you know what a treasure you have in Medawisla? This February, I skied the four-day route from Medawisla to Little Lyford. Staying at Medawisla was the highlight of my trip. I had seen a glimpse of a cabin interior on the website and knew I didn't want to miss this one, but I was not prepared for sheer enchantment when I skied into the compound that February evening.

It was twilight. Snow was falling softly, and smoke rising from two cabins. I could hear a faint sound of flowing water and glimpsed a black patch of it. Josh, the young innkeeper, greeted us at the lodge door and proceeded to introduce us to the little dining room, the snack table and the old, log-beamed kitchen with its built-for-the-ages stove and oven

I swiped a cookie on the way out and followed Josh over to our cabin where he showed us how to bank and damp down the wood stove, light the gas lamp which we'd need after 9:30 pm when the electricity was turned off, and use the enamel bowl in the sink for washing. A big yellow igloo Thermos promised bountiful cold water, and a large tea kettle sitting on the wood stove guaranteed the hot water. A wood bin built into the wall opposite the stove was heaped high with split logs. Dishes were neatly stacked in open shelves over a simple counter. Only what you need, no more, no less.

On the wall opposite, a table and two chairs sat next to a window with gingham curtains and a smallish book shelf stuffed with good books. An old, crocheted seat cushion softened the rocker, a faded wool rug brought warmth to the wood floor, and quilts smoothed the beds. Nothing matched, nothing was new, but the effect was utterly homey. Everywhere was the touch of a particular person who carefully had made the choices one by one, making a lot out of a little.

I knew this place was the "real deal," an historic throwback, a quiet little gem that, up until now, had managed to escape our culture's mania for upgrade and improvement. When I left the next day, enchantment was laced with dismay because I also knew that Medawisla was scheduled for renovation and would be closed for two years come August.

Therefore I am writing to plead the case of Medawisla, that it should be allowed to survive with all its quirky, charming character and preserved as a working example of an old Maine sporting camp. Yes, fix the screens on the porches, replace any logs that might be rotting, re-chink for weatherization, re-dig or reconfigure the septic area. In other words, do what is needed to stabilize the buildings and make the basic functions sustainable, but PLEASE, do not renovate it into oblivion. You don't need to put in flush toilets, hot and cold running water and 24-hour electricity. You don't need kitchen cabinets, microwaves or a decorator makeover. And you certainly don't need a huge, cavernous lodge.

In fact, you need not to have any of those things. People love Medawisla and West Branch Pond because they ARE simple.

We love these old lodges because they connect us with a slower, simpler time when people were contented with enough. Most guests know that inconveniences like gas lamps after 9:30 pm, igloo water containers, big tea kettles heating on wood stove, and even the discomforts like tramping to the outhouse on a wintry night awaken a vitality and a sense of connection with this particular camp and its nature.

The contrast between Medawisla and West Branch Pond

and Little Lyford is staggering. As soon as we skied into the Little Lyford compound we were no longer in Maine Woods culture. Sure, the bunkhouse was nice, the log cabins from the outside were restored well (I didn't see the inside), the bath house offered hot water in all forms, but it was all AMC culture! I thoroughly enjoyed meeting people at dinner, but the lodge and dining facility felt like another Joe Dodge Lodge. Believe me, I am very fond of Joe Dodge, but it's



not a Maine Woods sporting camp, it's AMC. My friend put it this way: "Little Lyford is mini-Joe Dodge, Gorman Chairback is medium Joe, and Pinkham Notch is the Big Joe."

If you keep replicating the Joe Dodge look and feel throughout your lodge and camp accommodations, you will get a McDonald's effect. Everyone will know what to expect: They'll have flush toilets, hot showers, sauna and nice furnishings, but they'll never experience the regional flavor or unique character of the place where they are. And as they ski away the next day, they'll never feel a tug on the heart strings or a pang of loss.

One falls in love with a particular place or person, not a predictable, formulated one. In this age of homogenization, AMC has the opportunity to preserve a charmingly peculiar, old wilderness lodge that connects people with nature in a way they'll never forget. With its roots deep in the New England tradition of wilderness hospitality, AMC should seek eagerly to maintain Medawisla and its unique culture of Maine Woods wilderness hospitality. Medawisla is part of the cultural soil out of which AMC sprung. It can't be replicated. When it's gone, it's gone, just like an old growth forest. If AMC cherishes its roots, its history and its mission, it will sustain Medawisla as a Maine sporting camp, "brush off its rust," and let it shine in its original, delightful character. What a gift it will be, then, for future guests and generations who are lucky enough to stay there and experience some simple truths about what brings happiness.

When an organization grows and prospers, it's easy to become more about itself than the original spirit in which it was founded and with which it prospered. I can only hope that the Club's directors will recognize what a treasure they have in Medawisla before it's too late. If anyone reading this feels as I do, PLEASE speak up and let someone in an official AMC position know. Maybe we can turn this boat around.

—Submitted by Melissa Foster, AMC member from Illinois

AMC Response: Saving Medawisla

Dear Melissa,

One thing is clear: We all love Medawisla!

Since AMC purchased Medawisla in 2006, we have received numerous positive reviews, particularly from young families. It is a perfect place to bring a family to enjoy a canoe or kayak, ride a bike or take a walk in the woods. In the winter, Medawisla is accessible by road which again allows families with younger children to enjoy a weekend or week of cross country skiing or snowshoeing. Each of our sporting camps has its own charm and identity. Medawisla is special, there is no doubt about that.

We decided to close Medawisla because the basic infrastructure – possibly not visible to the average guest – is worn out and in places in urgent need of replacement. Although we originally thought we could fix and repair the main lodge, it became quite apparent



that it could no longer be saved. The increased number of guests overtaxed the septic system and could no longer function to meet health and safety codes. And a number of the lovely cabins (built circa 1950) will need to be refurbished, completely rebuilt or replaced.

I was thrilled to hear the call for 'saving Medawisla' as I believe it is imperative for us to maintain the charm and magic of the place as we take on the challenge of reconstruction and renovation. Over the past several months we have reached out to members of the Maine Chapter Maine Woods Initiative Committee, MWI staff, guests and board members to gather thoughts on our future plans.

There are some things we are already putting in place thanks in part to the encouragement of the Maine Chapter as well as their sweat equity! We have built new rustic wilderness campsites on a number of the Roach Ponds, begun to construct some mountain biking trails, and plan to expand our cross-country ski network. As our plans develop we will be sharing them with the Club generally and with the Maine Chapter specifically.

We welcome member thoughts on Medawisla. Please forward to me, Walter Graff, at wgraff@outdoors.org or to Gary Dethlefsen at gdethlefsen@outdoors.org.

We have accomplished a lot together these past nine years. Managing 100 square miles of conservation land, operating three sporting camps, constructing and maintaining 100 miles of trails, creating a new education program to reach out to every child in Piscataquis County, managing a program of sustainable forestry and building a program designed to lift up the local economy is a great challenge, but we are able to meet that challenge because of a wonderful and dedicated group of members, volunteers and staff who care so passionately about what we are doing.

Best,

Walter Graff, AMC Senior Vice President

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

Maine Chapter Executive Committee

Chair: Larry Dyer, chair@amcmaine.org, (207) 655-9097

Conservation: Karen Herold, conservation@amcmaine.org, (207) 829-6146

Outings: Jeff Aceto, outings@amcmaine.org, (207) 650-5674

Outings: Michelle Moody (co-chair), outings@amcmaine.org, 207-319-7355

Meetings & Education: John Mullens, education@amcmaine.org, (207) 361-1210

Membership: VACANT

Maine Woods Initiative: Peter Roderick, mwi@amcmaine.org, (207) 293-2704

Maine Woods Initiative & At Large: Scott Dyer, mwi@amcmaine.org, (207) 233-5758

Newsletter Editor: Carey Kish, newsletter@amcmaine.org, (207) 838-9669

Nominating & At Large: Paul Hahn, nominating@amcmaine.org, (207) 222-2837

Past Chair: Carrie Walia, past_chair@amcmaine.org, (207) 928-2277

Secretary: Mary Riendeau, secretary@amcmaine.org, (207) 247-6123

Treasurer: Denise Courtemanche, treasurer@amcmaine.org, (207) 725-6285

Trails: Douglas Ofiara, trails@amcmaine.org, (207) 885-9183

Trails: Richard York, trails@amcmaine.org

Vice Chair: Roger David, vice@amcmaine.org, (207) 737-2737

Webmaster: Tim Flight, web@amcmaine.org, (207) 650-6809

Young Members: Kim Sanders, youngmembers@amcmaine.org, (207) 712-0862

Other Contacts

Regional Director: Sam Jamke, other@amcmaine.org, (603) 472-2536

Newsletter Designer: Lauren A. Mier, [brightredbicycledesign](http://brightredbicycledesign.com)

Maine Policy Office

Bryan Wentzell, Maine Policy Manager, bwentzell@outdoors.org, (207) 899-0150; Office: 30 Exchange St., Portland ME 04101

Lindsay Bourgoine, Maine Policy Associate, lbougoine@outdoors.org

Maine Woods Initiative Office

Gary Dethlefsen, MWI Operations Manager, gdethlefsen@outdoors.org, (207) 280-0224; Office: 15 Moosehead Lake Rd., PO Box 310, Greenville ME 04441



Maine Chapter Member Profiles

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

Richard N. Leslie Member No. 19123



Dick Leslie enjoys retirement, walks regularly, and still gets out on the water.

When Dick Leslie got involved in the AMC Maine Chapter in 1981, new hydroelectric dams and acid rain were big concerns in New England. Dick became Chair of the seven-person Conservation Committee that met monthly to advise the Executive Committee on conservation issues. Under his leadership

over the next two years, the Committee was an intervener (along with the Natural Resources Council of Maine) in the court case on whether Baxter State Park Authority had the authority to permit the use of snowmobiles in the park. His committee organized a raft trip through the Kennebec River gorge, "one of the most scenic gorges in the eastern United States," to highlight the impacts of a proposed Kennebec River hydroelectric dam. And the Chapter joined the "West Branch Coalition" to prevent dam construction on the West Branch of the Penobscot River, took public positions against the Dickey and Lincoln School dams, against the cutback of federal land acquisition funds, and in support of efforts to curb acid rain.

With multiple degrees from MIT and Dartmouth and experience in the senior echelons at L.L. Bean, Dick continued to volunteer his skills with the Maine Chapter. After being Conservation Chair, he was elected Vice-Chair, then Chapter Chair, and finally co-chair of Meetings and Education.

In addition to conservation issues during that era, the Chapter's programs for hiking, canoeing, and whitewater canoeing were big draws for members and the main outdoor activities for the Chapter. The whitewater season was especially intense, beginning in late March and going until snow melt dissipated usually around mid-May. Dick recalls groups of about 15 people every weekend during that period canoeing the Sheepscot, the Dead River near the Forks, the South Branch of the Dead near Stratton, the Ammonoosuc, the Upper Saco, the Bearcamp, the Webb, Sandy River, the Carrabassett above Kingfield, and others. ABS open canoes were fairly new then, so a few paddlers were still using open aluminum canoes, even those doing the whitewater stretches. Dick remembers that some of the canoes they used were aluminum 18 footers, their material and length unthinkable for whitewater today.

Each year in late spring, after the whitewater had slowed a bit, the Chapter sponsored a whitewater clinic for those new to the sport. Dick vividly remembers one such clinic in July 1982 held on the Androscoggin outside of Errol, NH, where there were good quality rapids. After a morning of learning strokes and talking strategy, "students" were assigned to the stern with an experienced paddling teacher in the bow shouting instructions. They first tried small rapids, working up to larger sets as the afternoon progressed. Going through a long set of rapids that afternoon, one student got an unexpected lesson when Bill

Fake, an accomplished whitewater canoeist in the bow, suffered a heart attack and slumped over. Safely reaching quiet water below the rapids, it became clear the man was unconscious. Dick recalls members attending to him, but to no avail. By the time they got him to the closest hospital, in North Conway, Bill was pronounced dead.

Dick was an accomplished hiker, completing the New England 4000-footers in 1988, and enjoyed sea kayaking, road biking, and cross-country skiing, but he took pleasure in whitewater canoeing even more. He has paddled most of the major rivers in Maine including the St. Croix, St. John, Allagash, East and West Branches of the Penobscot, and the Moose River. Exploring rivers further from home Dick has also paddled the Rio Grande just downstream of Big Bend National Park, the John River in northern Alaska, 525 miles of the Yukon River from Whitehorse, Yukon Territory to Eagle, Alaska, and the Moisie River in the wilderness of Quebec.



Dick Leslie atop Mt. Katahdin in 1995.

More recently, Dick continues his conservation efforts by volunteering on land trusts. For a number of years he was on the board of the Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust, with a mission to protect additional land bordering the AT in Maine, especially in the Saddleback, Crocker, and Sugarloaf areas. He is now Treasurer of the Royal River Conservation Trust in Yarmouth, a regional land trust protecting agricultural and other lands throughout the Royal River Watershed.

Now in his fourth decade of AMC membership, Dick continues to be a believer in the Club's founding principles. "I still support what the AMC does, especially in conservation, education, and promoting enjoyment and wise use of the outdoors."

—Submitted by John Mullens

Know someone you think should be profiled? Please contact John Mullens, Meetings and Education Chair, at education@amcmaine.org.

Winter Outings Workshop

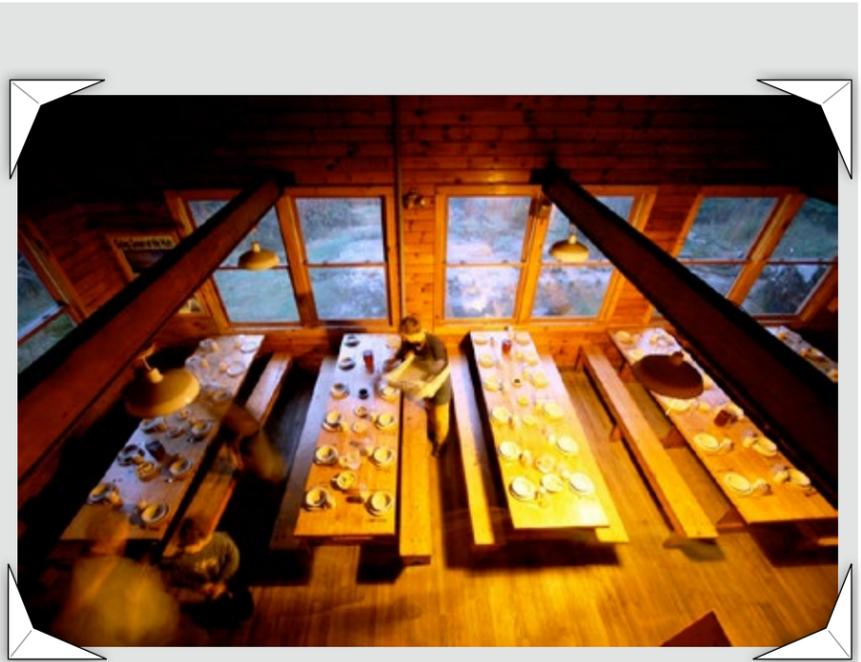
Are you an avid three-season hiker who has always dreamed of experiencing your favorite peaks in the winter? To hear the crunch of snow beneath your feet? To see rays of sunlight glistening through snow-covered tree branches? To see the bluest skies you have ever seen? The Maine Chapter will be hosting an evening workshop on winter outings on Monday, December 17 at the Gilsland Farm



Audubon Center in Falmouth. FMI, please check our activities calendar at www.amcmaine.org/calendar.

Learn what you need for clothing and gear to safely travel and be warm and dry in the winter; it's not as hard as you might think! Information on backpacks, boots, snowshoes, clothing, food, water, and other outdoor hints will be presented. This event is intended as an introduction for experienced three-season hikers and a refresher for experienced winter adventurers. Although the focus of the workshop is on hiking in the winter, many of the topics apply to any outdoor winter outing. This workshop will be an excellent "things-you-need-to-know-before-you-go" for anyone who will be spending time out-of-doors this winter.

There will be an introductory hike the weekend following the workshop, so please check our activities calendar at www.amcmaine.org/calendar for updated information as events are planned. Think snow!



"Flurry of activity at 6 AM," by Christina Han, Connecticut Chapter, winner of the "AMC in Action" category in the 2011 AMC Photo Contest.

Enter the 2012 AMC Photo Contest!

AMC's 18th annual photo contest is underway, and 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 great outdoor gear prizes from Outdoor Research, Tubbs Snowshoes, and other manufacturers.

For complete rules and entry instructions, visit www.outdoors.org/photocontest. Entry deadline is November 15, so don't delay! Winning entries will appear in a spring 2013 issue of AMC Outdoors.

REGISTRATION FORM

AMC Maine Chapter – 2012 Annual Meeting – Saturday, November 3rd, 5pm
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

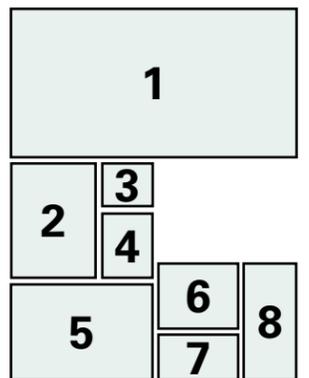
- Caprese salad and lobster bisque
- **Select ONE of the following: please, don't forget to check one**
All entrees include chef's choice of vegetables, thyme-roasted potatoes, Italian bread, coffee, tea or soda.
 - _____ Farfalle with lemon asparagus and mascarpone
 - _____ Baked stuffed chicken breast
 - _____ Apple and sausage stuffed pork chop with sage butter
 - _____ Broiled haddock
- Sour cream chocolate cake

Out and About..

Recent Trips and Workshops



- 1 Downeast backpacking trip by Richard Gassan. Left to right: Judy Oneal, Renee Pittelli, Madeline Wilson, Dana Kelley, Mia DeBethune
- 2 Bold Coast scenery by Jeff Aceto
- 3 75th Anniversary tattoo (temporary) by Jeff Aceto
- 4 Two hikers on the 8-mile hike to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the completion of the AT on 8/18/12 by Laura Flight
- 5 40 hikers have lunch at the Spaulding Mountain lean-to as part of an 8-mile hike to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the completion of the AT, by Laura Flight
- 6 AMCers on Mt Zircon by Michael Simoneau
- 7 Beal Island beach by Michelle Moody
- 8 Malaga Wreck by Michelle Moody



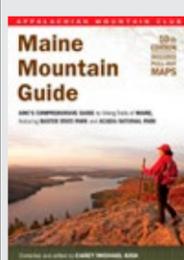
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See listings inside..



Go Paperless- Wilderness Matters

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