WILDERNESS MATTERS
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Record Crowd attends AMC Maine Chapter’s 2018 Annual Meeting
By Kathleen Redmond-Miller

The Maine Chapter’s 2018 annual meeting was held on November 10 in Portland and drew a record crowd of more than 100 people. We enjoyed an evening shared with good friends, delicious food and excellent speakers. We also raffled off some great prizes, including four copies of the new 11th edition of the AMC Maine Mountain Guide, and a free weekend for two at Little Lyford Lodge in the 100-Mile Wilderness.

After a fun cocktail reception, John Mullens, AMC’s Northeast Regional Director, welcomed the membership and presided over the festivities. As current Chapter Chair, I presided over the annual business meeting. The 2018 Maine Chapter’s Annual Report was provided to each member in attendance along with a new car magnet depicting the Chapter’s classic logo. View 2018 Annual Report online at: www.amcmaine.org/maine-chapter-annual-report.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS
- The Maine Chapter has 32 certified trip leaders, 14 of which have led three or more trips for five consecutive years.
- 27 Chapter leaders led more than 450 participants on 98 trips and provided 7 instructional/training sessions. This represents more than 1,000 hours of volunteer time under the leadership of Bill Brooke.
- The Chapter contributed funds to assist with the remodeling of the bunkhouse at Little Lyford Lodge as well as $1,000 each to the Maine Woods Community Youth and Environment Project and Teen Wilderness Adventure Trips.

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CMP power line plan too destructive to Maine’s natural beauty
By Carey Kish

The Appalachian Trail follows a meandering route between Caratunk and Monson, topping out on Pleasant Pond and Moxie Bald mountains along the way. The extensive open ledges on Moxie Bald are particularly impressive, with wonderful views westward over Moxie Pond to Mosquito Mountain and Pleasant Pond Mountain, and far beyond to the high peaks of the Bigelow Mountains, the Crockers, Sugarloaf and Mount Abraham.

A power line extends down the far side of Moxie Pond, but it’s only discernible if you know where to look for it, and as is, upsets the grand Moxie Bald vista not at all. But that view will look dramatically different if Central Maine Power Co., which owns the power line right-of-way, is successful in its bid to establish a 145-mile transmission line across western Maine and then down the Kennebec River valley.

Known as the New England Clean Energy Connect, the CMP project would link the hydroelectric dams of northern Quebec with the New England grid at Lewiston to deliver 1,200 megawatts of electricity to power-hungry Massachusetts. If bulldozers and construction crews come rumbling through the Moxie Pond area, leaving in their wake an intrusive string of new 100-foot towers, the scenic views along this beautiful section of the Appalachian Trail would be marred for all time.

That’s only part of the story, however. CMP also wants to construct a new, 150-foot-wide transmission line corridor from the Canadian border at Beattie Township eastward to connect with the existing power line at Moxie Pond. The corridor would cross a vast mountainous region and create an ugly 53-mile scar upon the undeveloped land, which is largely working forest but pristine in nature.

THREATENED WILDERNESS

Number Five Mountain rises near the heart of CMP’s planned new corridor section. I hiked the 2.5-mile path to its summit fire tower two summers ago and was so captivated by the incredible wild and remote country in every direction that I consider the peak to be one of Maine’s finest mountaintops. Reflecting on that great hike, it’s inconceivable to me that an industrial gash might one day slice across this landscape, affecting hundreds of wetlands and brook trout streams and fragmenting important wildlife habitat, never mind the enormous scenic impact.

But there’s more. Before reaching Moxie Pond, CMP’s corridor would cross the glorious gorge of the Kennebec River, either by extending the power line 200 feet above the river or by tunneling beneath it. One fine morning last August, I walked the trail into Magic Falls to watch the commercial whitewater rafts negotiate the roaring Class IV drop. Sadly, I thought, that whichever transect CMP might choose, this world-class 12-mile run enjoyed by thousands of boating enthusiasts every year will be forever spoiled.

NO MITIGATION IS ENOUGH

CMP has offered a $22 million mitigation package of superficial niceties to Mainers to accept what neighboring New Hampshire would not when the Granite State rejected another version of this project called Northern Pass last year. Sorry, CMP, but I unabashedly believe there is no dollar figure high enough to assuage the almost unimaginable scale of destruction this project would inflict on Maine’s precious natural heritage and outdoors economy.

This avid hiker and ardent conservationist, based upon all of the above and more, has concluded that CMP’s 145-mile transmission line project is an environmental boondoggle that cannot be allowed. No less than the Dickey-Lincoln School Dam on the St. John River in the 1970s and the Big A Dam on the West Branch of

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the Penobscot River in the 1980s, Mainers should “no thanks” in the strongest terms to CMP’s proposal.

It must be noted that CMP actually owns a 300-foot right-of-way, so there’s room for even more transmission lines in the future, or maybe a long chain of wind turbines. Also, several proposed but unpermitted wind farms in the region, unable to tie into the grid before, might then be revived, adding ever more 500-foot wind towers to our mountaintops.

And then what?

A four-lane east-west superhighway, perhaps? At that point, if not sooner, we might just as well change the sign on Interstate 95 right after the Kittery bridge to read “Welcome to Maine: The Same Way Life is Everywhere Else.” To stave off this unpleasant possibility, please make your voice heard today on CMP’s 145-mile transmission line, then take a hike to celebrate Maine’s incomparable natural beauty.

**Carey Kish is the editor of Wilderness Matters, author of “AMC’s Best Day Hikes Along the Maine Coast” and editor of the “AMC Maine Mountain Guide.”**

### Maine Chapter Executive Committee

**Chapter Chair:** Kathleen Redmond-Miller, chair@amcmaine.org, (207) 400-2529

**Chapter Vice-Chair:** Cindy Caverly, vicechair@amcmaine.org, (207) 465-9907

**Secretary:** Jeanine Libby, secretary@amcmaine.org, (207) 838-9669

**Treasurer:** Cindy Caverly, treasurer@amcmaine.org, (207) 530-2446

**At Large:** Dave McCarthy, atlarge@amcmaine.org, (207) 363-2791

**At Large:** Chris Franklin, atlarge@amcmaine.org, (207) 228-4490

**Past Chapter Chair:** Doug Chamberlin, pastchair@amcmaine.org, (978) 761-3815

**Archives Chair:** AVAILABLE

**Conservation Chair:** Pete Carney, conservation@amcmaine.org, (207) 644-4947

**Meetings & Education Chair:** Nancy Jacobson, education@amcmaine.org, (207) 942-4924

**Membership Chair:** Kristen Grant, membership@amcmaine.org, (860) 675-9339

**Maine Woods Initiative Chair:** Paul Hahn, mw@amcmaine.org, (207) 222-2837

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

**Outing Chair:** Bill Brooke, outings@amcmaine.org, (207) 549-5100

**Trails Chair:** AVAILABLE

**E-communications:** AVAILABLE

**Young Members Co-Chair:** Available

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**Meetings & Education Committee:** Michelle Moody, peamc@msn.com, (207) 373-8082

**Maine Policy Office:**

**Maine Woods Initiative Office:**

**AMC Headquarters:**

### Annual Meeting continued from page 1

- The Chapter now reports over 6,500 active members as of September 2018, its highest ever.
- In addition, Carey Kish produced the 11th edition of the highly-anticipated Maine Mountain Guide. Thoroughly revised and updated, the guide now contains 590 pages and features 175 new trails, 50 new mountains, and 17 additional in-text maps.

### TRIPS LEADERS RECOGNIZED

This year we recognized two outstanding trip leaders, Jeanine Libby and Denise Fredette, who have led three or more trips annually for five consecutive years. Jeanine and Denise also serve on our Executive Committee; their participation has been outstanding and greatly appreciated.

Other Maine Chapter leaders were also recognized for leading three or more trips in 2018: Cindy Caverly, Tony Barrett, Debby Kantor, Jeanne Christie, Denise Fredette, Emily Davis, Jeanine Libby, Stephen Brezinski, Kim Sanders, Lorraine Hussey, Michelle Moody, Stan Moody, Nick Montecalvo, Peter Rodenick, Sarah Keats, Susan Surabian and Carolyn Welch.

### APPIE OF THE YEAR: BILL BROOKE

I also had the honor and privilege of presenting the “2018 Appie of the Year” award to Bill Brooke, the Maine Chapter’s Outings Committee Chair (Bill was unable to attend due to an injury). Presented annually to a member for outstanding contributions to the growth, success and leadership of the Chapter and/or the Executive Committee during the past year, the “Appie of the Year” also gets a one-year lease on the highly-coveted Appie walking stick. I couldn’t help but think of Gandalf the White from J.R.R. Tolkien’s “Lord of the Rings” when envisioning Bill Brooke with the “Appie of the Year” walking stick.

Bill Brooke lives in Whitefield and has been our Outings Committee Chair for the past three years. In 2017, Bill led the process of updating the Chapter’s Leadership Requirements and Guidelines (a significant effort), and, as a member of the Club’s Outdoor Leadership and Development Committee, is working on that task once again. In my opinion, this is some of the most important work for the Chapter and Club, keeping people safe as they enjoy the outdoors through trip leader training. Bill has worked tirelessly to ensure we’re doing the best we can to accomplish that goal.

### TWO EXCELLENT SPEAKERS

Chuck Johnston, AMC’s Chief Financial Officer, provided an update to the membership on what’s going on at the Club level and at AMC’s new headquarters in Boston. One of the big initiatives discussed was “AMC 150,” which is a fact-finding mission and stakeholder engagement process that will help plot the course for the AMC through 2026, AMC’s 150th anniversary. The featured speaker, Ty Gagne, did not disappoint with a riveting and thoughtful presentation on mountaineering risks and decision making, recounting the last climb of Kate Matrosova, who attempted a solo traverse of the Presidential Range in February 2015. Ty is the CEO of the New Hampshire Public Risk Management Exchange and author of Where You’ll Find Me: Risk Decisions and the Last Climb of Kate Matrosova. Ty handled the subject of loss of life in the mountains with grace and respect and in the spirit of sharing with others the lessons to be learned from this tragedy. Ty’s book is highly recommended.

All and all I think it’s safe to say that a good time was had by all.
AMC’s 2019 Annual Summit is January 26, 2019, Four Points Sheraton, Norwood, MA

REGISTER TODAY!

Please join AMC in kicking off another year in the outdoors! No matter what adventures you’re planning for 2019, there’s something for you at the 143rd Annual Summit, which will connect both newcomers and lifelong members with valuable resources and provide opportunities for meeting people with similar interests and passions.

Annual Summit is AMC’s thank you to our dedicated volunteers and members! We welcome you to sign up for a combination of workshops, trainings, and meetings that matches your interests, including:

- Interactive workshops led by AMC experts and outdoor pros
- Organization-wide committee meetings
- Delicious buffet lunch
- AMC’s annual volunteer service awards
- The 143rd Annual Business Meeting
- Early evening reception, with complimentary drink and hors d’oeuvres
- Updates on AMC’s work in conservation, recreation, and education

Registration is $45. AMC will arrange for special group rates for those interested in staying over Friday and/or Saturday night.

Find summit registration info and lodging details at www.outdoors.org/AnnualSummit.

Maine Chapter 2018 Outings Report By Bill Brooke

I am very pleased to welcome Denise Fredette as Outings Committee Co-Chair. Denise is a former Young Members Co-Chair, an experienced 4-season hiker, and an AMC Adventure Travel Co-Leader. Denise brings her experience and enthusiasm to Outings and I am looking forward to working with her.

In this past year, 27 Maine Chapter leaders led over 450 participants on 98 trips and provided 7 instruction and training programs. This represents an estimated 1000+ hours in volunteer time by the Outings trip leaders, who are among the most dedicated volunteers in the chapter.

Additionally, during this year, five new leaders were certified in our leadership training program and three aspiring leader candidates are working to become certified.

We are recognizing 17 Maine Chapter Leaders who led three or more trips in 2018 and two leaders who have joined the ranks of 14 other Leaders who have led trips for five or more consecutive years.

Leaders recognized for leading three or more Maine Chapter trips in 2018:

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Leaders recognized for leading Maine Chapter trips for five consecutive years:

Denise Fredette
Jeanine Libby

Thank you and huge congratulations to all for your amazing contributions!
WINTER CALENDAR: OUTINGS | EVENTS | MEETINGS

These listings—presented in date order by category—include only those posted online prior to the submission deadline for this issue of Wilderness Matters. For the most complete and accurate information and up-to-date listings—and so you don’t miss spontaneous outings—please periodically check the calendar online at www.amcmaine.org/calendar.

For general questions or comments regarding these calendar listings, please contact Bill Brooke, Outings Chair and Master of the Calendar Listings, outings@amcmaine.org or (207) 549-5100.

Note: Please be courteous when contacting trip leaders by doing so before 9:00 PM unless otherwise specified. Thanks!

HIKES/WALKS


HIKING/SNOWSHOEING

Fri, Dec 28: Pre-New Year Weekend in the Whites (Young Members), AMC Highland Center, Crawford Notch, NH. www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#107712. A pre-New Year’s celebration! The past year has been filled with lots of fun outdoor activities and social events and we’ll be looking forward to more exciting plans for 2019. We’ve reserved the entire Shapleigh Bunkhouse and some space in the Highland Center if more folks want to join. There’s plenty of hiking, snowshoeing, and skiing opportunities nearby during the day and relaxing/socializing at night. You’ll have the chance to show off your coolest/gaudiest holiday clothes with an “Ugly Sweater” contest Saturday night (optional). AMC member rates are per person, per night: Shapleigh Bunkhouse $74, Main Lodge bunk room $115 (non-member rates: $88/138). Rates include dinner and breakfast, all bed linens and quilts, and bath towel. To reserve call the AMC Reservations Line at 603-466-2727 Mon-Sat, 9am to 5pm. Tell the Customer Service Representative you want to reserve into the AMC Maine Chapter, Reservation #414631. Let the leader also know you’ll be coming when you sign up. A group email will be sent out a week before with more details. This event is listed as “Young Members - 20’s, 30’s & Young at Heart,” however, it is open to all. Difficulty: Easy. Leader: Denise Fredette, 207-939-3670, deniserae77@gmail.com.

Sat, Dec 29: Intro to Winter Hiking and Snowshoeing, Pownal, ME. www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#109917. Join us on a morning outing to learn or practice some winter hiking/snowshoeing skills. If there’s enough snow, we’ll use snowshoes. Bring them along in any case for practice. Plan on ice for practice using your traction footwear such as MICROspikes if there’s not enough snow. A good time to work on cold weather layering, Bradbury is a fun place to get the feel of a mountain without the work of bigger mountains. Great for those new to winter hiking/snowshoeing. Lovely woods walk with far off views from the top. Bring what you think you’ll need to keep you warm and dry. Please include info about your level of hiking or snowshoeing experience and gear you already have. Questions? Feel free to call. If you don’t have winter gear yet, be sure to talk to the leader ahead of time. There is an entrance fee to the park. Difficulty: Easy. Leaders: Michelle Moody, Stan Moody, 207-406-5221, mmeanc at mctan.us.

Sat, Jan 5: Cranberry Peak Snowshoe Hike, Stratton, ME. www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#109689. 6.5-mile RT hike to summit of Cranberry Peak on the Bigelow Range Trail. Strenuous hike requiring good snowshoe skills and snowshoes with built in traction (crampons). Great views of Flagstaff Lake and the Bigelow Mountain Range, a winter wonderland. Difficulty: Strenuous. Leader: Peter Roderick, 207-293-2704, roderick1027@fairpoint.net.

Sat, Jan 5: Hike/Snowshoe Mt. Abraham, Kingfield, ME. www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#109695. Hike/snowshoe 4,049 ft. Mt. Abraham via Fire Warden’s Trail. Elevation gain = 2,900 ft., distance 9 miles RT from trailhead, w/ additional possible 3-4 miles skiing to get to trailhead. This hike has extensive areas above treeline, is very strenuous, and is only for very fit hikers with experience hiking 4,000 feet in winter. Full winter gear required, including crampons and ice axe. Difficulty: Strenuous. Leader: Cindy Caverly, 207-530-2446, cindycaverly@gmail.com.

Sat, Jan 12: Beginning Winter Hiking, Bradbury Mountain State Park, Pownal, ME. www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#109708. Have you been wanting to extend your 3-season hiking to include winter? Are you looking to learn and/or practice winter hiking skills? This is the trip for you! We’ll pick trails depending on the size and ability of the group. No one will be left behind and all will be made to feel welcome and supported. If there’s snow, we can practice snowshoeing. This is part of the Young Members winter event series, but all are welcome. Difficulty: Easy. Leader: Kim Sanders, kimberlyannsanders@gmail.com.

Thu, Jan 17: Snowshoe Bald Pate Mtn., South Bridgton, ME. www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#109684. Easy/moderate snowshoe on Bald Pate Mtn. Views from the top overlook beautiful Foster Pond and surrounding terrain. Limited views of Mt. Washington. Route is approx. 2 ½ miles. Bring MICROspikes (or similar) as well as snowshoes. Weather and leaders will determine appropriate footwear for the day’s conditions. Afterwards, optional meetup for lunch in Bridgton. Difficulty: Easy. Leader: Jo Anne Diller, 207-595-1467.

Sat, Jan 19: Snowshoe Hike up Pleasant Mtn., Bridgton, ME. www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#109635. An excellent winter hike for outdoor enthusiasts with some snowshoeing experience, Pleasant Mtn. offers a scenic opportunity to gear up for harder hikes in western Maine and NH. We’ll snowshoe to the old fire tower at the 2,000-ft. top of the mountain. If trail conditions are too bare or icy for snowshoeing, plan to use microspikes or crampons. Total distance RT is 5.8 miles. Please note: This is rated as a moderate winter hike and previous experience is required. FMI on Pleasant Mtn., visit: www.loonecholandtrust.org/places-we-protect/preserves/pleasant-mountain-preserve. Difficulty: Moderate. Leader: Debby Kantor, 207-854-3431, dlkantor@aol.com.

Sat, Jan 26: Mt. Agamenticus Snowshoe, York, ME. http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#109335. Not ready for the big mountains but looking to try a small one? Here’s your perfect choice with ocean views from the top. Snowshoe outing for those looking to learn a bit more or have a relatively easy day out on a mountain in the snow. Moderate pace. Start at the base of Mt. A, go to top, then proceed to Second Hill and further on to Third Hill if group is up to it. About 5 to 6 miles total. Ocean views from the Mt. A summit lodge. Elev. gain about 400 feet plus some extra up and down on back side. Plan on lunch on the trail and about 3-4 hours out. Microspikes will be required if not enough snow for snowshoes. Please email Michelle with info on your gear, level of experience and a phone contact to register. Difficulty: Easy to moderate. Leader: Michelle Moody, 207-406-5221.

Sun, Jan 27: Little Bigelow Snowshoe Hike, Lexington Township, ME. http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#109687. Hike the Appalachian Trail to the summit of Little Bigelow Mt. Great views from ledges and panoramic view of Carrabassett Valley from summit. 7 miles RT. Trail breaking may be necessary. Difficulty: Strenuous. Leader: Peter Roderick, 207-293-2704, roderick1027@fairpoint.net.

Wed, Jan 30: Round Top Mountain Hike or Snowshoe, Rome, ME. http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#109333. Round Top Mtn. Trail ascends to 1,133 ft. with an elev. gain of about 650 ft. to the top of Round Top Mtn., meandering through hardwood and conifer forests before opening up to views of Long Pond, Belgrade Lakes village and Great Pond. Plan on either hiking or snowshoeing based on conditions. Great small mountain hike for those wanting to add a bit of work to their outing and for new members to meet fellow AMC members. Total length about 4 miles, 2-3 hours with stops. Microspikes will be required if not enough snow for snowshoes. Morning outing. Please email Michelle with info.
on gear, level of experience and a phone contact. Difficulty: Moderate. Leader: Michelle Moody, 207-406-5221, meamc@micstun.us.

Sat, Feb 2: Kearsarge North Mountain, Intervale, NH. http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#109538. Hike 6.2 miles RT at moderate pace, with 2600 ft. elev. gain to fabulous views and a firetower sheltered from the wind. Depending on trail conditions, microspikes and/or snowshoes may be required. Difficulty: Strenuous. Leader: Debby Kantor, 207-854-3431, dlkantor@aol.com. Co-leader: Natalie Skovran, natalie.skovran@gmail.com.

Sun, Feb 3: Snowshoe Avery Peak, Bigelow Preserve, Carrabassett Valley, ME. http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#109661. Snowshoe/ hike the Fire Warden Trail to 4,088 ft. Avery Peak, with possible side trip to West Peak (4,145) if we have time. Distance about 10 miles RT w/ 2,600 ft. elev. gain. Very strenuous hike. Must have full winter gear and experience climbing 4,000 footers in winter. Difficulty: Strenuous. Leader: Cindy Caverly, 207-530-2446, cindycaverly@gmail.com.

Fri, Feb 8: Cathance River Snowshoe/Hike, Topsham, ME. www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#109212. Celebrate the Great Maine Outdoor Weekend with a fun morning winter outing at the Cathance River Nature Preserve, a snowshoe or hike (based on conditions). One of our favorite hikes in the area. The trails will lead us down to the river where the ice formations can be magical in winter. We’ll follow along the river and do as many trail sections as the group is up to. We’ll then loop back to the parking area. Watch for animal tracks along the way. Trails are narrow with some short steeper sections. Snowshoes required if enough snow, microspikes or similar traction may be required if icy. Plan on 2-3 hours out. Please let us know if you need to borrow snowshoes. You’ll have a chance to learn a bit about the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust and the history, which is also home to the Cathance River Education Alliance. A CREA staff member will join us for the outing and open the center after for a visit. Please email leader to register, provide info on level of experience, gear and a phone contact. Difficulty: Easy. Leader: Michelle and Stan Moody, 207-406-5221, meamc@micstun.us.

Sun, Feb 10: Old Speck, Grafton Notch State Park, Grafton Notch, ME. www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#109636. Beginning as a scenic shore walk along tidal Strawberry Creek, the Cliff Trail proceeds through beautiful forests and climbs to 150-ft. high cliffs that overlook Long Reach. We’ll snowshoe the trail if conditions permit, but be prepared to use microspikes if more ice than snow is present. Total distance is 2.3 miles, and prior snowshoe experience is recommended. Required registration; please contact leader FM! and to sign up. Visit the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust website for the Cliff Trail: https://hiltmaine.org/get-outdoors/cliff-trail/. Difficulty: Easy. Leaders: Natalie Skovran, natalie.skovran@gmail.com; Michelle Moody, 207-406-5221, meamc@micstun.us.

Sun, Feb 10: Old Speck, Grafton Notch State Park, Grafton Notch, ME. www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#109212. It’s Great Maine Outdoor Weekend, so join us for a winter hike up Old Speck Mtn. (4,170 ft.). 7.6 miles RT w/ 2,700 ft. elev. gain. We’ll follow the AT through beautiful forests with switchbacks, outlooks to Grafton Notch, and occasional steep sections to the wooded summit. Recent winter hiking experience and experience hiking similar terrain and distance is required, but it’s entirely below treeline so it’s great for those looking to test their skills on a 4000-footer. Difficulty: Strenuous. Leaders: Sarah Hunter, rasinghunters@gmail.com; Denise Fredette, 207-939-3670, deniserae778@gmail.com.

Thu, Feb 14: Snowshoe Mt. Tom, Fryeburg, ME. www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#109685. Mt. Tom, a glacially-shaped rôche moutonnée, is a moderate snowshoe of approximately 2.5 miles, views overlook the Saco River and the largest floodplain left in New England. Please bring microspikes and snowshoes (leaders will determine which will be appropriate for the conditions of the day). Difficulty: Moderate. Leader: Jo Anne Diller, 207-595-1467.

Sun, Feb 24: Three-Night Winter Getaway, Stratton, ME. www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#109021. A 3-night stay at the White Wolf Inn, with daily winter outings of your choice. Pay for 2 nights and get the 3rd night free. Please do not call hotel directly as leader is assigning rooms. Let us know if you’d like to share a room. Please include phone contact info and a bit about your winter outings and gear when emailing leader. Choose from snowshoeing, cross-country skiing on groomed trails, or downhill skiing at Sugarloaf. Trails include groomed old railroad grades and mostly flat terrain, or venture up to one of the Maine Huts & Trails huts for a more strenuous outing. Dining at local restaurants as a group or on your own. Social hour each evening to decide on what activities to do each day. Must book before January 10 to guarantee a spot. Difficulty: Easy. Leaders: Michelle and Stan Moody, 207-406-5221, meamc@micstun.us.


Tax, Mar 19: After Work/Pre-Social Snowshoe, Evergreen Cemetery, Portland, ME. www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#109676. Snowshoe on the trails behind the cemetery for an hour before the YM social at Great Lost Bear. Trails are well-marked and wind through the woods, and the sun will still be up in the late afternoon so close to the start of spring. Registration required. Please contact leader to sign up and receive specific information regarding the meetup time and location. This event is listed as “Young Members - 20’s, 30’s & Young at Heart,” however, it is open to all. Learn more about Evergreen Cemetery trails at trails.org/oru-trails/evergreen-cemetery. Difficulty: Easy. Leader: Natalie Skovran, natalie.skovran@gmail.com.

Sat, Mar 23: South Moat Mtn., Albany, NH. www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#109621. Take a hike on the first weekend of spring on a peak to be missed, as the views from the summit rival any other in the White Mountains (a “52 with a View” peak). Hikers should still be prepared for possible full winter conditions and have some winter hiking experience and appropriate gear. Intermediate hike, elev. gain 2,200 ft., 5.4 miles RT Avg. group pace 1.5 mph. Difficulty: Strenuous. Leader: Denise Fredette, 207-939-3670, deniserae778@gmail.com.

OUTDOOR SKILLS INSTRUCTION/ WORKSHOPS/FIRST AID

Wed, Jan 2: Young Member Winter Skills Workshop, Allagash Brewing Company, Portland, ME. www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#109707. An evening of fun and winter skills building on the heated deck at Allagash Brewing Company, 50 Industrial Way. Please see YM section on the back page of this newsletter for complete details on this great event.

Sat & Sun, May 4-5: Wilderness First Aid, Maine Audubon, Falmouth, ME. www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#109701. Wilderness First Aid training goes beyond standard Red Cross first aid, providing the skills needed when you’re more than one hour from medical care. Learn to assess and treat injuries in outdoor situations. Course is two full days and taught by Wilderness Medical Associates. Fee covers instruction and materials, but does not include lodging or meals. Class includes patient assessment, immediate life threats, disabling injuries, hypothermia and other environmental hazards, fractures, sprains and more. Upon successful completion, students receive certification in Wilderness First Aid and Adult CPR, valid for three years. Course is $175 for AMC Maine Chapter members, $200 for AMC members (non-Maine Chapter), and $250 if you are not an AMC member. To register for this course, call or email Leader, Peter Roderick at 207-293-2704 or roderick1027@fairpoint.net.

Wed, May 8: Beginning Backpacking Workshop, Maine Audubon, Falmouth, ME. www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#109702. This introduction to backpacking workshop is for beginners and experienced hikers who would like to take the next step from day hiking to multi-day trips. Workshop covers basics needed for safe and enjoyable 3-season backpacking. Topics include conditioning for backpacking, planning a backpacking trip, dealing with emergencies, food and water considerations, selection of appropriate clothing and footwear, and gear
for backpacking. Get your questions on backpacking answered, view backpacking gear, and get a demonstration of how to load a backpack.

To register and FMI, contact the Leader, Bill Brooke, 207-549-5100, outlooks@amcmaine.org.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Thu, Jan 10 and Mar 14: AMC’s Maine Policy Office, 14 Maine Street, (Fort Andross) Suite 126, Brunswick, ME. www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#108097. www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#108098. Meetings of the Chapter’s Executive Committee are open to all AMC members. Leader: Kathleen Redmond-Miller, chair@amcmaine.org.

Meetings & Education Programs

Thu, Jan 17: Potluck and Presentation: “Nature Notes from Maine,” Curtis Memorial Library, Morrell Meeting Room, 23 Pleasant St., Brunswick, ME. www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#108067. River otters, moose, skunks and more… Join us for an evening of wonder as Ed Robinson of Harpswell shares interesting facts about some of Maine’s most beautiful and fascinating wildlife. Ed, an avid outdoorsman, moved to Maine in 2007 and soon became involved with his local land trust, the Harpswell Heritage Land Trust. Ed has been writing stories about the outdoors for many years, and this led to a new book full of personal stories of wildlife encounters, along with stunning photographs and lovely sketches. Ed will share with us some of these stories along with lots of photos to help you learn about the wildlife you might encounter while you are out enjoying your own corner of Maine or exploring new places. Check out some of Ed’s stories at hhmaine.org/nature-notes. Copies of Ed’s book will be available for purchase; all proceeds benefit the work of Harpswell Heritage Land Trust. “This book is full of great stories about Maine’s wild animals. The stories are highly entertaining and brought back memories of some of my own wildlife encounters. These are the wild critters that make life in Maine very special.” –George Smith, outdoor blogger at the Bangor Daily News.

Thu, Feb 7: Potluck and Presentation: Critical Hours: Search and Rescue in the White Mountains, Curtis Memorial Library, Morrell Meeting Room, 23 Pleasant St., Brunswick, ME. www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#107828. A misread map, a sudden storm, a forgotten headlamp, and suddenly a leisurely hike turns into a treacherous endeavor. In the past decade, inexpensive but sophisticated navigation devices and mobile phones have led to alarming levels of overconfidence on the trail. Adding to this worrisome trend, the increasing popularity of backpacking gear, and the burgers are pretty amazing too. Registration not required but will be helpful for reserving a table for our group. Please contact Natalie to RSVP. This event is listed as “Young Members - ‘20’s, ‘30’s & Young at Heart,” however, it is open to all. Leader: Natalie Skovran, natalie.skovran@gmail.com.

Thu, Jan 24: Rockport Flatbread Social, Flatbread Co., 399 Commercial St., Rockport, ME. http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#109709. Do you like the outdoors? Do you want to learn more about the trips that the AMC offers? Or perhaps you are more interested in the conservation work that the AMC does? Are you looking to meet other like-minded individuals? Come to Flatbread in Rockport to enjoy some good food and company. Young Members will buy the first round of appetizers. RSVP not necessary, but always appreciated. Leader: Kim Sanders, kimblyannsander@gmail.com.

Tue, Mar 19: Social at Great Lost Bear, 540 Forest Ave, Portland, ME. http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#109674. Join us for dinner and drinks at Great Lost Bear in Portland, maybe the best beer bar in town, and the burgers are pretty amazing too. Registration not required but will be helpful for reserving a table for our group. Please contact Natalie. This social will follow the snowshoe outing on the Portland Trails behind Evergreen Cemetery; join us for both. This event is listed as “Young Members - ‘20’s, ‘30’s & Young at Heart,” however, it is open to all. Leader: Natalie Skovran, natalie.skovran@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Help with AMC Presentations in Brunswick and Bangor. Have you always wondered how you could help the AMC Maine Chapter, but not sure what you might be able to do? Do you enjoy coming to the presentations that AMC offers in Brunswick or Bangor? Would you be willing to get involved with helping to keep them going? We’re looking for volunteers to take over these duties. Happy to explain what’s entailed in doing the job, which can easily be shared if there are several volunteers. FMI, contact: Michelle Moody, 207-406-5221, meamc@micstan.us.

Become an AMC Trip Leader! Looking for ways to get involved in the AMC? Become a leader for hiking, backpacking, biking, paddling, snowshoeing, and social events hosting. We’re also looking for people who could to write articles for the Maine Chapter Wilderness Matters newsletter, write trip reports, and share photos. Start the process of becoming a leader anytime of the year; you choose how little or how much you want to do. AMC provides leadership training and Wilderness First Aid certification to active leaders. The Young Members (YM) focus is to get people in their 20’s and 30’s, and those “young at heart,” involved in AMC activities: socialization, recreation, and conservation. We’re hoping to increase young membership in the AMC and to ensure that the Maine Chapter remains strong and active well into the future. The Young Members Committee plans workshops, trips, and events geared towards specific interests, while also working with other AMC committees and outing clubs on Maine’s college campuses. FMI, contact: Denise Fredette, 207-939-3670, deniserae77@gmail.com or Sarah Keats, slski@gmail.com.
Challenging climbs, thrilling descents, and stunning scenery framed our White Mountains cycling adventure this fall, while comfortable lodging, good company and camaraderie made this trip truly great.

It was late October when I joined a group of intrepid cyclists on the brand new 130-mile, hostel-to-hostel cycling tour through the White Mountains, a collaborative project offered by the Notch Hostel, Rattle River Hostel, and White Mountains Hostel. We began at White Mountain Hostel in Conway, on a bright, chilly morning. Mt. Washington stood in the distance, cloaked in white. The edges of the Kancamagus Highway were brushed with a light covering of snow on that first morning and in the shadows a thin layer of black ice was waiting. Two of us slipped, toppling onto the pavement. We decided to stay off of the edges, off the white line, and be alert. The sun was getting higher; the ice wouldn’t last long. It was a Friday morning, past peak foliage, and the traffic was light. We rolled along as the sun rose higher, filtering through the muted golden leaves.

We continued to climb, stopping at overlooks to enjoy the scenery and provide cheers of encouragement as each new member of the group came into view. Arriving at the height of the land, we celebrated with a group photo at the Kancamagus Pass sign. The rest of the day was downhill to the cozy Notch Hostel in Woodstock, where we were greeted by the owner, Serena Walsh. After warm showers and some much-deserved time in the sauna, we piled into the Notch Hostel van for a ride into town and a delicious meal at Woodstock Inn, Station & Brewery. We spent the evening sharing bike trip stories and ideas.

On our second day we meandered through—and up—Franconia Notch on a paved, multiuse recreational path that had become a mosaic of fallen leaves. Later the Northern Presidentials dominated the landscape as we rolled down the wide shoulders of US Route 2 into Shelburne. At the end of our 53-mile day, we arrived at the lovely Rattle River Hostel to find owner Erik Barstow working in the yard. We tucked our bikes into the gear room, showered, and were whisked off to another incredible meal at Libby’s Bistro & SAaLT Pub.

Our last day was icy cold. Armed with proper winter cycling attire and hand warmers for extra security, we took off amidst flying snowflakes. The climb to Pinkham Notch was made tougher by the biting wind, but that only made the blazing fire and spicy chili at the visitor center all the more inviting. We soaked up the warmth and ventured back out into the cold with renewed energy to finish the ride. The rest of the miles came easily, and we were back at our cars at the White Mountain Hostel by mid-day. This was a terrific trip and one that left us all dreaming of our next cycling adventure.

Become a Plant Conservation Volunteer with the New England Wild Flower Society!

We’re seeking enthusiastic people who have a commitment to plant conservation and protecting natural habitats to participate in the Plant Conservation Volunteer Program. The PCV Program engages volunteers to collect information on rare plants and their habitats across all six New England states. The majority of the work focuses on rare plant monitoring, but there are also occasional opportunities to assist with invasive species removal, habitat management projects and botanical surveys that benefit rare plants. The NEWFS also offers free field trips and some learning opportunities to PCVs. It’s an excellent opportunity to put your botanical skills to work, learn more about the flora of New England, meet other botanists, and help preserve your state’s natural heritage. Visit our website and apply by February 1, 2019 to be considered for the upcoming field season: www.newenglandwild.org/conserve/saving-imperiled-plants/plant-conservation.html
Young Members Winter Skills Workshop

Allagash Brewing Company, Portland (on the heated deck)

Wed, January 2, 2019, 5-7pm

Join us for an evening of fun and winter skills building on the heated deck at Allagash Brewing Company! Come at 5pm to socialize over beverages and appetizers, followed by a Winter Skills discussion at 5:30. Workshop will focus on basic skills: layering your clothing, using gear, and managing the elements as well as safety concerns like staying hydrated, signs of hypothermia, and how to travel in a group. A variety of equipment will be on display so folks can handle the gear and ask questions. We’ll also discuss upcoming Maine Chapter events and winter trip planning in general. Whether you are new to winter adventures, experienced, or somewhere in between, there will surely be something to learn. Registration isn’t required, but helpful in determining numbers and quantity of food. This is going to be a fun night to meet new people, learn new skills, and enjoy some delicious beverages. Thank you, Allagash Brewing Company, for helping to sponsor this event, which is part of the Young Members Winter Series. All are welcome. FMI, visit www.amcmaine.org/calendar.

Volunteer for Trail Work!

By John Mullens

You are invited to apply for a scholarship that will cover all costs for food and overnight lodging during one of three trail work opportunities at AMC’s Maine Wilderness Initiative (MWI) lands in the 100-Mile Wilderness. The Peter Roderick Trail Work Award (PRTWA), named in honor of one of the Maine Chapter’s most enthusiastic and longtime trail volunteers, will cover the cost of a multi-day volunteer trail work outing in AMC’s 78,000-acre MWI area. The goals of this program are to encourage first or second-time trail volunteers into the woods, to expand our cadre of new trail volunteers and to provide an on-site opportunity to learn trail work skills. Up to four PRTWA scholarships may be awarded for use during any of three volunteer trips in 2019. Here are the scholarship details:

Volunteer trips. The three 2019 volunteer trips are scheduled for May 24-27, July 8-11 and October 11-14. Led by one or more seasoned volunteer leaders, new volunteers get appropriate instruction and oversight. Each trip begins with 6pm dinner and an overnight at one of the three AMC Maine Wilderness Lodges, and ends after lunch on the final day. Accommodations and all meals during that period are covered by the scholarship.

Who may apply. The PRTWA is open to any AMC member with the desire to work outdoors in the Maine woods—on projects such as building or improving foot trails and bog bridging, stacking firewood, gardening, and marking boundaries—under the supervision of a volunteer leader. Preference will be given to first- or second-time trail work volunteers and to Young Members, generally considered to be those in their 30’s or younger. If you are not currently an AMC member, please join before applying for the award.

How to apply. Complete the PRTWA Scholarship Application, found as a link on the Maine Chapter website at: www.amcmaine.org/unlinked/prtwa-scholarship. The application is designed to gain an understanding of the applicant such as prior experience with volunteering, with trail work and with AMC. Applicants should identify their first, second and third preference for trip dates. Complete the form online or download, complete electronically and email to mwil@amcmaine.org.

Deadline for applications. Applications should be submitted between January 1 and March 1, 2019. Awardees will be notified by March 15.

Questions? Contact MWI Committee Chair Paul Hahn at mwil@amcmaine.org.

Not for You? The Maine Chapter offers other no cost one-day trail work opportunities in Maine. FMI, visit trails@amcmaine.org.