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**AMC Maine Chapter**

**2020 Annual Report**

November 14, 2020

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1.0 Chapter Chair Report

The AMC and the Maine Chapter have been impacted by the COVID pandemic this year like numerous other organizations. We have restricted our spending to essential items, and significantly reduced the number of volunteer led trips while moving to an online format for meetings, training, and programs.

The AMC developed COVID training and instituted protective criteria in the spring for volunteer led trips. 12 Maine Chapter leaders and others have taken this training and a number of trips have been offered since June. Wilderness First Aid and Leadership training were canceled this year, but we are planning to bring them back later next year.

Chapter membership remains strong with a total of 6198 members currently including 799 new members this year.

We are also in good financial position with assets of $71,599. Our spending has been lower this year due to meetings moving to on line and canceling of Leader and Wilderness First Aid training.

For 2020 to date, we have had more than 350 participants engage in 36 of our activities led by 19 Leaders. Two thirds of these activities were in the first two months of 2020 and overall Maine Chapter activities are down by 65% from 2019.

Trail work activities were also reduced this year with five trail work trips and 24 people participating. Eight Peter Roderick Trial Work scholarships for trail work in AMC’s Maine woods were awarded this year but the spring work trips associated with the awards were rescheduled to next year due to the pandemic.

Although our programs chair position is vacant, 11 webinars were held so far in 2020 on various topics including two instructional ones. More programs are in the works for this winter.

New this year we are adding a leadership committee to manage Leader requirements and training for all Chapter committees which will off load these duties from the Outings Chair.

Looking forward to 2021 we will continue with online meetings and webinars and are anticipating reduced trip activity in the winter thru summer and hopefully resuming leader training in the fall.

2.0 2020 Executive Committee Members

Chair ……………………………………....... Cindy Caverly

Vice Chair ……………………………………. Bill Brooke

Treasurer ………………………………......... Janet Roderick

Secretary …………………………………….. Jeanine Libby

At-Large ……………………………………… Whitney Plasket & Malena Gatti

Committee Chairs

 Communications …………………… Tom Ianello

Conservation ……………………… Chris Franklin

Membership ………………………… Kristen Grant

MWI …………………………………. Paul Hahn

Newsletter ……………………….…. Carey Kish

Nominating …………………………. Paul Hahn

Outings ……………………………... Denise Ferdette

Programs …………………………... (Open)

Trails ………………………………… Phil Coyne

Young Members (Co-Chairs) …….. Steven Profaizer & Noelle Koch

Regional Director – John Mullens

3.0 Treasurer's Report

Maine Chapter Assets (As of October 31,2020)

Total Cash $20,316

Cash Reserves Held by the Club $ 5,400

Invested Reserves $32,739

Sue Blood - Endowment $ 1,314

Total Assets $71,599

Income 11/1/19 - 10/31/20

Membership $20,219

Program Income $ 670

Donations $ 500

Miscellaneous $ 629

Total Income $22,018

 Expenses 11/1/19 to 10/31/20

 Participant Cost $ 717

AMC Meetings $ 4,389

Committee Expenses $ 3,147

Newsletter $ 2,937

Administration $ 2,873

AMC Contribution $ 2,000

Total Expenses $16,062

4.0 Committee Reports

4.1 Membership

Currently (Oct 1, 2020) the Maine chapter has 6,180 members. This represents a reduction in our membership of 4.7% from 2019. For 2020 to date we have had 799 new members join the Maine Chapter.

There are six members we are recognizing this year for being AMC members for 50 years and 33 for 25 years.

25 Year Members

Mary Barnes

Elaine Becker

Scott Bloom

Laura Blutstein

Marie & Henry Coons

John P Cotton

Deborah Cressler

Barry Donohue

Kathleen & Barry Donohue

Charles Duncan

Jennifer, Ben & Scott Frank

Michael Goulet

Robyn & Rocko Graziano

Susan Haggstrom

Betsey & Samuel Harding

Karen Herold

Steven Ingram

Mark Isaacson

Michael Leacher

Gerard Locke

John McLeod

Katrina Melvin

Cindy Murphy

Peter Neill

Diane & Davin Robinson

Davin Robinson

Candace & Edward Walworth

50 Year Members

Muriel Pepper

George Perkinson

Barbara Bentley

Arthur Martineau

William Bentley

John Kauffmann

4.2 Outings

In 2020, there were 36 events by 19 Leaders with more than 350 total participants. These events comprise:

* 10 snowshoe hikes
* 2 nordic ski
* 7 hikes
* 2 leader meetings
* 4 instructional webinar workshops
* 1 backpack trip
* 2 social events
* 8 webinar presentations

In 2020, there are 34 active Leaders and 7 Leader Applicants.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we offered our instructional workshop online as Webinars and they were well-attended. We cancelled our in-person Leader Training for 2020. Leader Training modules will be offered online In November and December of 2020. All in-person AMC activities between March 15 and June 23 were cancelled or postponed. AMC Leadership has adopted increased safety precautions and guidelines for all in-person activities due to this pandemic.

Each Year we recognize those leaders who have led at least three trips in a year and also those who have been active leaders for the last 5 years.

Three Trips- Leaders who have led 3 or more trips this year

Jeanne Christie
Denise Fredette
Sarah Hunter
Debby Kantor
Michelle Moody
Stan Moody

Five Year Leaders - Leaders who have led one or more trips each year for the past 5

 years (\*new this year)

Bill Brooke

Cindy Caverly\*

Jeanne Christie

Denise Fredette

Debby Kantor

Jeanine Libby

Michelle Moody

Stan Moody

Peg Nation

Peter Roderick

Kim Sanders

4.2 Conservation

Back in January at AMC’s Annual Summit conservation took center stage. With a strong contingent of Maine AMC members in attendance the message of “Active Conservation” being integrated into AMC trips, facilities and priorities was a welcome message. Having the opportunity to meet with conservation committee members from a dozen different chapters both formally and informally provided plenty of ideas on how we as a chapter could be a better resource to our members on pressing environmental issues.

Then came the pandemic. While our anticipated field testing and training of new ways of engaging in active conservation have been curtailed we have learned new ways to reach out across the internet to engage and inform our Maine members. Many of our local webinars featured conservation themes, especially our earth day webinar (available as all others on our website).

Fortunately, the important conservation work of AMC was able to continue and was perhaps highlighted by the passage in July of a historic bill for permanent re-authorization of, and full funding for the popular Land and Water Conservation Fund. This program, while historically chronically underfunded for virtually all of its 55 years in existence will now provide significantly greater annual conservation funding nationwide. AMC’s own efforts to complete our acquisition of 100,000 acres also made significant strides forward as well as highlighted in our Maine Woods Initiative report. In addition to these top conservation priorities AMC Maine continues to participate in the debate over the CMP Corridor and Climate Change.

While this past year bypassed many of our plans to integrate conservation throughout the chapter’s activities we are heartened by the renewed love our public and private conservation lands evidenced by overflowing trailheads and record visitation to many of our most treasured landscapes. We are hopeful that this renewed appreciation of the places preserved by the tireless work of previous generations can still be expanded, protected and cared for by this, and future generations!

4.3 Maine Woods Initiative

The year started with awarding eight Peter Roderick Trail Work Award (PRTWA) Scholarships for trail work at AMC Lodges in the Maine Woods (MWI). Because of Covid-19, work trips in May and July were cancelled. A work trip with reduced volunteers worked at Medawisla Lodge in October. In addition, trail work was performed by Trail Adopters throughout the summer.

The Club MWI Committee held a meeting in June and will meet again in November which will be attended by Chapter MWI Chair. Dates have been set for MWI trail work in 2021. The PRTWA Scholarships program will continue for 2021.

4.5 Trails

Despite 2020 posing challenges to getting trail work done, I’m happy to report that many Maine trails and natural areas we love benefitted from the fine efforts and hard work of AMC volunteers.

Small groups worked at Cutler and Pleasant Mountains, and around AMC lodges, while others worked singly maintaining adopted sections of the Appalachian Trail near Third Mountain and in the Bigelows. A Gulf Hagas feeder trail was spiffed up, and firewood was stacked at a lodge. All this was done by volunteers without regular pro trail crews this summer.

Volunteers Jon Doty, Ethan Pratt and Robert Pantel made progress towards becoming trail leaders, and Robert will head up our Adopt-A-Trail program in the MWI starting in 2021, including leading our annual spring trip to Little Lyford.

Thank you to all the AMC trail volunteers who donated their time in 2020 including: Tom Weaver, Henrietta Tranum, Robert Pantel, Peter Bridgman, Roderick MacKay, Julie O’Boyle, Peter Kaurup, Patsy Leavitt, Bob and Sam Read, Richard Morse, Cindy Caverly, Jeanine Libby, Kristina Sullivan, Kristen Grant, Jon Doty, Ethan Pratt, Kenyon Grant, Peter and Janet Roderick, Bruce Brown, Dave and Gail McCarthy, Susy Kist and Phil Coyne.

We are indeed grateful to these folks, and for any others whose names are not included here.

By the numbers Maine AMC Trail trip volunteers

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Trail Trip | Participants | Leaders |
| Cutler Mountain | 1 | 2 |
| Pleasant Mountain | 4 | 2 |
| AT Section between route 27 and junction with Bigelow Range Trail | 1 | 2 |
| Medawisla Lodge | 10 | 2 |

We are also grateful for AMC Kate Johnson and Peter Roderick for offering an excellent webinar on AMC Trail Work, more than 125 signed up.

4.6 Nominating

Pursuant to Chapter By-Laws, Section 4.4, the list of candidates for officers and Committee Chairs to serve on the Ex-Com, was placed on the Chapter Website 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

Members of the Ex-Com elected at the Annual Meeting, pursuant to Section 4.3 of the By-Laws, shall hold office starting on January 1, 2021 until December 31, 2021. Positions open on the Ex-Com as of the 2020 Annual Meeting, are Vice Chair and Chairs for Programs, Outings and Membership.

### 4.7 Communications & Social Media

We have an active social media presence with 1738 Instagram , 2838 Facebook and 3018 MeetUp followers. There is also an AMC Maine YouTube channel

( <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsKrBOnKCLuUO4n-5uvGSgQ> ) that has the 10 webinars presented this spring and summer .

4.8 Young Members

After an extended gap in leadership, Steven Profaizer and Noelle Koch took over as co-chairs for the Maine Young Members committee around the beginning of the year. We started off strong with a brewery social in January that drew a dozen people in their 20s and 30s with an interest in the AMC. In February, we doubled our attendance, drawing a crowd of almost 30 people! It was exciting to see our efforts quickly gaining traction, and we had similar events posted for March, April, and May. We also had a group camping weekend scheduled for July.

Unfortunately, we were forced to cancel all those events due to the pandemic, and we haven't been able to do anything else with the Young Members group since. We're short on active Young Members participants and leaders, and neither Steven or Noelle have completed their leader training. Steven was set to complete his training this spring, but he's still on the waiting list for one of the few Wilderness First Aid classes that are currently scheduled in the region.

All of this has forced us to essentially pause our work to grow an active Young Members group in Maine, and we're excited to resume those efforts in the future.

5.0 Regional Directors Report

**2020 Report to the Maine Chapter from AMC’s Northern Regional Director** **John Mullins**

I’m pleased to report to the Maine Chapter membership on AMC-wide actions and progress for 2020, especially AMC’s response to COVID-19, our progress on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), and the upcoming 2021 AMC Annual Summit.

Responding to COVID-19. From the first week of March, AMC was very cognizant of the serious health risks associated with COVID-19, wanting to protect its membership and employees. The Board of Directors, AMC staff, and chapter leadership collaborated on decision-making, actionable guidance, and support for necessary changes to the operation of all AMC elements. AMC’s Volunteer Relations Department communicated these decisions weekly to chapters providing guidance on suspending in-person activities, recommending options for online meetings instead of face-to-face gatherings, and sharing a safe reopening rubric on when and how chapter-led outings could begin again.

To keep our community connected while group activities were not possible, the Maine Chapter ramped up email communications and initiated fun and informative Zoom sessions covering outdoor skill learning, reports of previous outdoor experiences, nature lessons, and photo sharing. As restrictions on outdoor activities eased and hiking local trails again became possible, AMC developed training for how chapter leaders could once again move outdoors in small groups to capitalize on the mental and physical health benefits from being outdoors in nature.

While implementing the usual full slate of group outings and trainings is not yet possible at this time, I know everyone within AMC and the Maine Chapter looks forward to the time when it’s possible to reinstitute their traditionally full slate of outdoor offerings.

Addressing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. As AMC CEO John Judge made clear in his June 5 public statement, not only is there no room for racism or exclusion in our organization, but we need to consciously review and improve our efforts to be more open and welcoming to all.

Our new AMC150 mission, vision, and values are one step in that process. As they make clear,

“AMC’s mission is to foster the protection, enjoyment, and understanding of the outdoors for all. We envision a world where being outdoors is an integral part of people’s lives; where our natural resources are healthy, loved, and protected. (Furthermore,) AMC strives to be a diverse and representative organization committed to increased access to and engagement with the outdoors for all people, with leadership, activities, and participants that reflect the diverse communities we serve.”

Not only as volunteers and leaders for AMC but as thoughtful and responsible human beings in this world at this time, we strive to fulfill our organization’s mission, vision, and values, especially when viewed through a DEI lens. Some chapters have already been working to make DEI an integral part of their chapter’s framework, and all chapters will be working on that as we go forward. Not only is it the right thing to do for humankind, but expanding our DEI efforts also contributes toward achieving our conservation mission in the long run.

AMC’s Annual Summit is coming to your home in January 2021! For those of us in the North Country, the Annual Summit, long held in a Boston suburb, has always been a fun, educational, and celebratory day bracketed by a long drive on both ends. Responding to COVID-19, but hugely benefiting those of us up north, this year’s Annual Summit will be virtual, accessible to anyone anywhere with a Zoom account. The day will be chock full of the usual events: outdoor skill workshops, educational sessions, AMC property updates, volunteer service awards, and reports from the BOD including the 2020 year-end financial report. All of this is happening in your living room on January 23, 2021. Look for registration information coming up on outdoors.org.

Finally, a major acknowledgement and tip of the hat to Cindy Caverly, your chapter chair, for her two years of outstanding leadership and especially for guiding us safely through this unusual year. Faced with a unique and changing set of circumstances, Cindy helped the chapter respond in ways that maintained chapter continuity, helped members stay informed and engaged, and settled us into a good stead to face whatever comes our way in 2021. As Cindy moves into her Past Chair responsibilities and Bill Brooke steps into the Chair’s role, I look forward to another successful year working with the Maine Chapter!

Happy trails to all,

John Mullens

Regional Director, North

AMC Board of Directors