



MAINE

Maine Chapter
Appalachian Mountain Club
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PORTLAND, ME
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WILDERNESS MATTERS

VOLUME XLVI • NUMBER 3 • SUMMER 2021

Appalachian Mountain Club's Maine Woods Property Certified as an International Dark Sky Park

The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) announced that the Appalachian Mountain Club's Maine Woods property has become the first International Dark Sky Park in New England. This certification is given to land possessing an exceptional quality of starry nights and a nocturnal environment that is specifically protected for its scientific, natural, educational, and cultural heritage, and/or public enjoyment. Because most of the eastern United States has light pollution that prevents pristine views of the night sky, there are only a few International Dark Sky Parks in the region.



Little Lyford Pond

The AMC Maine Woods Dark Sky Park lies at the edge of the North Maine Woods, an expanse of more than 14,000 square kilometers of largely uninhabited forest land that stretches from Monson, Maine to the border of Canada. This region is one of the darkest places remaining on the East Coast and has also been identified as an area of exceptionally high habitat connectivity and climate change resilience. In recent decades, many natural wild places in New England have vanished due to the increase of urban development. Much of the North Maine Woods is owned by timber companies and, although there are large surrounding tracts of private and public lands under conservation protection, including land managed by AMC, it continues to be at risk of a similar fate. Alongside nearby Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, which was designated an International Dark Sky Sanctuary in 2020, the AMC Maine Woods Dark Sky Park

is an important step in preserving this area and driving future dark sky conservation opportunities.

"While the AMC North Maine Woods region retains its rugged character defined by the enormity of the forest here, it stands on the advancing edge of development that brings with it the end of the dark night sky," said Steve Tatko, AMC Director of Maine Conservation and Dark Sky Park Superintendent. "I see this designation as a way for the people of this area to re-envision the immense importance of this forest in a way that makes tangible the intrinsic beauty of the night sky we all cherish."

Since 2003, the Appalachian Mountain Club has acquired and permanently conserved 75,000 acres in the North Maine Woods and 100-Mile Wilderness landscape

through the Maine Woods Initiative project. This effort has been centered in active conservation work to develop a holistic approach to land conservation, sustainable forestry, outdoor recreation, environmental education, and now the preservation of the night sky.

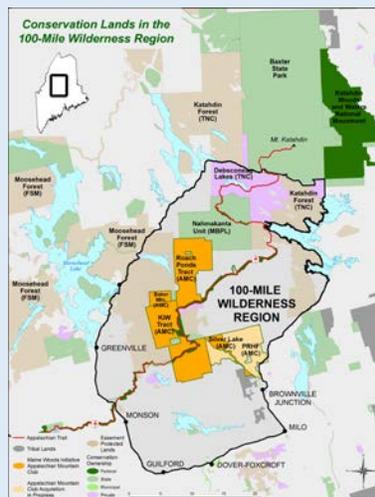
AMC has also been a lead partner in the *Mountains of Stars* public science education and outreach program, which uses astronomy to engage audiences in many aspects of the natural environment, such as dark skies preservation. Every AMC facility is outfitted with telescopes and astronomy education equipment; programs are held daily by on-site astronomy guides at the AMC Maine lodges in the summer and weekly during other parts of the year. *Mountains of Stars*

- continued on page 3

Maine Woods Initiative Report by Paul Hahn

Winter Season: Varying snow conditions were a challenge, but with new grooming equipment, ski trails were maintained and Medawisla was able to expand its trails over previous winters. The pick-up meals system, experienced by this writer, went well. Efforts by many new cooks were praised, with special thanks from guests with dietary restrictions. The mid-week closures did not hinder guest reservations and allowed staff to maintain a high level of cleaning throughout the pandemic.

Pleasant River Headwater Forest (27,000 acres): This large parcel of land is contiguous to MWI property, running in a south easterly direction along the several branches of the Pleasant River. Fundraising continues successfully for its purchase. The committee for this fundraising effort has submitted grant proposals to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. So far, 17 million dollars have been raised toward the campaign goal of 25 million by December 2022.



Logging Operations: Logging operations in the Pleasant River Headwaters Acquisition harvested 3700 cords this winter. 2100 cords will be cut in early summer for an annual allowable harvest of 5800 cords. In 2020, AMC and private contractors completed extensive timber inventory of the property and show sustained progress toward achieving long-term stocking goals. AMC will harvest 6000 cords annually on MWI lands. Growth of 30% per acre in cordage on MWI will allow increased amount of saw log volume and real promise for future carbon credit sales.

Watershed restoration is in its 10th season: Last year work was done to return a ¾-mile section of Ashworth brook, a tributary of the Middle Branch of Watershed, to its original state through large wood additions. This year work will focus on improving fish passage by removing culverts and replacing them with open bottom bridges and reconstructing five miles of upstream brook trout and Atlantic salmon spawning habitat. All of this effort to restore fish habitat has

- continued on page 3

Wilderness Matters

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Newsletter submissions and photographs: Send to Sarah Hunter, Editor, at newsletter@amcmaine.org.

Deadline for submissions to Wilderness Matters (Fall Issue) is September 1, 2021.

Submission info: 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! Please email submissions to newsletter@amcmaine.org. **Submission guidelines:** Articles, opinions, stories and should be limited to 400-500 words maximum (word counts greater than that may be edited or may not be accepted) in an attached Word or similar document that is clearly labeled. Images should include a photo title, captions and any other identifying info plus proper photo credit. Use of Dropbox to send images would be great too. Thank you!

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Message from the Chair: A Brighter Outlook

By Bill Brooke

We have a much brighter outlook this summer and are offering numerous opportunities for you to enjoy the outdoors. These include: a self and assisted kayak rescue training and a beginner kayaking trip, a mountain biking and camping weekend at Bradbury State Park, local hikes in conjunction with LL Bean's "Summer Across Maine" program, a young members camping and hiking trip to Baxter State Park, and a Grafton Trail Day on the West Grafton Loop Trail. (See the trip listings section in this issue and AMCMaine.org for these and other listings.)

I would like you hear from you about any of the activities you participate in and about any suggestions you have for future events. Email me at chair@amcmaine.org with your comments. All of these activities (and this newsletter) are made possible by volunteers. They are trip leaders, committee chairs, and committee members who donate their time to provide these activities and to keep the Maine Chapter running.

We can use your help. Contact me at chair@amcmaine.org if you would like to volunteer.

How to Prevent a Wildfire

Tom O'Brien, Maine Leave No Trace State Advocate

Leave No Trace is a set of science-based principles that provide you with the knowledge to make ethical choices to minimize your impact when you participate in outdoor recreation.

Many of us are familiar with the 7 Leave No Trace Principles. All are relevant to anyone who spends time outside. As we head into summer and start thinking about outdoor activities including camping, outdoor cooking, and backyard bonfires, this is a good time to remember principal #5 - Minimizing Campfire Impacts.

Last year, Maine's annual wildfire total was the highest it had been in the past 35 years and resulted in 1,030 acres burned statewide. "The number of wildfires in the state in 2020 (1,150) has been aggravated by drought and by more people spending time outside as a way of coping with the COVID-19 pandemic" according to Bill Hamilton, Maine's chief forest ranger. "The number of wildfires caused by campfires (171) was five times the number of out-of-control campfires that forest rangers responded to the previous year."

If you and your family enjoy camping, please minimize your impact if you start a campfire. We all enjoy campfires, but let's not start a wildfire.

- Check local regulations to determine whether or not you're allowed to build a campfire.
- If you are allowed, remember to only use existing fire rings and make sure the area is clear of leaves, sticks, and other debris.
- Make sure you have access to water and keep it close to the fire.
- Follow the 4 D's as you collect wood. All wood should be Down, Dead, Distant from your campsite and Dinky (smaller than your wrist in diameter).
- When you are done, extinguish your campfire COMPLETELY!

As Smokey the Bear says: "Only YOU Can Prevent Forest Fires".

HOW TO AVOID STARTING A

WILDFIRE

Wildfire is part of our ecosystem—it does have a role the natural world. It can, though be a deadly force. Nearly 90 percent of all wildfires are caused by humans in the U.S. Help ensure your next campfire doesn't become a wildfire.

- 1. Plan Ahead**
Find out the rules regarding fires and firewood where you plan to visit. In some places you can gather wood and in others you should buy it where you burn it to avoid moving invasive insects that may live in firewood.
- 2. Use an Existing Fire Ring**
All fires should be built in existing fire rings, and kept to a reasonable size. Burn only firewood in the fire since burning trash gives off toxic chemicals.
- 3. Put the Fire Out Completely**
Burn all wood to ash and use lots of water to make sure the fire is out and cold to the touch. There should be no smoke or heat when you leave. If there is any trash in the fire ring, put it in a trash can.



Little Lyford Lodge and Cabins

staff also present to local residents and vacationers by holding astronomy programs at other locations, such as schools and libraries.

“AMC recognizes that the dark sky in the 100-Mile Wilderness is an important natural resource and the AMC Maine Woods Dark Sky Park designation is an important step in protecting it,” said John Judge, AMC President and CEO. “The creation of this park goes hand in hand with our existing conservation efforts in the area and will greatly benefit many species living in this region in addition to providing local economic opportunities by opening the door for astronomy-based tourism. The success of the AMC Maine Woods Dark Skies Park will be supported by a world class outdoor recreational infrastructure, including: three AMC wilderness lodges; nearly 130 miles of hiking, cycling and Nordic skiing trails; and exceptional wilderness paddling and fishing opportunities.”

The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Tucson, Arizona, advocates for the protection of the nighttime environment and dark night skies by educating policymakers and the public about night sky conservation and promoting environmentally responsible outdoor lighting.

Mountains of Stars offers astronomy-based programs and activities to help people better understand humankind’s place on Earth and our connection with the environment.

Additional information on the AMC Maine Woods International Dark Sky Park is available at [outdoors.org](https://www.outdoors.org).



MWI Report *continued from page 1*

gained national interest and recognition.

Work on MWI’s 130 miles of trails continues: Maine Chapter volunteers worked on trails over Memorial Day weekend. A shelter, funded by the Boston, Maine and Worcester Chapters will be constructed this summer on Horseshoe Pond. It will be named in honor of Andrew Norkin, whose vision led to the creation of the MWI Trail System.

Reservations: Advanced lodging registrations are up at all three lodges over 2020.

MWI is supported by all twelve AMC Chapters, but it is in our backyard. As Maine Chapter MWI Chair, I encourage you to support our efforts in every way possible. Enjoy a trip to MWI this summer and “Stay Outdoors.”

Policy Updates

As this newsletter goes to print, the Maine Legislature is entering crunch time, aiming to complete work on thousands of bills before a target adjournment of June 16. Many of the issues of interest to AMC remain unresolved. Our highest priority issues for 2021 include climate action, funding land conservation through the proven Land for Maine’s Future Program (LMF) and addressing the backlog of maintenance needs at Maine State Parks.

A wide range of bills to address climate change are making their way through the process. Among them, we have supported an initiative to increase the weatherization of Maine’s aging housing stock, and to require the Public Utilities Commission to consider climate impact when weighing energy projects.

Funding for Land for Maine’s Future and state parks will be worked out as lawmakers negotiate the state budget, a bond package, and the use of American Recovery Plan funds. Governor Mills proposed investing \$50 million of ARP funds in the state parks, which we strongly support, along with a proposal to make regular investments in them going forward. Bills from both parties would ask voters to approve a bond question for LMF, at levels ranging from \$30 to \$60 million. Land conservation produces multiple benefits, from climate change mitigation to recreational opportunity to conserving working lands such as AMC’s forestlands. That’s why we co-lead a broad coalition of organizations working to secure as much funding as possible. I encourage you to contact your legislators to support both LMF and the state parks. You can find them at: <http://legislature.maine.gov/senate/find-your-state-senator/9392> and <https://legislature.maine.gov/house/house/MemberProfiles/ListAlphaTown>

Two complex matters have been carried over, to be addressed at the next session beginning in January 2022. One is a bill to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act. Stemming from the consensus recommendations of the bipartisan task force, the bill would grant to three of Maine’s federally recognized tribes the same “rights, privileges, powers, duties, and immunities” as all 574 other federally recognized tribes in the U.S. The tribes’ relationship with the state is currently more like a municipality, causing them to miss the benefit of over 150 federal laws passed since the settlement was reached.

Also postponed were two bills related to a lease issued by the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Central Maine Power that allows the New England Clean Energy Connect power line to cross two parcels of public land. The Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee sent the Bureau two strongly worded letters stating that such an alteration of a public land requires the affirmative vote of 2/3rds of the legislature. A parallel lawsuit on the same topic has not yet been resolved.

Sadly, the injunction that AMC and partners won to prevent harvesting in Section #1, the most remote part of the energy corridor, was lifted this month, allowing cutting to begin. It will pause again during June and July to protect the young of the long-eared bat, listed as threatened by both the state and federal governments due to the impact of White Nose Syndrome. Meanwhile, our lawsuit challenging the issuance of permits by the Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Department of Energy without a full environmental review and public input moves forward.

In happier news, our own Steve Tatko, Director of Maine Conservation and Land Management, has joined the board of the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, which makes grants to conserve wildlife and open space from the sales of scratch lottery tickets.

If you would like to stay up to date and take action on issues of importance to you, please join AMC’s Conservation Action network at <https://www.outdoors.org/conservation/action-center/>

Trails Training Opportunities at Camp Dodge Trails Center!

Camp Dodge Trails Center, a White Mountain National Forest facility operated by the AMC under a special use permit, has been renovated and is now open as a hub for sharing trails skills and knowledge through trainings, workshops, and networking opportunities for the region’s trails volunteers and professionals! Thanks to a grant from the Northern Border Regional Commission with support from the White Mountain Trail Collective, the cost of training opportunities will be reduced for the next three years. We’re adding more workshops and events to the calendar all the time, so keep an eye on <http://bit.ly/CampDodgeTrailsCenter>, and reach out to Amanda Peterson at apeterson@outdoors.org or 603-466-8128 with any questions. We hope you can join us!

SUMMER 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.

Please note: there is a new registration process in place. When you click on the registration button, you will need to log in with your email and AMC password to be able to register. If you don't have an AMC account, you will have to create one to complete the registration form which initiates the registration process. You do not have to become a member of AMC but you do have to have an account. The form you fill out is then emailed to you and the leader receives a copy as well. The leader will follow up with an email to you by email or phone.

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.

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

HIKING

July 2 – 5: Baxter State Park: 20s & 30s Hiking and Camping Weekend.

Baxter State Park, ME. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#126404>. Join us for a Young Members weekend in Baxter State Park! We've reserved a campsite at the Bear Brook group area (near Roaring Brook Campground), and we'll spend three days hiking and camping together - including a summit hike of Mount Katahdin! On Friday evening, we'll meet each other, set up our tents, enjoy a campfire, and discuss the plan for the following day. You'll need to arrive at the campsite by 7 p.m. On Saturday (or Sunday if the weather is better), we'll summit Katahdin! We plan to hike up the Saddle Trail and return via the Hamlin Ridge Trail. It will be a long and strenuous hike of about 11 miles. On Sunday, we'll take it easier and hike the Blueberry Ledges Trail. This moderate hike will be about 8 miles and include plenty of time for relaxing, exploring, and picnicking on the beautiful ledges. On Monday, we'll break down camp in the morning and hike nearby South Turner Mountain for one last view of Katahdin before heading home. This will be a moderate hike of about 5 miles. As this is three days of hiking, including one very strenuous day, good fitness and experience with similar hikes are required. The focus will be on having fun and staying together as a group, but everyone will need to be comfortable maintaining a moderate hiking pace over difficult terrain and long hours. All interested in this weekend will need to answer a few questions to evaluate their preparedness before they are officially registered. If you're interested in this trip and it seems like a good fit with your past experience, please register your interest, and we'll be in touch! This is a Young Members event that aims to connect people in their 20s and 30s with the outdoors and each other, but all who love preserving and playing in nature are welcome to join us! Leader: Steven Profaizer, profaizer@gmail.com Leader: Robin Kerber, robink28@gmail.com

July 2: Carter Dome & Mt. Hight. Pinkham Notch, NH. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#126413>. Lollipop loop hike via Nineteen Mile Brook, Carter-Moriah, Zeta Pass, and Carter Dome Trails. We will pass by the AMC Carter Notch Hut and summit Carter Dome (4832') and Mt. Hight (4675') - weather permitting. Elevation gain approx 3,800 ft, and we will cover approx 10+ miles. Part of this hike is above tree line. Participants will have recent hiking experience of similar mileage/elevation gain. Space will also be held for newcomers. Limited to 8 participants. Difficulty: Strenuous. Leader: Diane Neff, 207-318-3251, dneff@gm.slc.edu Leader: Denise Fredette, 207-939-3670, deniserae77@gmail.com

SUMMER ACROSS MAINE

These hikes are in conjunction with L.L. Bean's "Summer Across Maine"

July 18: Summer Across Maine: Beavers Build Wildlife Habitat at Libby Hill Forest Trails. 50 Libby Hill Road, Gray, ME. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#124866>. Beaver are amazing engineers and as they build their dams they also create a neighborhood for wildlife. We'll head out to a well-established but possibly abandoned beaver pond to learn about

beavers and their neighbors. The hike will be on the Libby Hill trail system with some bushwacking to explore along the edge of the beaver pond. The terrain is rolling and the total length of the hike is estimated at around three miles. Difficulty: Moderate – Easy. Leader: Jeanne Christie, 207-310-8708 before 9pm, jeanne.christie@aswm.org Co-Leader: Tony Anni

July 11: Summer Across Maine: Mill Brook Preserve Westbrook, ME. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#124842>. This will be about a 6-mile hike over rolling terrain alongside Mill Brook. Difficulty: Easy to Moderate. Leader: Steven Profaizer

July 25: Summer Across Maine: Crazy Beaver Lodge Wander along the Presumpscot River. Presumpscot River, Route 35, North Windham, ME. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#124865>. In recent years beavers have been building lodges along the Presumpscot River. In a stretch less than a mile in length there are six lodges, mostly on the banks of the river. What's going on? Are there beaver living in all of them? How can we tell? This is not a hike; it's a wander or maybe more of a meander abandoning the trail frequently to scramble along the water's edge doubling back on the opposite side of the river and all the time searching for clues to learn more about an amazing animal - the beaver. If you are looking for a point to point hike; do not sign up! You will not enjoy this. If you like the idea of experimenting with something different; this wander might be for you! Expected distance 3-4 miles; flat but uneven terrain, includes scrambling over logs; pushing through shrubs and past small trees, completing a water crossing or two and the possibility of wet feet. Difficulty: Easy to moderate difficulty. Leader: Jeanne Christie, 207-310-8708 before 9pm, jeanne@connecttowilderness.com Co-Leader: Tony Anni

August 1: Summer Across Maine: Fore River Sanctuary, Portland Maine Hike. Portland, ME <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#124847>. This 85-acre preserve is the home of Jewell Falls, Portland's only natural waterfall, and the site of the former Cumberland and Oxford Canal. This hike is less than 4 miles will travel from the flat former canal towpath to hillier sections leading to the Falls. The lowland area, where salt and freshwater marsh meet, provides great bird-watching opportunities. This network trails encompasses some of the most diverse habitats in Greater Portland. Remember to pack a water and a snack. Difficulty: Easy. Leader: Phil Coyne, trails@amcmaine.org

August 8: Summer Across Maine: Little River Community Trail. Belfast, ME. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#124888>. This easy, family-friendly hike starts at the South Trailhead kiosk at the Belfast Water District. We will hike out and back and stop for a picnic lunch along the way. Total time: 2.5 hours. Leader: Emily Davis, 207-542-2824, emily@hopeorchards.com

August 15: Summer Across Maine: Bald Rock Mountain - Lincolnville, Maine. Lincolnville, ME. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#124825>. Bald Rock Mountain Trail (1,100) is a 3.4-mile loop trail that offers fantastic views of Penobscot Bay. Bald Rock Mountain has a spectacular view of the coast from the Penobscot River to Owl's Head. Islands dot the ocean like the clouds drifting overhead--Vinalhaven, North Haven, Isleboro, Isle au Haut, and Mount Desert Island. On the summit look for blueberries, butterflies, and dragonflies. Two Adirondack shelters and an outhouse are located just under the summit. Remember to pack a lunch to eat at the summit while enjoying the magnificent view. Difficulty: Easy to Moderate. Leader: Jeanine Libby, 207-858-5500 Before 8PM, jjlibby13@roadrunner.com

August 22: Summer Across Maine: Roundtop Mountain - Rome, Maine. Rome, ME. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#124824>. The Round Top Trail ascends Round Top Mountain (1,133') while winding through a diverse forest of young and old hardwoods and conifers. Within 200 yards it crosses a large slab of granite originally quarried for an old foundation. A moderate hike, it provides both inclines and flat tracks over rock-strewn terrain. We will plan to stop several times throughout the hike to talk about the nature surroundings within this gorgeous area. The views of the Belgrade Lakes and the surrounding area from the lookouts are excellent, though the real fun is the trail terrain itself. If you like rocks, boulders, and moss, you'll encounter plenty of them all. We will also take the Spur Trail to the tippy top of the Roundtop Mountain to take in the spectacular view of the Belgrade Maine region. The total miles of the hike will be 3.9 miles. Plan to bring a lunch to picnic at the top. Difficulty: Easy to Moderate. Leader: Jeanine Libby, 207-858-5500 Before 8PM, jjlibby13@roadrunner.com

August 29: Summer Across Maine: Blackstrap Hill Preserve Loop. North Falmouth, ME. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#124886>. Join us for a walk in the woods at the Blackstrap Hill Preserve located near North Falmouth. The Loop Trail is a moderate 3.2-mile hike with the opportunities to see wild life, old growth pine, and a waterfall if the conditions are right. Difficulty: Easy. Leader: Bill Brooke, 207-549-5100 before 9pm, bill@mesoft.org

TRAIL WORK

July 5: Gorman Chairback Trail work. Maine Woods, ME. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#126242>. Trail work trip at Gorman Chairback Lodge and Cabins. We will patrol nearby trails removing blowdowns and clearing drainages for the prime hiking season. Contact Leader for details. Leader: David McCarthy, 207-363-2791 before 9:00 pm, drmccarthy@aol.com

July 14, July 22, and July 15: Grafton Notch Volunteer Work Days. Grafton Notch, ME. Come join AMC Trails Staff on the Grafton Loop Trail in Maine on July 14, 22, & 25 for one or more days! We'll be completing a variety of stewardship projects on the Grafton Loop Trail in Grafton Notch. Trained Crew Leaders will provide guidance on trail maintenance at the work site. Priorities may change based on weather and conditions, so we will not have detailed information on your crew's specific project until you arrive. Projects may include: clearing or building drainage ditches, brushing back vegetation, constructing bog bridges, or working with timber logs to make check steps. Our volunteer trail crews are designed to accommodate all levels of prior experience safely and enjoyably; your leaders will teach you the needed trail work techniques. This work day will run from 9am to 3pm, with a break for lunch. Leader: Kate Johnson, kjohnson@outdoors.org

July 23: Trail Work Trip near Dead River with Northern Forest Canoe Trail Crew. Dead River/Grand Falls Maine, ME. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#124794>. Working in conjunction with a crew from the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, we will improve a portage trail around Grand Falls on the Dead River. Camping on island. Canoes provided for gear and people transfers. Contact leader for details. Leader: Peter Roderick, 207-441-5521 before 9pm, roderick1027@gmail.com

October 16: 20S & 30S: Portland Trails: Trail Maintenance. Portland, ME. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#124673>. Join us for an afternoon of trail maintenance at Portland Trails! This event is co-hosted by Maine's AMC Young Members. All are welcome to join, but people in their 20s and 30s are especially encouraged to turn out, meet each other, and give back to the Portland Trails network we all use and love. Afterward, everyone interested can head out together for a social drink and snack. Portland Trails is a nonprofit urban land trust that makes Greater Portland a healthier and better-connected community through a 70+ mile trail network. We'll spend a few hours helping them out together. Type of work: easy maintenance, trimming vegetation, cleaning water bars, remove rocks, etc. Maine Chapter can supply tools, but if you have your own please bring your own. Please bring your own trail work gloves, water, snack, wear appropriate clothing (long pants/long sleeve shirt, boots, hat), sunscreen, bug spray, etc. Depending on COVID rules at that time Trail Volunteers must also bring hand sanitizer and a mask and be willing to wear that mask during the event if asked to by the trip leader. Current COVID RULES: We will be observing all the COVID19 precautions specified by AMC for this group activity. Trail work volunteers must also be willing to practice social distancing during the event, taking care to keep distance between you and your fellow volunteers. Masks are required while within 6' of other people. If you are not feeling well, do not come to this event. You MUST register on outdoors.org AND receive confirmation of your approval. Anyone who comes without registering will not be allowed to participate. Please do not share food, water or tools. All tools will be disinfected prior to and after this trail work event. Afterwards if there's interest we can grab a snack and beverage. Leader: Phil Coyne, trails@amcmaine.org. Co-Leader: Steven Profaizer

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Executive Committee Chair & Subcommittee Openings. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#119503>. The Maine Chapter Executive Committee volunteer positions open: Programs Chair, Outings Chair, and Communications Chair. We are also looking for volunteers to help with Membership, Nominations, Conservation and other committees. Contact us at nominations@amcmaine.org and find out how you can get involved!

Become an AMC Trip Leader! <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#119502>. Become a Volunteer AMC Maine Chapter Leader for one or more of these activities: *Hiking *Backpacking *Biking *Paddling *Snowshoeing *Meetings/Presentations *Social events hosting. You can start the process of becoming a leader anytime of the year and you choose how little or how much you want to do. The AMC provides leadership training and Wilderness First Aid Certification to active leaders. Find out how you can get involved! Contact us at: Outings@amcmaine.org for more info!

Science Matters

By Chris Franklin, Conservation Chair

As a prominent conservation organization working to conserve, protect and restore wild places for the benefit of this and future generations, AMC embraces science as a powerful tool in support of our efforts—especially when considering the ongoing uncertainty related to climate change. Indeed climate change is increasingly becoming a top priority issue for businesses, institutions and organizations around the world. As an organization, we are working to conduct our own scientific research, advocating for initiatives to address a changing environment, and assessing our own land management actions as well as our overall carbon footprint.

Here in Maine the state's Climate Action Plan sets goals for renewable energy generation, transportation and conservation of 30% of Maine lands by the year 2030. AMC fully supports Maine's Action Plan and is working to advance these goals through our advocacy efforts and through the management of our own lands. The near record 910 forest fires experienced in Maine during the summer of 2020 were a stark reminder of the importance of addressing climate change in ways that make our lands more resilient.

While having research scientists on staff is not new to AMC, their participation ensures that AMC can face a somewhat uncertain future and prepare for both the great challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. One of the unforeseen benefits of AMC's Maine Woods Initiative work has been the ability to participate in the forest carbon offset credit market. Through sustainably managing our lands around Katahdin Iron Works and other parcels, AMC has realized significant income from this emerging carbon sequestration marketplace.

Through ongoing research on air-quality, AMC monitors the impact of 'acid rain', haze, and ozone on our waterways, mountain peaks and woodlands. Building upon this past work, AMC is expanding both its staff led projects as well as citizen science initiatives to monitor flowing times and leaf-out dates at recurring sites in coordination with the Northeast Alpine Flower Watch program utilizing the iNaturalist app. Another initiative within the club is documenting changes in winter weather including the findings that winters in the Northeast are indeed becoming warmer. The combination of less snow coupled with earlier snowmelt has much of the Northeast seeing spring conditions as much as three weeks before the historic average. Accompanying these changes are the increase of severe weather events causing localized flooding impacting habitat and at times overwhelming infrastructure inadequately designed for such dramatic events.

AMC staff has also been working to generate legislative support for the Land for Maine's Future program as an essential tool to support conservation in Maine (building on the conservation community's historic victory on securing permanent dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Act). AMC has also voiced serious concern about the Clean Energy Connect project threatening to bisect wilderness areas with Maine recognizing little if any long-term benefit from the project.

Through forestry management, advocacy and science AMC is committed to charting a course toward a more sustainable future—especially when it comes to our own lands and carbon footprint. While our vast forestlands mitigate much of our impact as an organization, we must also recognize that our offices, our energy use, and even the travel to and from our lodges and offices also have an impact. Club wide we have set a goal of net zero emissions by 2050. None of this work, however, will realize its potential unless we widen our circle to include our members and enable them to learn more, and to actively engage in these initiatives. To this end, AMC maintains its **Conservation Action Network (CAN)** newsletter and web presence to provide timely updates on active conservation priorities and action steps such as outreach to legislators, citizen science volunteer opportunities and a wealth of resources to keep you informed.

Together WE can make a difference, together YOU can make a difference, working together, we can create a future by design, and not by default.

As always we welcome your comments and support to provide timely conservation updates and opportunities to engage on these important issues that so directly impact the lands we love.

Until next time. All my best, Chris Franklin,
AMC Maine Chapter Conservation Chair

Spring Trail Skill Building Workshops & Trail Work

Volunteers learn trail work skills and put them to the test.



Leila Donahue, Roderick MacKay, and Chris Reichert had nice views on the Ledges' Trail as they filled in the herd trails, cleared water bars, and found ways to redirect the water.



Kate Johnson, an AMC professional trail crew leader, taught the advanced group how to build stone steps at one of the four trail skill building workshops at the Fore River Sanctuary in Portland in May

What Participants Said About the Workshops:

Meg: "I was so excited to see a trail work training day that was easily accessible and promised to teach me some skills while giving me the opportunity to lend a hand to a worthwhile cause. The day was great, really well organized. I felt like I made a tangible difference through my efforts, and I learned a lot. I hope to use my new-found skills on future trail work days."

Elizabeth: "This event was very well organized. Phil Coyne and Bill Brooke were welcoming, encouraging, and knowledgeable. I'm looking forward to participating in future volunteer opportunities with Maine AMC. I've already signed up for Grafton Notch Trail Days! As a young female in my mid 30s, it's my obligation to give back to the trails I hike often. My hope is future generations will continue to become involved with trail maintenance and learn from experienced trail maintainers. I highly recommend these trail building workshops to anyone interested in getting involved with trail work. Thank you, Phil and Bill, for an excellent first learning experience!"

We have more scheduled trail work in the summer and fall. Anyone interested in joining this fun and rewarding work is welcome! Please contact Phil Coyne, volunteer trails committee chair, at trails@amcmaine.org.



Steven Fuller, Elizabeth Hays, Patsy Leavitt, and Chris Reichert installed water bars to redirect the water and removed stumps that had become tripping hazards on Cutler's NM trail.

Memorial Day Weekend Trail Work Trip to Little Lyford Camps and Lodge

For the 17th year, the Maine Chapter sponsored a trail work trip weekend at Little Lyford Camps and Lodge over Memorial Day weekend.

Volunteers from throughout Maine and New England spent their Memorial Day weekend tending to a variety of trails within hiking distance of Little Lyford including, Laurie's Ledge, The Indian Mountain circuit, Horseshoe Pond, Grassy Pond, Nation's Nature, as well as trails to Pearl Ponds, Mountain Brook Pond and Little Lyford Ponds. Blowdowns were removed, other fallen material was cleared, and drainages were cleaned and made ready for another prime hiking season.

Everyone who enjoys these stretches of trail this summer have Ashley Leedberg, Wayne Hardy, Robert Pantel, Kristen Grant, John Mullens and Peter Roderick to thank for their great condition. This crew got a tremendous amount of work done and still found time at the end of each day to enjoy fishing, hiking, paddling, and moose-seeking.

Two more trips are scheduled to the MWI lodges for this summer and fall. See the calendar listing in this newsletter (and on the www.amcmaine.org), and sign up to join us!

Leadership Development

By Kimberly Watson



In November 2020, the Maine Chapter Executive Committee voted to create a new committee to focus on Leadership Development for the Chapter. The primary responsibilities are to continue to define the Maine Chapter Leader requirements and guidelines, provide leader training, and recruit new leaders. Other responsibilities are to support individual Activity Committees with their leadership goals and be part of the AMC Outdoor Leadership Development Committee.

Members:

Chair: Kimberly Watson, leadership@amcmaine.org

Member at Large: Tom O'Brien, meadvocate@int.org

MWI: Paul Hahn, nominating@amcmaine.org

Outings: Vacant, outings@amcmaine.org

Trails: Phil Coyne, trials@amcmaine.org

Young Members: Steven Profaizer, youngmembers@amcmaine.org

If you are interested in obtaining skills in leadership, communication, and teamwork, while meeting new people and making a difference, please contact leadership@amcmaine.org.



Congratulations Robin Kerber on completing your leadership requirements and becoming a Maine Chapter Trip Leader!

Robin has been volunteering with the AMC as an Information Volunteer for six years. She has enjoyed many hiking trips around New England and the world, but has enjoyed staying closer to home this past year. She fills her weekends with hikes, paddling trips, backpacking, and anything to keep her outside. Robin especially loves Downeast Maine, and hopes to introduce fellow Mainers to the

amazing network of trails in our eastern corner. Her goals with the AMC include getting millennials to love, explore, and ultimately advocate for the conservation of Maine, and to eventually lead international trips. She's excited for an upcoming Young Members hike to Katahdin over Fourth of July weekend!

Congratulations Steven Profaizer on completing your leadership requirements and becoming a Maine Chapter Trip Leader!

Steven Profaizer is a volunteer trip leader and Chair of the Maine Chapter's Young Members committee, which helps connect people in their 20s and 30s with the outdoors and each other. During the week, he works on science communications for environmental nonprofits. During the weekend, you're likely to find him hiking, backpacking, sea kayaking, and cross-country skiing throughout the Northeast.

Kimberly Watson, chair of the leadership committee, recently sat down with Steven to talk about his experience volunteering with the Maine Chapter.

Q: How long have you been volunteering with the Maine Chapter?

A: I have been volunteering with the AMC for about two years.

Q: What made you start volunteering?

A: From a young age, I have enjoyed getting people out into nature and helping them get started with new outdoor activities. Volunteering with the AMC has given me a chance to expand the effort and meet lots of new people who share my love of the natural world.

Q: Why would you recommend someone else volunteer with the Maine Chapter?

A: The AMC is a wonderful resource for Maine, and most of what it offers here is run by local volunteers. As a low population state with lots of outdoor opportunities, trails to maintain, and geography to cover, volunteers across Maine are greatly needed.

Q: What has surprised you about volunteering with the AMC?

A: As Chair of the Young Members committee, I'm particularly focused on engaging people in their 20s and 30s. However, one thing I have ended up most enjoying about the AMC is the diversity of ages and people involved. I've been on wonderful trips with groups that varied in age by as much as 40 years, and I've been surprised by how much it enriched the experience.

Q: What has volunteering taught you?

A: I've learned a lot! I've been impressed with how much the Maine Chapter invests in its leaders. I've earned my Wilderness First Aid certification, taken multiple courses on leadership skills, and completed workshops on outdoor activities. If you want to expand your outdoor and leadership skill set, the Maine Chapter will do all it can to support you.

Q: How has your involvement with the AMC changed the way you enjoy the outdoors?

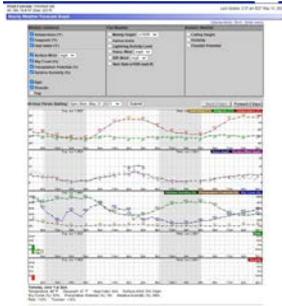
A: Last year, the AMC introduced me to backcountry Nordic skiing, which is cross-country skiing on un-groomed hiking trails. It's something I didn't even know existed before then, and it has quickly become one of my favorite outdoor activities. The club offers many opportunities to try out new ways to explore our beautiful state, and I'd really encourage people to take advantage of them. They are great chances to learn something new from people who have a lot of experience.



Plan Ahead for a Great Day on the Trail

By Jeanne Christie

As a Maine AMC trip leader, I do some careful planning before the start of every hike so that if something goes wrong there is a plan in place. Here are some steps I take before heading out for a day on the trail.



Weather, weather weather! I always check the weather. When hikers get into trouble a common cause is “unforeseen” weather conditions. Get the [NOAA weather report](#) for the day. Look at the hour-by-hour graphic and pay attention to temperature, wind and precipitation. If you are heading into the Whites, call AMC at Pinkham Notch Visitor Center (603) 466-2721 to get the high summits weather forecast.

Know the route details - total distance, elevation change, exposure, water crossings. I think of 1,000 feet of elevation as requiring roughly the equivalent level of effort as walking 3-5 miles on a level trail. If you are in a group, keep in mind that some people take more time going up and others take more time going down. Trail difficulty, the amount of time above treeline, and water crossings are all important variables to consider too.



Make sure someone back home knows the plan. Let someone know your route and when you plan to return. You can also leave a note on the dashboard of your car. When I am hiking solo, I share my location with my husband on Google maps. To save on the cell phone battery, I leave the phone on airplane mode until I reach treeline. Once I’m above the trees, I take the phone off airplane mode so my husband can track my progress.

Bring enough gear to survive the night. It doesn’t have to be a comfortable night, just one you and your co-hikers live through. The most likely danger is hypothermia, so bring enough layers, emergency sleeping bags, emergency shelter, food, etc., to make it through.

Have a Map/Compass/GPS. I like a map and compass because there are no batteries. GPS devices have advantages too. If you have an InReach or another kind of emergency locator, that’s great. Just keep in mind that satellite-dependent electronics are often unreliable under a heavy tree canopy.

Establish a turnaround time. I always tell fellow hikers that the mountain top is optional, the parking lot is not —meaning I don’t care how far we go as long as we get back safely. Pick a time to turn around and stick with it.

Bring adequate food and water for the day, including water for your dog. Maintaining energy levels and staying hydrated are important. I hike with my dog and while I don’t necessarily bring food for her for a day hike, I carry as much water for her as I do for me. Sure, she loves to drink from streams, but on some hikes there aren’t any.



Carry a whistle and a knife. If you get lost or injured you can shout for help, but your voice is likely to wear out in 20-30 minutes. You can blow on a whistle a lot longer. Three blasts on a whistle is a distress call. A knife is a versatile tool that is always good to have handy.

Review an appropriate clothing and gear list. There are a number of websites and publications with hiking gear lists: boots or shoes, clothing layers, backpack, first aid kit, etc. I like to look at one before I head out just to make sure I haven’t forgotten something.

Have fun! Take pleasure in the day; enjoying the outdoors, being with friends, and traveling a new or familiar trail. Maine has a lot to offer!

Teens To Trails Thanks AMC Members

By Ronan Goulden

Teens to Trails is happy to report that the Spring Cleaning Outdoor Gear Drive was a huge success, and it’s all thanks to the generous donations we received from AMC members across Maine. Our gear shed, office, and hallway are overflowing with hundreds of pieces of amazing gear which we have had a blast sorting through. We received outing essentials like jackets, tents, and sleeping bags, as well as more unique pieces such as a portable hammock, canoe seat, and bike computer. While we still have much to explore with each piece of gear, we know all of it will create greater accessibility, enjoyment, and opportunity for Maine youth. We sincerely thank all who donated gear and remind others that we continue to accept items throughout the year at our office at 179 Neptune Drive in Brunswick. All donations are tax deductible and will help our growing cohort of school outing clubs thrive! To learn more about how we connect high school students to life-changing outdoor experiences, visit us at www.teenstotrails.org.

