



**MAINE CHAPTER
APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB
2009 Annual Report**



The Maine Chapter had a successful and active year in 2009, despite the financial challenges we faced. Although our total number of memberships dropped 4.2% through the reporting period, we provided a diverse offering of activities and had engaged participants.

For a relatively small Executive Committee in such a large geographic state, we continue to have meaningful and far-reaching interactions with our membership. This is largely due to cooperation amongst the different committees to sponsor events, publicizing our events through diverse media types including our paper newsletter and website, and enthusiastic and dedicated executive committee members.

Although each committee submitted a report and are included below, here are some of the highlights.

Our At-Large Member, Matt Colello, was a significant help at Meetings and Education events and trail maintenance. Matt is stepping off of the Executive Committee, and we will miss him.

Our second AT-Large Member, Larry Dyer, started a Chapter Youth Program for the Maine Chapter. Larry organized the training with Faith Salter, enabled others to take the training as well, and is in the process of planning activities for the coming year. In addition, Larry will be our new Vice Chair!

Jane Danielson led the Conservation Committee. Jane helped organize an information session on Bisphenol A (BPA), an ingredient in some types of plastics that is/was commonly used in popular water bottles used by hikers.

Meetings and Education Chair Jeff Aceto organized several successful potluck and presentation evenings on topics ranging from back country cooking, treks across Ireland, and sailing around the Atlantic. Jeff also partnered with other executive committees, such as the conservation committee, for many activities. Jeff now has quite a following for these events! As a result of these and many other contributions to the Maine Chapter, Jeff was named the 2009 Maine Chapter "Appie of the Year."

Membership Chair Janet Roderick kept tallies on our membership totals. Although the number of members decreased in 2009, the decrease is less than other chapters and we continue to have an active membership contingent.

The Outings Committee with Peter Roderick as chair continued to be strong and active in a diversity of pursuits. In addition to the abundance of trip offerings, the committee also sponsored Advanced Wilderness First Aid through SOLO, and a "Winter Series" that took 3-season hikers through a suite

of progressively more difficult winter outings. Jeff Aceto led a first-time and popular Sea Kayaking Series to add to the list of trips. Peter Roderick was the Chair of this committee and is stepping down.

The family-duo Newsletter Committee Co-Chairs, Bob and Brenda Cummings, continued to provide diverse content in our popular tabloid style newsletter to our membership. The Chapter will offer its first electronic version of the newsletter in November 2009. As we consider transitioning to an electronic newsletter format to save paper, postage, and provide a potentially more convenient media, we also are weighing many members preference to receive a tangible product.

The Trails Committee was ably led by Peter Roderick and Keith Chapman. Their tireless efforts were shared from Pleasant Mountain in Bridgeton to Quoddy Head in far eastern Maine, to trails in Maine Woods Initiative parcel. Keith Chapman is to be commended for his work on the Burnt Meadow Trails, which are now open.

Denise Courtemanche is our Treasurer and also led an astonishing number of biking trips this past season. Denise transitioned the Chapter from our Excel-based financial reports to the professional software QuickBooks.

Carrie Walia in her second year in the position of Vice Chair was again a very valuable asset to the chapter. She again organized long annual meeting and continued to revive the Young Members committee for the chapter by leading several activities and events. Many of her contributions went un-noticed by most, and she will ably lead the chapter into 2010 as Chapter Chair.

Our Webmaster Tim Flight provided unending technical support for our website. He wrote xml formats to link the Chapter calendar page with the on-line trip listing system; now several other chapters are using these formats!

The Maine Chapter Executive Committee was also involved with several other events and issues during 2009 including the Common Ground Country Fair, Telluride Film Festival, LL Bean Winter and Spring Expos, partnered with Teens-To-Trails, trail work in the Katahdin Iron Works parcel, submitted written comments for the Land Use Regulation Commission's Comprehensive Land Use Plan updates, kept abreast on MWI and Plum Creek on-goings, Reddington windfarm proposals, and much more.

We are looking forward to 2010 with such upcoming events the popular Winter Series, our first electronic newsletter issues, and re-starting of our Meetings and Education Series.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura E. Flight
Maine Chapter Chair (9/2007 – 9/2009)

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Biking Committee 2009 Report

The biking officially began on May 5th. For Tuesday nights, we had scheduled sixteen rides from Brunswick to Biddeford to Auburn. We covered about 240 miles. We usually average ten riders per ride. After the rides, several members have opened their homes for potlucks dinners and time to socialize. Other evenings, we have dined in local restaurants.

For Sundays, we had twelve rides scheduled and road about 360 miles. These rides have fewer attendees but averaged about three to five riders. Most of the rides have been along the coastline.

The most impressive ride of the season was the Lake Auburn ride by Jim Tierney. There is a very large hill and a dirt road cutoff. In all the years that I have done this ride, I have always taken the dirt road cutoff that eliminates the very big hill. This year all the riders decided to ride up the hill. So I went along with the group and we all made it up the great big hill!! Mind you I was the youngest in the group! I was very impressed! So the moral to the story is always try to ride the hills!

All in all we had a great riding season even though Mother Nature challenged us with rain. Several of the group rode on the Women Heart Ride in Freeport, the Lobster Ride in Rockland and the Lighthouse ride in South Portland.

Thanks to all my leaders, Andy Chabot, Joyce Donald, Jim Tierney and Carolyn Welch, and co-leaders, Larry Perkins and Debbie Andrews, for all their help.

Our season is almost over, but we will ride as long as the weather is good! See you all next year!

Denise Courtemanche

Biking Committee

Chapter Youth Program Committee 2009 Report

On May 14th, there were nine of us who took the CYP training as presented by Faith Salter and Pam Hess. They include: Kelly Hall, Scott Dyer, Kim Sanders, Jeanne Christie, Larry Dehof, Mara Kruze, Peter Kruze, Donna Dyer and Larry Dyer. It was a very worthwhile training session in which much valuable information was passed on to us regarding children and the legalities we must follow.

I am currently working with the Bath Recreation Department and the Bath YMCA to have them become the agents so that we can actually take some CYP hikes. We are hoping for one fall hike, a couple of winter snowshoeing trips and one or two spring hikes. We are excited to get started and will work to make that happen. Hopefully, we can soon report the success of our first CYP hike.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Dyer
CYP Chair


Conservation Committee 2009 Report


The Conservation Committee sponsored two talks this year in conjunction with potlucks of the Meetings and Education Committee.

- Bryan Wentzell, AMC's Maine Policy Manager spoke on pressures affecting Maine's northern forests at the October 2008 pot-luck.
- Steve Taylor, Environmental Health Strategy Center, spoke on the hazards of Bisphenol A in #7 plastic drinking bottles at the December 2008 pot-luck.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Danielson
Conservation Chair

The Meetings & Education Committee (M&E) 2009 Report

 **Activity Period.** This M&E Committee annual report includes an activity period from September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2009. The primary function of the M&E Committee is to sponsor indoor events with educational and entertainment benefits to members. For 2008 to 2009, the series of monthly indoor events started in October 2008 and ended in May 2009. Events were not held in September 2008 and June, July, and August 2009 due to summer and to avoid conflict with the Annual Meeting.

 **Numbers Reached.** The M&E Committee held 9 potluck presentation events with a total of approximately 288 attendees for an average of 32 attendees per event. The most attended

events were on Beth Lowry's and Kevin Kirby's Thru Hiking the AT (66 attendees) and Carey Kish's presentation on hiking Ireland (50 attendees). Please see the attached Meetings and Education Schedule 2008-2009 for additional details per event.

Quality Assessment. The M&E Events were well-received by members based on the following observations:

- Is there enthusiasm for these types of activities? Are they in demand?

There is significant enthusiasm for M&E events and the demand is increasing. Here are the attendance numbers for the past three years:

| M&E Series | No. of Events | Attendees | Average No. of Attendees |
|------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| 2006-2007 | 5 | 75 | 15 |
| 2007-2008 | 10 | 313 | 31 |
| 2008-2009 | 9 | 288 | 32 |

A tenth event was scheduled, but postponed due to schedule conflicts. While the 2008-2009 season had one fewer event than the previous season, the average number of attendees per event increased slightly and indicates a steady interest in these events. The success of these events is likely due to several factors including popular and timely topics, press and notification coverage, interest by non-members, holding events where the majority of the members are (South Portland and Brunswick areas), providing a mix of member and non-member speakers, and providing a mix of education and entertainment in all events. These events are in demand as they provide an alternative to the broad range of outings events and are intended to allow a venue for all members to participate including a significant number of members that do not attend outings events. The M&E events also provide weekday events (in lieu of weekends being common for outings events) and are scheduled largely in the winter when outdoor events are limited in attendance and frequency. While Brunswick and South Portland remain the strongest venues, well-attended events were successfully held in other locations including Augusta, Waterville, and Hampden.

- Do we need to offer more of them? Less of them?

A frequency of one per month is successful and is recommended to continue to be the norm. With additional M&E members, it would be possible to add possibly more events over the entire series, especially in the case where the event was co-sponsored. From experience, it is beneficial to schedule events no closer than two weeks apart.

- Any feedback from the general membership to share?

The feedback on the M&E event series was generally all positive. There is a significant core group of attendees who are present at many events and also a large range of members and non-members who attend periodically, depending on the topic. The M&E events also receive good attendance by ExCom members if the event avoids the second week of month. Attendance tends to improve for events with remarkable topics (such as thru-hiking the AT or foreign trips) and for visual presentations including video, graphics, and photos.

Partnerships.

- Maine Chapter committees: Two events were co-hosted with the Conservation Committee, whose educational interests make a strong pairing with M&E. Two events were identified as Young Members events due to presentations by teens on subjects of interest to their peers. The Public Relations Committee was provided assistance with press releases and the Outings Committee provided assistance with suggesting event presenters. The Membership Committee was frequently represented at events and this allowed for increased recruiting opportunities.
- Other Organizations: It was intended to develop a relationship with Maine Audubon for events, but scheduling issues and a change in staffing at Maine Audubon precluded those efforts this year. General communication with MOAC was performed to notify their members of events through coordination with Carey Kish.

Goals.

- Please list the goals you have developed for the coming year:

The following goals are proposed for 2009 – 2010:


1. Serve the Maine Chapter by sponsoring events with interests and venues intended for all members. Set a goal of an average of 30 attendees per event.
2. Provide events with a broad range of topics, mixing education and entertainment. Set a goal of 66% of events being primarily entertainment and 33% primarily education.
3. Provide a habitual schedule to encourage participation and establish member expectations. Set a goal of 8 events in 8 months.
4. Support the goals of other Committees by co-sponsoring mutually beneficial events and partnering with outside organizations. Set a goal of approximately half of the events being co-sponsored with another Committee or outside organization.
5. Raise public awareness of the Maine Chapter through events, with benefits to membership and public relations. Set a goal of every event including a press release and some degree of membership recruiting efforts.
6. Recruit additional M&E Committee members to assist with events.

- Were your goals for this year met? Why or why not?

The following goals were set for 2008 – 2009, with results noted *in italics*:

1. Serve the Maine Chapter by sponsoring events with interests and venues intended for all members. Set a goal of a minimum of 30 attendees per event. *A minimum of 30 attendees per event was not met, but an average of 32 attendees was achieved.*
2. Provide events with a broad range of topics, mixing education and entertainment. Set a goal of 66% of events being primarily entertainment and 33% primarily education. *A mix of 66% of events primarily entertainment and 33% primarily education was achieved.*
3. Provide a habitual schedule to encourage participation and establish member expectations. Set a goal of 11 events in 9 months. *A total of 9 events in 8 months were held. A tenth event was planned in that period, but postponed due to scheduling conflicts.*

4. Support the goals of other Committees by co-sponsoring mutually beneficial events and partnering with outside organizations. Set a goal of approximately half of the events being co-sponsored with another Committee or outside organization. *For nine events, two were co-sponsored by Conservation and two were co-sponsored by Young Members. A goal of approximately half the events being co-sponsored was met.*
5. Raise public awareness of the Maine Chapter through events, with benefits to membership and public relations. Set a goal of every event including a press release and some degree of membership recruiting efforts. *Public awareness of the Maine Chapter was achieved by the significant attendance by non-members throughout the series. The goals of a press release and recruiting efforts associated with every event was met.*
6. Recruit additional M&E Committee members to assist with events. Set a goal of two. *Recruiting efforts were unsuccessful.*
 - What are your needs for the coming year?
 1. Request the same budget as last year; \$1,000.
 2. Request that special funds be identified for the purchase of a Chapter digital projector to allow unlimited access for events and use by all Committees. The M&E Committee is presently borrowing a projector from a cooperative employer.
 3. Continue cooperation and coordination with other Committees including Public Relations, Outings, Conservation, Membership, and Young Members.


 **Lessons Learned.** Any valuable information learned that would benefit other committees?

- Things that worked well

There is apparently a significant interest in indoor events to balance outings events and the indoor events serve the entire member population. It is noted that events which were primarily entertainment were better attended than those primarily education in nature. Significant emphasis was placed on publicity for each event and these efforts would likely be the cause of the significant attendances. Press releases, internet posts, AMC calendar postings, and a limited email listserve were all used for publicity. Another positive factor was the great relations and cooperation with staff at the Curtis Memorial Library and South Portland Library. The M&E committee held 8 events while staying within budget; approximately \$800 out of the \$1,000 budget was used. From lessons learned the previous year, an event was not held in June due to historical low attendance and there were no apparent negatives to this schedule.

- Things that didn't work as well?

There are limitations to having a single M&E Committee member present at events. There would be a significant benefit to the presence of a second committee member who could address fund raising (i.e. raffles, donations, and t-shirt sales), and increase networking and recruiting efforts. .

 **Thank yous.** Special thanks to Chair Laura Flight, Vice Chair Carrie Walia, Public Relations Chair Jeanne Christie, Outings Chair Peter Roderick, At-Large Chair Larry Dyer, previous At-Large Chair Matt Colello, previous Membership Chair Janet Roderick, and previous Conservation Co-Chair Jane Danielson.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Aceto
Meetings & Education Committee Chair

Membership Committee 2009 Report

Maine Chapter membership stayed fairly steady during 2009 as shown in the chart below.

| | 9/1/2008 | 8/31/2009 |
|------------|----------|-----------|
| Family | 2,250 | 2,154 |
| Family | | |
| Life | 20 | 24 |
| Individual | 1,371 | 1,304 |
| Junior | 36 | 24 |
| Lifetime | 74 | 77 |
| Senior | 100 | 108 |
| Youth | | |
| Leader | 3 | 2 |
| Grand | | |
| Total | 3,854 | 3,693 |

Considering the economy and the membership and donation decreases experienced by most non-profit and membership organizations over the last year, I believe these numbers are an indication of the value the membership of the AMC Maine Chapter places in the activities of both the AMC and the Maine Chapter.

Janet Roderick
Membership Chair

Newsletter Committee 2009 Report

A total of 4 newsletters were published as of the end of August 2009. One more issue is scheduled to be published in mid-November, to bring the total to five for fiscal year 2009. This is a reduction from six issues published in 2008; the decrease is directly attributed to financial considerations.

The newsletter continues to be filled with photos and submissions from Maine Chapter members, with very little content provided by the editors. Articles range in topics from recent outings and trips, upcoming activities, nature tid-bits, and hot conservation topics.

The fifth and final issue of *Wilderness Matters* for 2009 will be available in electronic format. The default preference for newsletter delivery for the Maine Chapter is paper, but we are starting to move into the electronic age.

2010 may see an additional decrease of one issue of the newsletter, reducing the total to only four. Communication with our membership is crucial to maintaining a vibrant and engaged chapter. Despite “advertising” in our newsletter and on our website, the vast majority of our members have not signed up for the “Member Center” and still prefer a paper copy of our newsletter. This calls into question how effective we will be and how it will be perceived by our members.

Bob Cummings and Brenda Cummings
Newsletter Committee Co-Chairs

Outings Committee 2009 Report

The Maine Chapter Outings Committee just completed another very successful year of activities. We offered 50 trips attended by 500 attendees ranging from winter hiking to sea kayaking to photography workshops and backpacking in the Maine woods.

All of our trips were very well attended – so well in fact that we offered a second trip to the same locale when the demand for the trip outstripped our group size restrictions. This was required several times especially during the winter hiking series.

We offered Advanced Wilderness First Aid, Map and Compass training, Leadership workshops, Introduction to both 3 Season and Winter hiking and Sea Kayaking basics during the year. All of these offerings were well attended with the winter hiking workshop attracting 80 people.

Several members qualified as Maine Chapter trip leaders have completed the necessary hikes and First Aid training. We hope to continue to add to our excellent group of Maine Chapter trip leaders.

Goals for the coming year include offering more beginner and intermediate hiking trips including winter trips to better serve those members who are interested in become hikers. We also plan to expand the sea kayaking schedule to include more trips over a wider area of the coast including some intermediate to advanced trips including overnight trips.

Leader_TripCount

| <i>CountOfTrip ID</i> | <i>LastName</i> | <i>FirstName</i> | <i>LeaderStatus</i> |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 14 | Aceto | Jeff | Leader |
| 13 | Courtemanche | Denise | Leader |
| 11 | Roderick | Peter | Leader |
| 11 | Chapman | Keith | Leader |
| 9 | Chabot | Andy | Leader |
| 8 | Newton | Wayne | Leader |
| 8 | Broderick | Peter | Leader |
| 8 | Brown | George | Leader |

| | | |
|--------------|---------|-----------|
| 6 Rice | Joleen | Leader |
| 5 Dow | Lewis | Leader |
| 4 Martin | Chris | Leader |
| 4 Flight | Laura | Leader |
| 3 Roderick | Janet | Co-leader |
| 3 D'Orio | Mike | Leader |
| 3 Meyer | Spencer | Leader |
| 3 Christie | Jeanne | Leader |
| 2 Gibbons | Jane | Leader |
| 2 Beaudoin | Ginette | Leader |
| 2 Kantor | Debby | Leader |
| 2 Walia | Carrie | Leader |
| 2 Parker | Don | Leader |
| 2 Sharkey | Susan | Leader |
| 2 Sanders | Kim | Leader |
| 2 Pettingill | Tom | Leader |
| 2 McCool | Maureen | Leader |
| 2 Pratt | Alix | Leader |
| 1 Pfeiffer | Kit | Co-leader |
| 1 Tierney | Jim | Leader |

| <i>CountOfTrip ID</i> | <i>LastName</i> | <i>FirstName</i> | <i>LeaderStatus</i> |
|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Sheckley | Cyndy | Co-leader |
| 1 | Rice | Wanda | Leader |
| 1 | Pratt | Bob | Leader |
| 1 | Martineau | Sonny | Leader |
| 1 | DeHof | Larry | Leader |
| 1 | Dyer | Larry | Co-leader |
| 1 | Perkins | Larry | Co-leader |
| 1 | Nation | Peg | Leader |
| 1 | Littig | David | Co-leader |
| 1 | Crispo | Dennis | Leader |

Peter Roderick
Outings Committee Chair

Public Relations Committee 2009 Report

During 2009 the Maine Chapter of AMC had a booth set up and staffed at the annual Common Ground Fair in Unity during the fall as well as two 'event' weekends at LL Bean in Freeport. Volunteers from AMC spoke about the club, hiking, and opportunities to enjoy outdoor activities in Maine at the events.

In other activities the public relations committee assisted with updating the press contacts directory available for AMC members organizing events for the Maine Chapter. The public relations committee assisted in developing press releases and promoting Chapter activities such as meetings, instructional classes and evening talks.

The public relations committee also updated the photographs and materials used for the AMC display.

Jeanne Christie
Public Relations Committee Chair

Trails Committee 2009 Report

The trails committee offered 25 trail work trips during the reporting period. 250 volunteer trail workers joined co-chairs, Keith Chapman and Peter Roderick on these trips.

While those who volunteer are enthusiastic about doing trail work we continue to have an inconsistent turnout for all work trips with some trips unable to accommodate all volunteers who would like to join them – mostly at Little Lyford Pond Camps in the Maine Woods Initiative area – while other trips are sparsely attended and even occasionally not attracting any volunteers other than the trip leaders.

Despite various attempts to attract more chapter members to join in the trails committee mission, the results are mixed.

Both co-chairs have announced that they will serve in those positions for one more year after which time they plan to be involved to some degree with the committee but not as co-chairs. Consequently, the search has begun to find new leadership for the group.

With the increase in trail work activity by land trusts throughout Maine our opportunities for adding to our trail work opportunities seem to have reached a standstill and even to have decreased. This not necessarily a bad development since it gives the trails committee a chance to concentrate on those trails that we currently provide stewardship for.

One place where more trail volunteers will be needed is in the MWI area since the AMC trail crew is adding more miles to the existing trail system all of which will need to be maintained going forward. We hope to reach out to chapter members especially those in the Piscataquis County area in hopes of recruiting trail adopters who live nearby.

In summary, the goals for 2010 are namely to recruit more trail volunteers, find some who would become trail adopters and now to find replacements to be the next committee chair or chairs.

Peter Roderick and Keith Chapman
Co-Chairs of the Trails Committee

Website Committee 2009 Report

During the previous year 117 new articles were published to the website in contrast to 127 in the prior year. While readership is up about 20% over the previous year. Laura and Jeff are credited for virtually all of those articles.

The website was moved to a new hosting platform which will provide a more stable and slightly faster website.

Features were added to the administration section to make it easier to edit links in the “sidebar” as new events or issues we wish to highlight come up.

We are also now protecting all email addresses through a captcha system (re-captcha, specifically) to reduce the amount of times email addresses are harvested.

Some of the website code we use to interface with the Outdoors.org Trip Listings system was provided to other chapters for their own use.

Tim Flight
Website Committee Chair

Young Members Committee 2009 Report

For the past two years, I have been organizing the Young Members Program (YM) for the Maine Chapter, with the help of Kim Sanders, Carolyn Arcand, Leah Stetson and several others.

In the past year, the YM's had four social outings in the Portland area and three day hikes to engage and involve people in their 20 & 30's in the AMC. Social activities included ice skating, going to a Portland Pirates hockey game, and having cookouts at the beach. Over 40 YM's attended these events.

Kim Sanders and I traveled to the AMC club-wide YM Gathering in southwestern Massachusetts. Five New England chapters were represented and the networking, information sharing and spring hiking was very worthwhile.

The chapter has only two official YM outings leaders at the moment, so to keep the program going, more leaders are needed. There is a high demand for coastal hikes, mountain day hikes, and camping or backpacking trips.

The program has potential to evolve into a permanent program if someone is interested in organizing the efforts of Maine Chapter YM's. I will not be able to continue to organize the program because I am stepping up to the chapter chair position.

I feel that it is very important to engage young professionals, in addition to families and youth, in the AMC.

Please contact me, Carrie Walia, at carrie.amcme@yahoo.com or 207-928-2277 to learn more about becoming an active young member.

Carrie Walia
Young Members Committee