

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER



89th Anniversary

Annual Report

November 20, 2010

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

MISSION STATEMENT

Through our broad range of activities and programs, the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club encourages people to enjoy and appreciate the natural world. We believe that successful conservation depends on this experience. The Connecticut Chapter promotes the protection, enjoyment and responsible use of the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut as well as other trails, rivers and byways within the state in cooperation with other maintenance organizations. We believe that the mountains and rivers have an intrinsic worth as well as provide recreational opportunity, spiritual renewal, and ecological and economic health for the state. The members of the Connecticut Chapter of the AMC form a network of users and stewards who protect these areas and educate others as to their use.

Adopted May 1993

**APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB
CONNECTICUT CHAPTER
2010 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Chapter Chair	<i>Timothy Linehan</i>
Chapter Vice Chair	<i>Gene Grayson</i>
Secretary	<i>Carol Hassett</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
Bicycling Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Rick Merritt</i> <i>Wayne Tursi, Sr.</i>
Conservation Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Jamie Lee</i> <i>Andrew May</i>
East of the River Committee Chair	<i>Nancy Mann</i>
Education Committee Chair	<i>Dale Geslien</i>
Excursions Committee Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Family Activities Co-Chairs	<i>Debra Rich</i> <i>Eric Stones</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chairs	<i>Tom Carruthers</i> <i>David Roberts</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee Chair	<i>Jean Trapani</i>
Member at Large	<i>Maggie Grayson</i>
Membership Committee Chair	<i>Gini Kramer</i>
Mountaineering Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Sandy Bartell</i> <i>Art Morenz</i>
Program Committee Chair	<i>David Bellemare</i>
Newsletter Publisher	<i>Darcy Witham</i>
Newsletter Co-Editors	<i>Maggie Grayson</i> <i>Debra Rich</i>
Northwest Camp Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Rod Parlee</i> <i>Tom McGrath</i>
Trails Committee Chair	<i>David Boone</i>
Webmaster/AMC Outdoors Liaison	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Whitewater Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Mark Schappert</i> <i>Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Committee Chair	<i>Christopher Rees</i>
Regional Director	<i>Dale Geslien</i>

CHAPTER CHAIR'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that CT-AMC has remained stable during these unsettled times. Indeed, our chapter grew a smidge during 2010; there are 88 more of us today than at the beginning of the year. We expect to finish the year under budget due to the continuing stewardship efforts of the committees and the watchful oversight of our chapter treasurer. Our activity committees have been as busy as in prior years and details about their accomplishments appear in the reports that follow this one. I'll note just a few highlights:

Conservation Committee

This past year, a significant personal injury lawsuit was decided against the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) – a quasi-municipal water authority with vast land tracts on which it provides a variety of recreational opportunities. At a subsequent “town meeting,” the MDC shared its internal discussions regarding a possible closure of their properties to recreational use because of liability concerns. In response, a coalition led by Connecticut Forest and Parks Association (CFPA), The Sierra Club, and Rivers Alliance, was formed to petition our state legislature for improvements to Connecticut’s Recreational Use Statute. Our Conservation Committee has been actively involved in the MDC and coalition discussions. Our chapter is a signatory to the position paper drafted by the coalition.

Mountaineering Committee

Following a multi-year effort to rebuild technical skills and leadership within the committee, Mountaineering programmed and staffed from within its own membership monthly multi-pitch rock and ice climbing trips to the Shawangunks, Cannon Mountain, and elsewhere.

Newsletter

A change to the method of copyediting and production processes resulted in a significant improvement in our newsletter development work-flow and end product. The full-color version of the most recent newsletter, in particular, was stunning. We strongly encourage those who are still receiving the paper copy of the newsletter to switch to online delivery to take full advantage of these enhancements.

Trails Committee

A record number of hours were volunteered to trail maintenance projects along the Appalachian Trail (AT) in our state this year. What makes this milestone even more significant is that it was accomplished with a smaller number of volunteers than in prior years. Imagine what we could accomplish if our trail crews were empowered by additional volunteers!

Chapter wide CT-AMC has been involved in a number of initiatives that involved the cooperation of our committees and AMC staff in Boston. One of note was AMC participation in a state-wide Recreational Liability Conference organized by River's Alliance. Keynote conference speakers included Aaron Gorban, AMC's New Hampshire-based Risk Manager, and Beth Critton, Past Chapter Chair and Connecticut land use attorney. Discussion panelists included our Flatwater Paddling Chair Jean Trapani and our Chapter Chair Tim Linehan.

There were a number of other successful endeavors this year: record attendance at Fairfield County Group's dinner presentations, substantial turnout for our New Member Day dinner, a record turn-out for our recent Appalachian Trail Day celebration...the list goes on. It really *was* a busy year!

On a personal note, involvement as your Chapter Chair has been a hugely educational opportunity. From our Conservation Committee, I've learned about such issues as geothermal home heating; from our Trails Committee, I've learned about the care and protection of historical artifacts; from the paddling committees, I've learned about Stream Flow Standards and Regulations. Meetings with AMC staff and the other chapter chairs have provided insights into such mundane issues as facility and chapter finances, the club software system capabilities (or lack thereof), variations in the chapter's training programs, and a host of other issues.

The success of our chapter would not be possible without the involvement of literally hundreds of dedicated volunteers and leaders. It is with a sense of loss that I report that this year, as in all prior years, a few of our Executive Committee members will be stepping down.

In the case of our indefatigable Chapter Secretary, Carol Hassett, it isn't so much a sense of loss as it is one of *panic*; Carol has been such an integral part of everything the Executive Committee does, that it is hard to imagine the chapter functioning smoothly without her. I look forward to working with Darlene Dunbar, who has graciously volunteered to succeed Carol as Chapter Secretary. An obvious sign of the good judgment that Darlene brings to the Executive Committee is that she already has Carol on speed-dial.

Chapter Vice-Chair Gene Grayson was appointed to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) Stewardship Council this past year. We congratulate ATC on their wise choice even as we acknowledge that this is a case where their gain is truly our loss. Gene has been an excellent "sounding board" and wise counselor. With Gene's decision to not stand for Chapter Chair in 2011, current Bicycling Co-Chair Wayne Tursi has volunteered to take on the roll of Vice Chair.

Finally, after many years of involvement at the chapter level, Past Chapter Chairs Dale Geslien and Eric Stones, currently Education Chair and Family Activities Co-Chair respectively, too, are stepping down. Each has groomed a successor, and we look forward to a smooth transition even as we will miss their involvement.

On behalf of the membership, I'd like to thank all of these individuals for their efforts.

On to 2011!!

See you out there!

Tim Linehan

Connecticut Chapter Chair



CONNECTICUT CHAPTER ANNUAL GATHERING – 2009

The 88th Annual Gathering of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club (CT-AMC) was held on November 14, 2009, at the Rocky Hill Marriott in Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

Program Committee Chair David Bellemare introduced Chapter Chair Time Linehan. Tim thanked David and the Program Committee and asked them to stand for a round of applause.

Tim introduced Mountaineering Co-Chair Gini Kramer who announced the winners of the Silent Auction.

Tim welcomed everyone to the Annual Gathering and gave a summary of the evening's events.

Tim read the club's mission statement, noting it had been recently updated.

The Appalachian Mountain Club promotes the protection, enjoyment, and understanding of the mountains, forests, waters, and trails of the Appalachian region.

We believe these resources have intrinsic worth and also provide recreational opportunities, spiritual renewal, and ecological and economic health for the region. Because successful conservation depends on active engagement with the outdoors, we encourage people to experience, learn about, and appreciate the natural world.

Tim told the audience that he had hiked a lot in the White Mountains when he joined the AMC 20 years ago. He became a member because he wanted to do his part to ensure that this sort of recreational infrastructure continued to be available in the future.

Over the ensuing years he attended many week-end long, volunteer-run educational programs. He was continually impressed by the skills these volunteers possessed and their willingness to share their knowledge and their love of the outdoors.

He described the awe he had felt when he became involved with the CT-AMCs Mountaineering Committee. Through his membership in the AMC, he had fallen in with a group whose interests were similar to his own. He spoke of the very accomplished climbers who volunteered to assist newcomers such as him. He noted that it would take him most of the evening to describe all that he learned under the tutelage of those volunteers.

Through his involvement on the chapter's Executive Committee, Tim learned that his experiences in the Mountaineering Committee were

replicated in the other committees. In each of the committees, the story is the same - long hours and hard work by dedicated volunteers.

Tim said it was a privilege to address the gathering on behalf of the 8,000 members of the Connecticut Chapter of the AMC, and to give a brief account of what these volunteers have accomplished over the past year. And, on behalf of that membership, he thanked these volunteers for all that they have done for the membership.

Everything that Tim related about the year's activities is covered in the Annual Report, but he wanted to touch upon a few things of particular note.

First, in the "headline issues" of membership and finance, the chapter membership held steady at around 8,000. The year finished under budget. Tim stated there would be a bit of belt tightening in 2010 - mostly in the area of reduced printing costs.

Next Tim commented on the chapter's accomplishments in terms of Recreation, Education, and Conservation.

Opportunities for recreation increased during 2009. The number of names on the chapter's e-mail lists continued to increase. Likewise, the numbers of individuals leading activities for the committees increased. Excursions/hiking, reported a 10 percent increase in its leadership ranks. Bicycling reported 10 new leaders. Increasing the number of activity leaders is the key to increasing the recreational opportunities available to the membership.

But it wasn't just an increased number of leaders that was of note; there was also an increase in the depth of experience in those leaders. As an example, he cited the Mountaineering Committee's educational and mentoring efforts, which led to an increased number of advanced leaders. The ramp-up in leadership made it possible for the committee to program monthly trips to locations such as the Gunks, and program a number of multi-pitch rock and ice climbs in the Adirondacks, and the White Mountains

The Education Committee's Leadership Training School generated 20 potential new leaders. The committees then mentored these individuals and qualified some of them as full-fledged chapter leaders and they also provided additional activity specific technical and safety training when necessary. The chapter-sponsored Wilderness First Aid (WFA) training and educated 40 individuals in the basics of backcountry first aid. Our Conservation Committee qualified two individuals to present the club's program on Climate Change at area schools, libraries, and other locations.

The Conservation Committee's presentation of the Climate Change program is an obvious example of what the chapter has been doing to promote conservation. In addition to publishing the club's position on Climate Change, CT-AMC was involved in a number of land and water protection initiatives. We partnered with the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association (CFPA) to advocate for, and then celebrate, the designation of the M-M-M trail as a National Scenic Trail. Members were involved with the land preservation efforts of the Highlands Coalition, with the development of water trails throughout New England, and with dam re-licensing / release issues. And, of course, the efforts of our Trails committee are an ongoing conservation effort.

This is what the AMC is all about, Recreation, Education, and Conservation

A moment of silence was observed as members stood to honor the memory of those CT-AMC members who passed away since the last Annual Gathering.

<i>Doris Boscarino</i>	<i>Jon Burr</i>
<i>Gordon Cheney</i>	<i>Allan Darling</i>
<i>Barbara Deyer</i>	<i>Robert Donahue</i>
<i>Sydney J. Fisher</i>	<i>Jack Huttner</i>
<i>Leon Kouyoumjian</i>	<i>William A. Lieson</i>
<i>Raymond E. Merz</i>	<i>Garrett Winder Nevius</i>
<i>David L. Norton</i>	<i>John Pilla</i>
<i>John H. Stearns, Jr.</i>	<i>Jane Willits</i>
<i>Margaret "Peg" Zappulla</i>	

Tim noted that there was no way the chapter could be successful without the many hours of effort and planning provided by our volunteers. To save time, Tim did not read the names of the 182 recipients of the 2009 Volunteer Stewardship Awards. He directed the audience to the Annual Gathering Program, which included a list of the award recipients, including the Trails Awards. He asked that the award recipients stand as a group and accept the applause of the audience.

Tim introduced Trails Committee Chair Dave Boone, who described and presented the Trails Committee Awards. He noted that volunteers expended many hours working on the Appalachian Trail (AT) in the past year.

Tim called Past Chapter Chair and past recipient of the Appie of the Year award, Dave Cullen, to describe and present the year's Appie of the Year Award and the Lifetime Service Award.

Dave Cullen presented the Lifetime Service Award to Jeri Jaminet who has assumed many different roles in the chapter since she joined in 1984.

Dave Cullen presented the “Appie of the Year” Award to Excursions Chair and Fairfield County Group (FCG) Co-Chair David Roberts. David has developed the Excursions Committee and has been instrumental to the success of the FCG speaker meetings.

Tim thanked Dave Cullen and asked for a round of applause for Jeri Jaminet and David Roberts.

Tim then recognized those who became fifty-year club members in 2009:

Mr. Edward Gore
Ms. Marcia Gore
Mr. Charles Grinnell
Mr. Philip Nelbach
Ms. Clara Ellen Van Dorn

Tim asked those who had been members for 25 years or more to stand for recognition. He asked for a round of applause for the twenty-five and fifty-year members.

Tim introduced two special guests, AMC Chapter Relations Manager Faith Salter and AMC Cartographer Larry Garland. Tim invited Faith to the podium to address the audience.

Tim called on Duren Scholarship Chair Eric Stones who spoke about the scholarship. Eric remarked on the generous contributions to the scholarship fund in memory of deceased CT-AMC member Greg Simons. He read a thank you letter from this year’s candidate, a girl who’d had “the best time of her life” at AMC camp.

Tim thanked the members of the 2009 Executive Committee who served over the past year. He noted that three members were stepping down: Steve Braciak, Beth Critton, and Jamie Howland.

At 7:53 p.m., Tim called to order the business portion of the 88th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Tim called for a motion to accept the Secretary’s Report as presented in the 2009 Annual Report, which was received, seconded, and passed. Tim then called for a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented in the 2009 Annual Report, which was received, seconded, and passed.

The next item of business was the election of the 2010 Executive Committee.

Tim called upon Bruce Laroche of the Nominating Committee to present the slate of nominees for 2010. He asked each nominee to come forward as his/her name was called.

Chapter Chair	<i>Tim Linehan</i>
Chapter Vice Chair	<i>Gene Grayson</i>
Secretary	<i>Carol Hassett</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
AMC Outdoors Liaison	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Rick Merritt</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Wayne Tursi, Sr.</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Jamie Lee</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Andrew May</i>
East of the River Co-Chair	<i>Nancy Mann</i>
East of the River Co-Chair	<i>open</i>
Education Chair	<i>Dale Geslien</i>
Excursions Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Family Activities Co-Chair	<i>Debra Rich</i>
Family Activities Co-Chair	<i>Eric Stones</i>
Fairfield County Co-Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Fairfield County Co-Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair	<i>Jean Trapani</i>
Member at Large	<i>David Bellemare</i>
Member at Large	<i>Maggie Grayson</i>
Membership Chair	<i>Gini Kramer</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Sandy Bartell</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Art Morenz</i>
Newsletter Co-Editor	<i>Maggie Grayson</i>
Newsletter Co-Editor	<i>Darcy Witham</i>
Northwest Camp Chair	<i>Rod Parlee</i>
Program Chair	<i>Dave Bellemare</i>
Trails Chair	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Webmaster/Technology Chair	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Ana Ketch</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Christopher Rees</i>
Regional Director	<i>Dale Geslien</i>

A motion was made for the secretary to cast one ballot for the slate as presented. The motion passed.

Tim asked the Past Chapter Chairs in attendance to put on their red hats and stand:

Ledge Clayton: 1975-1976
Judy Besancon: 1983-1984
Trish Niece: 1987-1988
Mary Dorpalen: 1993-1994
Dave Cullen: 1995-1996
Eric Stones: 2000-2002
Dale Geslien: 2003-2005
Beth Bryan Critton: 2006-2007

Tim noted that Past Chapter Chairs Sue and Gerry Hardy were present for some of the afternoon workshops but they were unable to attend the dinner. Tim asked the audience to give the Past Chapter Chairs a round of applause.

Tim asked for a motion to be made to adjourn the meeting. At 8:09 p.m. a motion to adjourn the business meeting was made, seconded, and passed.

Dave Bellemare, Program Committee Chair, then introduced the program speaker, Linda Perry, a New England Outreach Coordinator for the Wounded Warrior Project.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Hassett, Secretary



TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2008 AND 2009

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Cash at January 1	\$81,582	\$82,096
Revenue Collected:		
Joy Street dues allocation	30,788	29,603
Program activities	23,650	19,455
Contributions	3,380	2,100
Reserve funds – sources ⁽¹⁾	16,606	11,517
Local sale of memberships	4,744	2,228
Leadership training	7,450	7,194
Subscriptions and advertising	750	0
Merchandise sales	1,945	845
Interest income	<u>956</u>	<u>(1,218)</u>
Total revenue collected	\$90,719	\$71,724
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	23,284	18,639
Cost of merchandise	1,336	0
Reserve funds – uses ⁽¹⁾	18,403	5,065
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	2,479	1,963
Conservation	1,392	127
East of the River	1,099	923
Education	6,200	5,187
Executive	14,722	11,537
Fairfield County	170	228
Membership	3,163	1,742
Mountaineering	2,918	1,102
Newsletter	9,089	7,913
Trails	4,833	5,299
Whitewater	1,056	2,312
Young Members	<u>61</u>	<u>603</u>
Total expenditures	\$90,205	\$62,640
Cash at December 31	<u>\$82,096</u>	<u>\$91,180</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 AND 2010

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Cash at January 1	<u>\$82,096</u>	<u>\$91,180</u>
Revenue collected:		
Joy Street dues allocation	\$19,858	\$19,573
Program activities	13,126	12,592
Reserve funds – sources ⁽¹⁾	11,275	1,625
Local sale of memberships	2,034	1,803
Leadership training	6,394	6,726
Contributions	1,000	4,100
Merchandise sales	862	66
Interest and investment income (loss)	<u>(13,684)</u>	<u>3,700</u>
Total revenue collected	\$40,865	\$50,185
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	12,793	11,306
Reserve funds – uses ⁽¹⁾	4,747	4,910
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	1,188	615
Conservation	127	567
East of the River	640	676
Education	4,389	5,351
Executive	4,972	3,726
Fairfield County	223	0
Membership	1,530	578
Mountaineering	923	914
Newsletter	6,235	6,053
Trails	4,666	3,519
Whitewater	1,528	3,280
Young Members	<u>227</u>	<u>132</u>
Total expenditures	\$44,188	\$41,627
Cash at September 30	<u>\$78,773</u>	<u>\$99,738</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT
RESERVE FUNDS

(1) Reserve funds are cash set aside by the chapter for a specific future use or spending objective. Sources of such funds are often grants, gifts, or contributions, but can also include funds set aside from the chapter's operating budget. A summary of the chapter's reserve funds is as follows:

	<u>12/31/08</u>	<u>12/31/09</u>	<u>9/30/10</u>
Reserve funds:			
AT Handicap Accessible Project	11,683	10,342	10,342
Duren and Simons Mem. Scholarships	5,832	5,038	3,966
Jim Wright Memorial	264	264	264
Stanley Grant Reserve	2,472	2,472	66
Stephen Meyers Memorial	1,645	782	782
Whitewater Reserve	9,825	8,695	9,021
L. L. Bean Grant	—	—	500
Durr Donation	1,230	11,230	11,230
General fund	<u>49,145</u>	<u>52,357</u>	<u>63,567</u>
Total cash	<u>\$82,096</u>	<u>\$91,180</u>	<u>\$99,738</u>

Al Puches – Treasurer

Bicycling Committee

The season's last issue of the *AMCyclist*, our newsletter, was published for October-November rides. It was published from April through October and, except for about a dozen members who are not online, was distributed electronically. Terri Pappagallo, who did a great job again this year, will stay on as newsletter editor.

JoAnn Hewett, our ride coordinator, did a great job again this year compiling all rides for our newsletter, *AMC Outdoors*, entering trips in the AMC activity data base, and maintaining our ride leader list.

Tom Ebersold did an outstanding job sending all rides to our short notice Yahoo! e-mail group list, which has grown to about 400 names and also posting rides on our web site so bike leaders can send out last minute rides to both sites.

Judy Kunkel, in charge of the Monday program, had a very successful season, with a ride every Monday from April 1 through the end of October. She recruited coordinators who were responsible for each month's rides.

Wayne Tursi was in charge of the Tuesday night rides this year and he did a great job with rides running from April 6 to the end of September. There was a great turnout each night with an average of 60 to 80 cyclists of all ability levels. The rides ranged from 15 to 40 miles. Bike leaders Ray Taskar, David Waldburger, Rick Merritt, Wayne Tursi, and Judy Borrmann led the longest rides of 35 to 40 miles. Other leaders helping were Susan Grant, Bruce Ebbets, Jim Gleba, and Mary Ann Carr.

From May through August, Mary and Finlay Ferguson, assisted by ride leaders Beverly Medlin and Mark Henebry, ran the Thursday night rides, which were very successful. The number of cyclists averaged 20 to 30 each week. The rides were mostly hilly, with no cue sheet, and averaged 20 to 30 miles. Most of the participants had dinner together after the rides and they bonded very well.

We ran four successful trips in 2010 to the following locations:

- Washington, DC, in April with leaders Maureen Sylvestre-Craig and Larry Hayden
- Hampton Beach, New Hampshire, in May, Ls: Rick Merritt, and Jack Schemp from the Narragansett Chapter
- Cape Cod, Massachusetts, in August, Ls: Terry Bludeau and Susan Whalen
- Fairlee, Vermont, September, Ls: Finlay Ferguson and Mark Henebry

A ride was scheduled each Saturday and Sunday throughout the season, some days with more than one ride. Hopefully we can do better next year. We feel that offering more rides will attract new members and potential leaders.

We added about seven new ride leaders this year but need to find more people to step forward. We encourage other bike leaders to lead more rides. This seems to be a problem with all bike clubs.

BICYCLING COMMITTEE:

Jo Ann Hewett - Ride Coordinator
Terri Pappagallo - Newsletter Editor

Rick Merritt – Co-Chair
Wayne Tursi, Sr. – Co-Chair



Conservation Committee

The Conservation Committee enjoyed another active year in 2010. We were entertained and educated by the following interesting speakers: Sara Uhl, *Coalition for a Safe & Healthy Connecticut*, regarding that group's efforts to have more everyday chemicals tested and/or regulated; Dr. Herster Barres, whose group *Reforest the Tropics*, actively manages tropical forest in Costa Rica for the benefit of the local farmers and the fight against global climate change; AMC staff biologist Doug Weirauch about AMC's *Mountain Watch* program, which enables citizens to collect data about flowering times in their area in order to gauge the possible effects of climate change on plants; Kat West, manager of Retail & Utility Programs for *Sterling Planet*, about the company's clean energy options available to Connecticut utility customers; Officer Chris Dwyer, a DEP Wildlife Enforcement Officer, about his efforts to protect wildlife; Jay Vivian, a homeowner going the extra mile by building a geothermal house on the Cape. Lastly, we heard about AMC's efforts to protect critical treasures in the four state Highlands region of Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

Besides learning, we also did our best to educate both club members and the general public about issues around climate change, energy conservation, and the need to protect our natural resources. Most notably, Committee member Russ Charest displayed his homemade *Energy Conservation Savings Board* at several venues this year. We were represented at Beardsley Zoo's *Party for the Planet*, New Haven's Green Expo, and AMC's Annual Meeting to name a few. Committee member Bob Andrews also utilized a home energy monitor called a TED (The Energy Detective) and reported on the results he obtained after three months usage. To further promote energy conservation, we also purchased three *Kill-O-Watt* meters that will be available to club members to borrow and record energy usage of individual appliances at home.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE:

Bob Andrews
John Hamlin

Russ Charest
James O'Rourke

John Crist

Jamie Lee – Co-Chair
Andrew May – Co-Chair

East of the River Committee

The East of the River (EOR) mid-week hiking group is an eclectic and enthusiastic gathering of people who enjoy being outdoors and exploring forests, open expanses, urban areas, mountains, and the seashore in Connecticut and nearby Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, and New Hampshire.

Members of the group are knowledgeable about trees, plants, birds, wildlife and history. They share their expertise and enthusiasm as they hike. This makes EOR hikes especially enriching. Perhaps "East of the River" is a misnomer, as hikes were offered this year in Barkhamsted, at White Memorial in Litchfield, on the Holyoke Range in Massachusetts, and on Mt. Monadnock in New Hampshire.

Of special interest this year was an urban hike on the Wallace Stevens Trail in Hartford with lunch at the Legislative Office Building. This was a unique opportunity for EOR photographers and the group's skilled scrapbook maintainer to add a cityscape to the group's travel record. Another urban offering was a look at historic buildings and trees in Old Wethersfield.

Urban hikes in Boston are also very popular, with day-long excursions made by EOR hikers to Boston's Emerald Necklace, Freedom Trail, and South Boston neighborhoods. These hikes always fill to capacity.

With two hikes, one more strenuous and the other gentler, offered each Tuesday and Thursday throughout the year, the CT-AMC's East of the River hiking group is especially active and fortunate to have highly skilled and enthusiastic leadership.

EAST OF THE RIVER COMMITTEE:

Nola Currie
Marilyn Lassow
Betty Robinson

Dot Davis
Jean McCarthy

Ruth Griffin
Carolyn Olsen

Nancy Mann – Chair

Education Committee

The Education Committee had another successful year filled with well-attended learning opportunities and welcomed two new instructors.

Sixteen enthusiastic participants completed the committee's Leadership Training School held November 21-23, 2009 at White Memorial in Litchfield, Conn. Instructors were Dave Boone, John Crist, Dale Geslien, Jeff Hogan, Aaron Gorban, AMC's Leadership Training and Risk Management Manager, and Mark Spain making his teaching debut. The training covered topics such as Trip Planning and Management, Leadership Styles, Group Dynamics, Leave No Trace Principles, Map and Compass, Leadership Opportunities, AMC Policy and Forms, Accident Scene Management, Risk Management and Leader Liability as well as experiential learning scenarios.

The committee sponsored a Cold Weather Hiking workshop at the 2009 Annual Gathering presented by Committee Chair Dale Geslien.

The committee's SOLO Wilderness First Aid and CPR Training took place on March 27-28, 2010, with 42 participants. SOLO instructors and Education Committee members Leo Kelly and Jeff Hogan along with SOLO instructor Dave Krueger conducted the training. The popular training continues to sell out each year. Participant Dick Cable wrote an article regarding his experience for the summer edition of the chapter's newsletter.

In response to several inquiries, the Committee conducted its third Leave No Trace Trainer course over the Trails Day weekend at Northwest Camp. LNT Master Educators Dale Geslien and Leo Kelly conducted the training which produced five new Leave No Trace trainers. A former and a currently registered Mountain Leadership School student; a Boston Chapter leader, a NW Camp Committee member, a Boy Scout Leader and an Everest Base Camp Expedition Leader rounded out the attendee roster. The successful weekend included a hike to the Sages Ravine Campground to review an example of how Leave No Trace principles have been implemented.

John Crist and Leo Kelly continued their involvement as instructors with the Club-wide Mountain Leadership School in June

15 participants completed the Leadership Training Session held on June 27, 2010, at Sleeping Giant State Park in Hamden. Keith Spaar joined instructors Dale Geslien and John Crist and made his teaching debut covering LNT and map and compass topics. Although most participants were interested in becoming hike leaders, two were interested in becoming Trails Work Party leaders and one, a Flatwater Leader. Five of

those participants have already become official hike leaders, including one for Young Members.

Core members of the Education Committee met several times over the summer to review the current leadership training curriculum and consider future enhancements. Education Committee members are preparing for additional upcoming presentations. Keith Spaar, LNT Master Educator, will be presenting on LNT in October for the Connecticut Yankee Council of the Boy Scouts of America Powderhorn course for adults and youth in the Venturing Program, which teaches scout leaders about high adventure activities in scouting. Dale Geslien and Leo Kelly will be presenting a workshop on Cold Weather Hiking at the Club-wide Annual Meeting on January 29, 2011.

There are thirteen currently registered for the committee's Leadership Training School, which will be held November 19-21 at White Memorial in Litchfield, Conn. Three are traveling from the Delaware Valley Chapter to attend, one is interested in becoming a Volunteer Managed Facility (VMF) leader. Another is traveling from the Boston area. Interest to date is in leading hikes, bike rides, flatwater paddles, mountaineering and Trails Work Parties. Participants are also interested in leading for Young Members, Family Activities, and all CT-AMC groups as well as for the DelVal and Boston Chapters. Dave Cronin, a member of the Excursions Committee and the Fairfield County Group Committee, has updated his "hike CD" which includes hike descriptions and accompanying maps. Dave presented his new CD to the Education Committee to distribute to graduates of Leadership Training in an attempt to facilitate new leaders taking the next step to actually lead their own hike. Kudos to Dave! His significant contribution to future AMC leaders is greatly appreciated.

The Second Edition of AMC's Guide to Outdoor Leadership by Alex Kosseff was recently published. None other than our own Keith Spaar, Education Committee member and LNT Master Educator made the cover! The photo was taken outside Joe Dodge Lodge at Pinkham Notch, White Mountains, N.H. during Keith's Leave No Trace Master Educator training. Keith is second in from the right. This photo also appears on www.outdoors.org as the photo on the Leadership Training page accessed under "Get Outdoors." A photo on page 28, also published in the first edition, includes MLS instructor and Education Committee member Leo Kelly and participant and Program Chair Dave Bellemare. Dale Geslien is given photo credit on acknowledgments ix, along with the CT Chapter, for providing a Wilderness First Aid photo on page 29 which includes Past Chapter Chair Beth Critton. Author Alex Kosseff is a former staff member of the AMC.

Many leadership training school participants have already become leaders. Sometimes, however, CT-AMC members have a scheduling conflict and are unable to attend scheduled trainings. In an effort to expand training opportunities, the CT-AMC Education Committee has entered into a reciprocal arrangement with the Berkshire Chapter in order to provide our members with as many options as possible to facilitate leadership development.

I have enjoyed serving as Education Chair for the past five years. John Crist has agreed to serve as Education Chair in 2011. John has been very active in the chapter from his term as Conservation Committee Co-Chair in recent years to his present member-at-large position on the Executive Committee. John completed Leadership Training School in 2004 and Mountain Leadership School in 2005 and subsequently became an instructor for both programs. Not only is John a CT-AMC hike leader but he also took additional training to become a Major Excursions leader. I am happy to pass on leadership of the Education Committee to such a well-qualified successor.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Dave Boone
Leo Kelly
Mark Spain

John Crist
David Roberts

Jeff Hogan
Keith Spaar

Dale Geslien – Chair



Excursions Committee

In the twelve months to the end of September 2010, Connecticut Chapter Hike Leaders posted 603 hikes. This was a slight reduction from the previous year but that was an all time record and an increase of 15 percent from the year before.

Hikes and other Excursions' Committee events accounted for about 60 percent of all activities run by the CT-AMC during the year.

110 Hike Leaders led at least one hike demonstrating the depth of our group of Hike Leaders and over 60 of our Hike Leaders and volunteers have qualified for chapter "recognition" awards as a result of leading five or more hikes or contributing 30 or more hours to support our efforts. All of our Leaders deserve our thanks and appreciation for these efforts.

In addition to hikes led by Hike Leaders who are not part of a sponsoring group, hikes sponsored by Young Members, EOR, Family Hiking, and the Thursday Western CT Group again made a major contribution. EOR Midweek Hiking continued to sponsor four well-attended hikes each week, the Western CT Thursday Group sponsored at least one hike each week, and our Young Members group sponsored over 30 hikes. The Family Hikes program, which was established only two years ago, has continued to be active averaging two family hikes a month this year. Sponsoring groups make a major contribution to the success of our hiking program and Excursions values highly the work not only of the Hike Leaders who lead hikes sponsored by these groups but also the work done by the coordinators for these groups.

Many of our Hike Leaders, in addition to leading local hikes, led backpacking and ski trips both inside and beyond the state and also led Major Excursions. Hike Leaders also strongly supported chapter-wide events such as National Trails Day, New Member Activity Day and AT Day.

Once again the Excursions Committee sponsored the AMC's Fall Hiking Week. Excursions Committee Leaders participated in Fall Hiking Week as well as August Camp. We thank everyone who organized and led hikes at these great events.

Once again we thank the Education Committee for organizing the weekend-long Annual Leadership Training School in Litchfield and a one-day Leadership Training Session, both of which were very well attended and which are extremely important in providing potential Hike Leaders with high quality training. With their help we added a significant number of new Hike Leaders during the year.

The Excursions Committee was one of the first to build email lists, to adopt the AMC's Activity Listing System and to develop these systems. Our various hike-related e-mail lists now include over 2,000 names. Behind the scenes, several volunteers spend countless hours maintaining our lists, approving hikes, distributing e-mails and responding to many emails from hikers and potential hikers. Their contributions are very much appreciated.

EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE:

Dave Cronin
Eric Stones

Carol Hassett

Fiona Nicholson

David Roberts – Chair



Fairfield County Group

In the year up to September 2010 the Fairfield County Group (FCG) organized a total of eleven events. This program consisted of five speaker meetings in Westport, four speaker meetings and a December Holiday Bash in Bethel, and an Annual BBQ Picnic in Redding. FCG did not run a Clam Bake Beach Party this year because attendance last year was slightly disappointing and because of difficulties in finding volunteers to run the event.

FCG's 2009/2010 season of five speaker meetings in Westport attracted a total audience of over 400 people or an average of about 80 people per meeting. FCG's Westport meetings are well established with attendees enjoying excellent presentations, a hot pasta dinner, dessert, wine, coffee and a great atmosphere. During the 2008/2009 season, FCG meetings in Westport were attracting record crowds of around 130 people per meeting resulting in serious overcrowding and with a disproportionate increase in attendance by non-members. To address this problem, FCG significantly increased the entry fee for non-members while keeping the fee for members unchanged. As expected this resulted in a reduction in attendance during the 2009/2010 season relative to the previous season, but has also resulted in a much better atmosphere and the return of some members who were turned off by the previous overcrowding.

Since FCG increased the number of speaker meetings in Bethel from two to four and moved to a new location about three years ago, FCG's Bethel meetings have improved significantly but still suffer from varying attendance levels. The four speaker meetings in Bethel during the 2009/2010 season attracted audiences averaging about 45 people per meeting but attendance varied from a low of about 30 to a high of over 70. FCG's Bethel meetings feature appetizers, wine, desserts and coffee, as well as great speakers and interesting movies.

FCG's speaker meetings featured a wide range of topics, mainly in the armchair travel category, which in the 2009/2010 season included Utah, Nepal, Ethiopia, Sicily and Canada. FCG also featured its first presentation accompanied by live music and a successful showing of the movie "Ten Mountains, Ten Years." AMC Hike Leaders Deborah Lewis, Jay Vivian, Dave Cronin, and David Roberts were all presenters.

FCG's Annual Picnic at Putnam Park has now been running for several years and has established itself as a very pleasant outdoor event. This year FCG organized three morning hikes which attracted over 20 people, and 40 plus people enjoyed burgers and hot dogs on a sunny fall afternoon.

FCG's Annual Holiday Bash in Bethel early in December 2009 featured live music and dancing as well as fine holiday fare with around 40 people enjoying the event.

FCG's events not only help to retain members within the club but have also directly resulted in a significant number of people joining the AMC at FCG meetings.

FCG has continued its communications efforts with posters and press releases for all its events and has enjoyed good local media support. All FCG events are listed in *AMC Outdoors*, on the chapter web-site and have been featured regularly in the chapter newsletters. FCG e-mail lists now have about 650 names and we continue to collect names for these lists.

While FCG's main aim is to promote the AMC in southwestern Connecticut, FCG has also worked to do this in a cost-effective way. Almost all of our speakers do so for no fee, and we have controlled our other costs carefully.

In addition to having a wonderful committee FCG enjoys the support of many other volunteers who are always willing to help out in many ways. FCG Co-Chairs David Roberts and Tom Carruthers wish to thank all of them for their contribution to FCG's success.

FAIRFIELD COUNTY GROUP COMMITTEE:

Lorraine Cronson
Al Puches

Paul Garbarino
Eleanor Sasso

Fiona Nicholson
Darcy Witham

Tom Carruthers – Co-Chair
David Roberts – Co-Chair

Family Activities Committee

2010 was the second year for the Family Activities committee which was formed in April 2009; the committee members are listed below. Five leaders led 30 family hikes during the year including two “special needs” family hikes; participation varied from 3 up to 20. We have been developing a core group of families that participate and hope to develop more leaders from them.

The following hike leaders lead hikes during the year: Janet Ainsworth, Gene and Maggie Grayson, Debra Rich, Eric Stones.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE:

*Janet Ainsworth
Tobey Ritz*

Merri Fox

Deborah Lewis

*Debra Rich – Co-Chair
Eric Stones – Co-Chair*



Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee

Thanks to committed leaders, we scheduled the following 29 events in 2010: 17 flatwater trips, 2 sea kayaking trips, 2 skills sessions, and 10 pool sessions. We continued to cooperate with other groups, adding our paddling expertise to bring Connecticut waters to the attention of people near and far. These events included Bob's East River trip on National Trails Day, and my trips on the Norwalk River (Norwalk River Watershed Association) and Five Mile River in Danielson, (The Last Green Valley), the latter being a new water for us. Barry led the skills day at Lake Wintergreen again, and we did another skills session at the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary building on Calf Pasture Beach in Norwalk. Leader Tom Ebersold was our most productive leader and also continued his explorations of the Housatonic River north into Derby, and onto Bashan Lake, two entirely new trips for AMC. Leader Dale Geslien

energetically organized a hike, camp and paddle on Lake Waramaug, a first time event for us on this inland lake. We supported AT Day with a paddle on Twin Lakes and were rewarded with views of great blue herons, osprey, and two bald eagles in flight.

We had tables at both Collinsville Canoe & Kayak and North Cove Outfitters. As part of the Coast Guard's Paddle Smart effort, we distributed orange reflective IF FOUND stickers to paddlers so they can ID their boats, giving rescuers phone numbers and names to aid in search efforts.

Bob's work on our webpage continued and the number of followers on our Flatwater Yahoo! group has grown to 230 and on our Sea Kayaking list to 119. Bob also continues to be part of the AMC Major Excursions group.

Chris German, our speaker for the CT-AMC Annual Gathering, will have an innovative program, *CT Community Boating*, which includes first time paddling on sit-on-tops in Bridgeport, Conn., an effort that should inspire other communities to do the same. This type of experiential education is extremely valuable in growing the sport of paddling and ensuring novice paddler safety.

It was a challenging year for all in the face of continued employment pressures, but we managed to continue our efforts to explore new places, as well as serve experienced and novice paddlers alike. I thank all involved as committee members and leaders for their generous efforts in 2010!

FLATWATER/COASTAL PADDLING COMMITTEE:

Barry Gorfain
Robert White

Jean Lange

Debra Tedford

Jean Trapani - Chair



Membership Committee

Our chapter was successful in its efforts to sustain membership renewal and retention. As of October, 2010, total membership stood at 8,087, which represents a net gain of 88 over 2009.

Membership sent out new member mailers, kept the chapter supplied with promotional materials for various tabling opportunities, i.e., EMS Club Days, Banff Mountain Film Festival, etc, and fielded requests and questions posed by new and renewing members.

Membership was represented at the Chapter retreat in June, 2010, and participated in club-wide discussions on recruiting issues, approaches to using social networking sites such as Facebook, and the challenges and opportunities provided by the club's new membership systems (software).

On October 2, the Program Committee hosted the chapter's annual New Member Dinner.

Membership Committee member and Past Chapter Chair Dave Cullen and other past Appie of the Year winners consider the nominations for the chapter's special awards, Appie of the Year and Lifetime Service Award. Dave presented these awards to worthy recipients at the Annual Gathering.

A special thanks goes out to all were actively recruiting new members during their activities. Fairfield Country Group, in particular, continues to be successful in attracting new members to the club through their regular program of beach parties, picnics, and dinners with speakers.

Gini Kramer – Chair

WELCOME

Mountaineering Committee

2010 was a busy year for the CT-AMC Mountaineering Committee. In 2010, using the skills learned in CT-AMC Mountaineering, individual members climbed in Red Rock Canyon in Nevada, Longs Peak (14,259') in Colorado, the Shawangunks in New York, the White Mountains in New Hampshire, and the Dolomites in Italy! These trips encompassed multi-pitch rock climbing, alpine mountaineering and multi-pitch ice climbing. The skills of the Mountaineering Committee members have significantly improved in 2010 and members are now doing climbs that previously were only done with a professional guide.

Activities

The cold winter in 2010 provided plenty of local ice to climb. A new climbing activity in the winter of 2010 was Wednesday night ice climbing held in January and February. Using helmet lamps for illumination climbers practiced their skills on ice pillars and curtains under starry skies. Weekend ice climbing trips were held in the Adirondacks of New York, and the White Mountains of New Hampshire and a special Valentine Day's couple ice climb in Canaan, Conn. The last climb of the season was a spectacular ice and snow climb up Odell's Gully in Huntington Ravine on Mount Washington.

Thursday night outdoor rock climbing started in mid April. These very popular "after work" climbs are held in Farmington, Plainville, and Thomaston. On the first Thursday of each month committee members and other climbers get together at a local pizza restaurant for the monthly meeting. Weekend rock climbing trips were held at various crags in Connecticut, the Shawangunks in New York, and in the White Mountains in New Hampshire. 2010 also saw more committee members advancing in their climbing skills and taking the sharp end (lead climbing).

Training Classes

The first training class for 2010 was the Introduction to Ice Climbing that was held in the White Mountains of New Hampshire in January. The outdoor rock climbing classes started in the spring. Classes held were Beginner Rock Climbing, Lead Anchor Building, Top Rope Set Up, Intermediate Rock Climbing, and a Climbing Self-Rescue Class.

Leadership Training

Four members attended the Mountaineering Leadership Training class. This training is done in two sessions. The first session is in a classroom and the second class is outdoors on a climb, where students are assigned roles to play. Mock scenarios are set up to imitate real life situations.

Wellness & Health

In October the Mountaineering Committee had a display at the Goodrich Corporation Wellness Fair in Cheshire, Conn. The display promoted the AMC as an outdoor alternative to gym membership. Goodrich will also reimburse employees for their annual AMC membership. Over 500 employees participated in the Wellness Fair and saw the AMC display.

Community

At the end of the ice climbing season, a hiker fell off an ice covered ledge at the Thomaston ice climbing area. The hiker suffered serious injuries but recovered. Because of this accident the land owners will no longer allow climbers to climb on the property. This is a big loss for Connecticut ice climbing since the Thomaston area is the best in the state for vertical ice climbing with easy access to the top of the cliff to set up ropes. The Mountaineering Committee is working with Ragged Mountain Fountain to address the access issue.

Committee members did a glass and trash clean up at Pinnacle Cliff in Plainville Conn. This is a popular climbing and hiking area. It is also, unfortunately, a popular party destination with the younger crowd. Broken glass and debris is common. The committee hauled out four buckets of broken glass and bottles and several plastic trash bags of rubbish

Goals for 2011

Mentoring Program

Reviewing data from the introductory training classes, few participants return and become part of the Mountaineering Committee. As a result, we are going to try a mentoring program in 2011. New climbers will be partnered with an experienced committee member. Training will, therefore, be one on one instead of a group session. This training will be ongoing for the year. This should also help new climbers meet various members of the committee and make them feel more comfortable attending the various activities throughout the year.

Climbing Locations

We will add St John's Ledges as a Thursday night climbing location on an experimental basis. We want to attract climbers from western Connecticut and eastern New York. We will schedule a couple of climbs in Kent to see what kind of response we get.

Mountaineering

Goals for 2011 include trips to both Tuckerman's and Huntington Ravine on Mount Washington and an ascent of the North face of Gothics in the Adirondacks.

MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE:

*Mike Adelson
Skip Frey
Bob Lener
James McCall
Tristan Morenz
Russ Sherwood
Audrey Suseno
Paula Zimbrea*

*Dan Bordeau
Peter Gajdosik
Gini Kramer
Carol Morenz
Gustavo Nava
Mark Sondeen
James Wolff
Kurt Zoner*

*John DeAngelis
Dominick Galletti
Tim Linehan
Jesse Morenz
Tina Rosser
Mark Spain
Gary Zempel*

*Sandy Bartell – Co-Chair
Art Morenz – Co-Chair*



Newsletter

The AMC in Connecticut, our CT-AMC quarterly newsletter, reaches more than 8,000 chapter members through online distribution and direct mail. *AMC in Connecticut* is also distributed to numerous advocates and supporters who subscribe via e-mail or who download the newsletter from the chapter Web site. This electric distribution allows readers an easy way to reduce their carbon footprint while helping to defray printing and mailing costs for the chapter. The newsletter showcases CT-AMC member information, such as an update from our chapter Chair, information about upcoming events, and many other stories/articles of interest to our constituents.

Each newsletter is always a group effort, so all submissions and comments are greatly appreciated. The goal of the newsletter is to foster greater CT-AMC membership and to recruit participants for upcoming events. The publication also works to persuade members to try new activities and encourages more members to volunteer and give of their time.

Darcy Witham is senior editor of the publication. As a volunteer, she manages all aspects of production, including preparing initial content outlines/editorial calendars and providing her highly creative, colorful design layout skills. Debra Rich and Maggie Grayson are co-editors of the newsletter, providing copyediting and proofreading services. Darcy and her team also work on a number of additional CT-AMC-associated flyers, announcements, and letters, which are sometimes bundled with the newsletter.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Darcy Witham – Senior Editor

Maggie Grayson – Newsletter Co-Editor

Debra Rich – Newsletter Co-Editor

Northwest Camp Committee

The rustic but very distinguished American chestnut cabin at NW Camp is holding up well. The overnigher wood stove and pipe are ready for the new winter season and have been refurbished thanks to the tedious skills of Caretaker Paul Ives and Cabin monitor Don Klein. At the spring work party, a new charcoal grill was installed, a cord of wood moved and stacked, picnic tables and benches cleaned and stained, interior window trim painted and new footings were poured for the kiosk. Registrar Sue Ives and member Carol Langely worked many hours on controlling erosion near woodpile. Moldering Privy subcommittee Chair and Camp Co-chair Tom McGrath painstakingly installed fine mesh screening around the inside of the Moldering Privy crib system. All of this hard work would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of all committee members.

In July, the Committee donated \$200 to the Ridgerunner Program recognizing the small staff and huge importance of their job in monitoring the use of such a pristine and vulnerable resource. A video production was initiated by long-time AMC member Russ Charest for the committee focusing on the challenge of balancing conservation with recreation at NW Camp. The final video may be used internally and shared with other volunteer managed facilities.

At the NW Camp committee meeting in August the committee regrettably came to the conclusion that an increase in lodging fees was necessary to keep pace with inflation and help pay for the increase in cordwood consumption. The fee change is the first since 2002 and only targets September - May use with about a \$10 increase. Rates stay the same for the summer in hopes of an increase in reservations.

In August, the committee hosted another Perseids Meteor Shower Weekend originating from the cabin with a total of 26 people participating in a hike down to a waterfall in Sages Ravine and up to Mount Riga to view the annual summer meteor shower. Once again this year, nationally known arborist Matt "Twig" Largess and mycologist Henry Smith joined the event. The waterfall hike was very refreshing for those who braved the cold crystal clear water and went for a swim, and the meteor shower produced 28 blazing meteors across the Milky Way in one hour!

The Committee is in the early process of planning for some major exterior erosion control to make way for possible construction of a front porch and a possible cantilever roof that would add structural support to the loft overhang. The next Committee meeting is on Thursday, January 13, 2011 and planning for the NW Camp 60th Anniversary Party in August will continue. The spring work party is scheduled for Saturday,

May 14, 2011. For cabin reservations please call our volunteer Registrar at 203-266-6374 only between the hours of 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday. See the NW Camp web site at: <http://www.ct-amc.org/nwcamp/index.shtm>.

The following are NW Camp Committee Events for 2011:

- 1/13/2011 Committee Meeting at CFPA Headquarters
- 2/4-7/2011 Open Winter Weekend (Friday night through Monday noon)
- 5/13-16/2011 Spring Work Party (Friday night through Monday noon)
- 8/12-15/2011 60th Anniversary Party & Perseids Meteor Shower Weekend (Friday night through Monday noon)
- 9/16-19/2011 New Member Day Weekend at Cabin (Friday night through Monday noon)
- 11/04-7/2011 Fall Work Party (Friday night through Monday noon)

NORTHWEST CAMP COMMITTEE:

Alice Combs
Merri Fox
Nicole Ives
Craig Kennedy
Carol Langley
Al Puches
Paul Thoma

Ryan Christensen
Marge Hicks
Paul Ives
Donald Klein
Trent Link
John Rek
Steve Troop

Chuck Doll
John Hicks
Joni Kafka
Ken Kostak
Tom Nichols
Jim St. Amand
Ron Zlotoff

Tom McGrath – Co-Chair

Rod Parlee – Co-Chair

Sue Ives – Registrar



Program Committee

The Program Committee ran the Saturday, April 17, Spring Dinner, the Saturday, October 2, New Member Dinner, and is running the Saturday, November 20 Annual Gathering.

Storyteller Carolyn Stearns was the guest speaker at this year's Spring Dinner at the Cheshire Grange. Carolyn is a story-teller who told us about the history of Connecticut in the same way stories were told 200 years ago. Her presentation was very entertaining and educational. The Cheshire Grange provided us with a fantastic roast beef dinner as they always do.

The New Member Dinner was a little different this year. The usual potlucks have not been very successful in recent years. Based on the success of the Spring Dinner, we decided to try a roast beef dinner. This turned out be a great idea. We held the roast beef dinner at the Odd Fellows Temple in Waterbury on October 2. The turnout was very good and many diners reported that the meal was excellent. David Roberts gave a well-received presentation, *Along the Niger River to Timbuktu*. We will likely do this again for 2011. The New Member Dinner isn't a dinner for only new members. This event is open to all AMC members.

The Annual Gathering November 20 has a fantastic selection of afternoon workshops scheduled, thanks to the hard work by our Executive Committee volunteers. We made some small improvements to our dinner choices from last year. The founder of *Soft Power Health*, Dr. Jessie Stone will cap off the night with a presentation *Paddling through Life: Where Kayaking Has Taken Me*.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

Wilford Parker

Lori Stethers

Wilda Wyse

David Bellemare – Program Chair

Trails Committee

The Chapter Trails Committee is responsible for the maintenance and management of the Appalachian Trail (AT) and its side trails in Connecticut and the adjoining public lands in partnership with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), the Connecticut State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the National Park Service (NPS). Our accomplishments this year included:

- 88 individual members of the chapter contributed 2,996 total hours to Trails Committee activities.
- The Committee mourned the loss of long time volunteer and former Trails Chairman Doug Christie.
- The AMC-sponsored “Berkshire Teen Trail Crew” operated in Connecticut for the first time, doing needed tread way improvements in the Thayer Brook area.
- The Committee met with representatives of the *Groundworks Bridgeport Green Team* to explore involvement for urban youth on the CT AT.
- Stalwart Trailman Walt Daniels was recognized by the AMC with the Club’s Distinguished Service award at the club-wide Annual Meeting.
- The Committee continued to partner with Sharon Audubon on the creation of a management plan for critical habitats at Bunker Hill. A number of the recommendations have been implemented, including an experimental removal of reed canary grass.
- The *Welcome to the AT in Connecticut* brochure was updated, and 24,000 brochures were printed.
- The Ridgerunner Cabin in the Housatonic State Forest was viciously vandalized. The Committee financed and completed repairs just in time for the beginning of the summer ridgerunner season. The DEP, who owns the cabin, had written it off as a loss.
- Another successful *Give A Day to Trails* saw 48 participants go out on 4 different projects. The après event continues to be a feature of the day!
- A Student Conservation Association (SCA) summer crew completed substantial improvements at Limestone Springs.
- During the summer ridgerunner season, 8,000 hiker contacts were made, with no major incidents. The ridgerunners also performed a day of maintenance each week.
- Efforts to revitalize our Natural Heritage program were successful. Tim Grover agreed to the task of program

coordinator. Tim will oversee Committee efforts to monitor the health of rare, threatened, and endangered species along the AT.

- The SCA Trail Crew improved trail in the 10 Mile Hill area.
- The Committee was represented at the ATC *Youth Summit* hosted by ATC at the Highland Center. This conference investigated ways of involving youth in trail matters, and also featured joint work parties consisting of ATC club members and youth from various *Groundworks Green Team* organizations.
- Gene Grayson was appointed to the ATC Stewardship Council, the Trail-wide management body.
- Developed conceptual plans for improvements to the Paradise Lane Trail and campsite.

The Committee is grateful to our dedicated Section Maintainers, Boundary Monitors, Volunteer Guides, Natural Heritage Monitors, and Chapter members who participate on our work parties. Projects to improve the Trail go out nearly every weekend. Please consider coming with us soon.

TRAILS COMMITTEE:

Denise Badger
Doug Christie
Walt Daniels
Sanita Gingras
Harlan Jessup
Paul Palmer
Brian Sears
Ann Sherwood

Dick Blake
Hugh Cobrain
Birge Dayton
Gene Grayson
Elaine LaBella
Bob Poitras
Norm Sills

Hugh Broughel
Ted Cowles
Henry Edmonds
Tim Grover
Ian McCunn
Walt Rinehart
Sue Spring

Matt Moore - AMC Regional Trails Coordinator
Adam Brown - ATC Conservation Resource Manager
Dave Boone – Chair

Webmaster/Technology

2010 Accomplishments

- Started implementation of Chapter-wide Messaging, a new program offered by AMC to facilitate member communication.
- Held one Online Trips Listing System training/coaching session to make our activity listings appear more consistent in *AMC Outdoors* and on the Web.
- Maintained the Web site with current information for the various committees and chapter events.
- Added one new volunteer page maintainer. Held one meeting in how to use Microsoft Expression Web software.

Online Trips System Training

All chapter activities are published through the AMC Online Trips Listing System, a database system provided by AMC for all of the chapters and Major Excursions. These hikes, backpacks, paddles, bike rides, ski trips, climbs, and social events are then visible on our chapter Web site. More than sixty people are authorized to enter events in the system. Over the last year, our chapter offered 1,243 activities through this system. Training sessions continue to be offered as needed.

Chapter Newsletter Electronic Distribution

Printing and mailing the chapter newsletter is one of the largest expenses for all of the club chapters. Growth in the number of members who “opt-in” for electronic distribution remains low. Please “opt-in” to receive your future chapter newsletters electronically. The “how to” is on our chapter Web site at www.ct-amc.org/OptIn.

Chapter Phone Line (866-576-6994)

The chapter phone line continues to provide an easy “computer-less” means to pass out information about East of the River Tuesday and Thursday hikes. In addition, the phone line offers basic chapter, Membership, and Conservation Committee information. The chapter phone number can be used in publicity and to audiences wherever appropriate.

2011 Goals

- Continue to help AMC improve the Activities Database system.
- Explore moving the chapter website to the Drupal content management system.
- Improve integration with the AMC Activities Database system to make finding activities easier.
- Expand utilization of the chapter phone line as appropriate.

Committee Page Maintainers

I want to thank those who maintain the sections of the Web site devoted to specific committees:

Jamie Lee

Robert White

Carole Phelan

Mark Schappert

Conservation

Flatwater

Mountaineering

Whitewater, Young Members

All other committees are maintained by your webmaster.

Jim Scheef – Webmaster



Whitewater Committee

In 2010 the Whitewater Committee started out with pool sessions in Middletown and Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Whitewater sponsored successful trips to Canada, New York, Vermont, Maine, and other states. Participants attended our annual trip to the Ottawa Kayak School that consisted of instruction for beginners to expert kayakers.

The Whitewater Committee sponsored pool sessions, lake sessions and on-the-river instructional sessions to get more participants interested in whitewater.

We had three new leaders come on board this year.

In October, we held our annual leader appreciation day. At the leader appreciation day, we presented a special award to Ed Chase for his more than 33 years of service in running the Suffield Academy pool sessions and other river trips.

This year we purchased some new spray skirts, 10 new helmets, and PFD's to replace our worn fleet gear. We purchased two new kayaks for the fleet also. The gear is to be used for pool sessions, lake sessions and on the river instructional sessions. We increased our number of instructional sessions to help get novice kayakers on the river more quickly.

The Whitewater Committee would like to thank all of our sponsors who contributed to making the leader appreciation day a success.

The Whitewater Committee would also like to thank the Forster family for their continued support.

WHITEWATER COMMITTEE:

Webb Carnes
Paul Edwards
Patti Vaughn

Ed Chase
Robin Pleshaw

Christian DeGraaf
Dana Warner

Mark Schappert – Co-Chair
Dennis Wigg – Co-Chair
David Shoup – Trip Leader Coordinator

Young Members Committee

We have had another great year of activities and socials. We are neck and neck with last year's 36 events with a total of 38 events this year. These events covered the areas of hikes, whitewater and socials. Our Yahoo e-mail list has grown to 423 members. The year is not yet over and we have four more events currently scheduled with an annual holiday and leader's dinner to be scheduled.

Facebook continues to be a great way to share stories and pictures from the hikes. We currently have 97 Facebook members.

We are also actively seeking new hike and social leaders so we can continue to offer a wide range of activities throughout the state and beyond.

Our leaders this year, followed by the number of hikes led:

David Bellemare (2)

Mark Lufkin (2)

Christopher Rees (4)

Mark Schappert (4)

Bill Wheeler (21)

Ana Ketch (1)

Erik Madsen (1)

Debra Rich (2)

Dave Shoup (1)

Christopher Rees – Chair



Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee's charge is to fill any open chair or co-chair position with qualified volunteers. We are always looking for folks who are willing to give their time to AMC. There is one open position on the 2010 Executive Committee. Please consider volunteering to fill one of these spots. One doesn't need to be an "expert" to be a committee chair. Executive Committee members are always on hand with support and guidance.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Barbara Beckerman

Skip Frey

George Schott

Bruce Laroche - Chair



Nominations for the 2011 Executive Committee

In accordance with the chapter bylaws, the Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of candidates:

Chapter Chair	<i>Timothy Linehan</i>
Chapter Vice Chair	<i>Wayne Tursi, Sr.</i>
Secretary	<i>Darlene Dunbar</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Bruce Ebbets</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Rick Merritt</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Jamie Lee</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Andrew May</i>
East of the River Chair	<i>Nancy Mann</i>
Education Chair	<i>John Crist</i>
Excursions Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Fairfield County Co-Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Fairfield County Co-Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Family Activities Co-Chair	<i>Janet Ainsworth</i>
Family Activities Co-Chair	<i>Debra Rich</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair	<i>Jean Trapani</i>
Member at Large	<i>Barry Gorfain</i>
Member at Large	<i>Paula Zimbrea</i>
Membership Chair	<i>open</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Art Morenz</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Jesse Morenz</i>
Newsletter Publisher	<i>Darcy Witham</i>
Newsletter Co-Editor	<i>Maggie Grayson</i>
Newsletter Co-Editor	<i>Debra Rich</i>
Northwest Camp Co-Chair	<i>Tom McGrath</i>
Northwest Camp Co-Chair	<i>Rod Parlee</i>
Program Chair	<i>David Bellemare</i>
Trails Chair	<i>David Boone</i>
Webmaster/AMC Outdoors Liaison	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Christopher Rees</i>
Regional Director	<i>Dale Geslien</i>

50-Year Members

Congratulations and best wishes to the following Connecticut Chapter members who we are honoring for their 50 years of membership in the Appalachian Mountain Club! They have been invited to attend the Annual Gathering and banquet as guests of the chapter.

Mr. William Blaha of Guilford, Conn.

Mr. William Dodge of Groton, Conn.

Mr. Edwin Hahn of Southbury, Conn.

Mr. John C. Hicks of Salisbury, Conn.

Mr. Bente Morch of Englewood, Florida

Ms. Patricia Mudge of Greenwich, Conn.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ranger of Columbia, Conn.

Mr. John Stankard of Greenwich, Conn.

