

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER



93nd Anniversary

Annual Report

November 8, 2014

50-Year Members

Congratulations and best wishes to the following Connecticut Chapter members who we are honoring for their remarkable 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.

Lillian I. Buck of Wethersfield, Connecticut

Lawrence F. Buck of Wethersfield, Connecticut

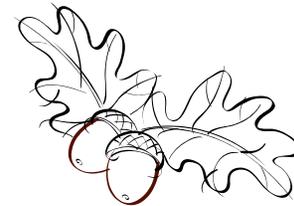
Elaine C. Luckey of Bloomfield, Connecticut

Frederick A. Moore of Niantic, Connecticut

Laurence Smith, Jr. of Collinsville, Connecticut

Elenor Smith of Collinsville, Connecticut

Donald C. Button of Cheshire, Connecticut



Nominations for the 2015 Executive Committee

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Chapter Chair	<i>Robert Guenther</i>
Chapter Vice Chair	<i>Open</i>
Secretary	<i>Cindy Butts</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Susan Grant</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Rick Merritt</i>
Chapter Youth Program	<i>Jim Liptack</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Russell Charest</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Andrew May</i>
East of the River Chair	<i>Ray Phillips</i>
Education Co-Chair	<i>John Crist</i>
Education Co-Chair	<i>Keith Spaar</i>
Excursions Chair	<i>Peg Peterson</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Family Activities Chair	<i>Janet Ainsworth</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair	<i>Barry Gorfain</i>
Member at Large	<i>John Grasso</i>
Member at Large	<i>Bea Holt</i>
Membership Chair	<i>Alison Terjek</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Peter Gajdosik</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Kurt Zoner</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Darcy Witham</i>
Northwest Camp Co-Chair	<i>Tom McGrath</i>
Northwest Camp Co-Chair	<i>Rod Parlee</i>
Program Co-Chair	<i>Janet Ainsworth</i>
Program Co-Chair	<i>Michelle Baughman</i>
Trails Chair	<i>Dave 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>Alison Terjek</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Mary Grant</i>

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
2014 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Chair:	<i>Janet Ainsworth</i>
Vice Chair :	<i>Bob Guenther</i>
Secretary:	<i>John Grasso*, Cindy Butts**</i>
Treasurer:	<i>Al Puches</i>
Bicycling Co-Chairs:	<i>Susan Grant, Rick Merritt</i>
Chapter Youth Program:	<i>Jim Liptack, Jennifer Wood Heslin</i>
Conservation Co-chairs:	<i>Jamie Lee* Andrew May, Russ Charest**</i>
East of the River Chair:	<i>Alexis Kuchel</i>
Education Co-Chairs:	<i>John Crist, Jennifer Wood Heslin</i>
Excursions Chair:	<i>David Roberts</i>
Fairfield County Co-Chairs:	<i>Tom Carruthers, David Roberts</i>
Family Activities Chair:	<i>Janet Ainsworth</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Chair:	<i>Barry Gorfain</i>
Membership Chair:	<i>Alison Terjek**</i>
Member-at-Large:	<i>Tim Linehan*, John Grasso**</i>
Member-at-Large:	<i>Bea Holt</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chairs:	<i>Pete Gajdosik, Kurt Zoner</i>
Program Chair:	<i>Michelle Baughman**</i>
Newsletter Editors:	<i>Maggie Grayson*, Darcy Witham</i>
Northwest Camp Co-Chairs:	<i>Tom McGrath, Rod Parlee</i>
Trails Chair:	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Webmaster/Technology Chair:	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Whitewater Co-Chairs:	<i>Mark Schappert, Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Co-Chairs:	<i>Mary Grant, Alison Terjek**</i>

* Stepped down from position during program year

** Elected to position during program year

Whitewater Committee

In 2014, as in years past, the Whitewater Committee started off the year with our pool instructionals in Middletown and Bridgeport. These drew fairly good attendance. We had several students from a "Sea Scouts" troop near Norwich join us in Bridgeport. This led to an on the river instructional in August where the kids and adult leaders got the kayaking bug pretty bad! We hope to continue with them next year.

During the summer we ran our big weekend instructional on the Deerfield. It was very well attended and all learned a lot.

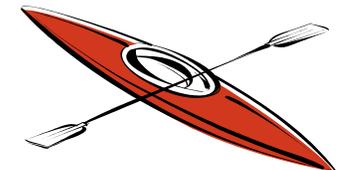
As in years past we ran many river trips on the Deerfield, Farmington and other local rivers.

In August, Dennis Wigg let our annual trip to Ottawa kayak school.

This October we held our annual leaders appreciation picnic and presented the Stephen Forster Award, recognizing excellence in whitewater kayaking and leadership, to Ed Yiznitsky for his several years of trip and instructional leadership.

Mark Schappert, Co-Chair

Dennis Wigg, Co-Chair



2015 Goals:

- Continue to help AMC improve the Activities Database (Online Trips Listings) system.
- Improve chapter communications and publicity thru more effective use of the various tools available.
- Move the chapter website to a 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 website devoted to specific committees: Jamie Lee, Conservation; and Mark Schappert, Whitewater and Young Members. All other sections are maintained by your webmaster.

Jim Scheef, Webmaster/Technology Chair

CHAPTER CHAIR'S REPORT

It has been a pleasure and honor to serve as your chapter chair since July 2012. I have met a lot of terrific people in the Connecticut chapter and in the other 11 chapters comprising the Appalachian Mountain Club. I am especially proud to play a small part in the nation's oldest outdoor recreation, conservation and education organization.

The last program year saw the Connecticut Chapter enter the 21st century in the way that it communicates with its members and the public. Some changes to digital distribution methods also increased efficiencies. In 2014, we eliminated the paper copy of the newsletter in favor of digital only distribution. We ask that you all go to the Member Center at outdoors.org and opt in to receive your newsletter by email. A fair number still haven't done this, so you are not receiving the newsletter at all. The digital only version, which is also on the website (ct-amc.org), is all in color and beautifully packaged by editor Darcy Witham.

Many of our members, as well as a substantial number of non-members, i.e., the public, are receiving our activities listings by email. A change in providers this year was driven by the Excursions Committee (hiking and skiing), which is responsible for 600 of the approximately 1,000 volunteer-led activities that the chapter offers each year. The switch from Yahoo Groups to Constant Contact has led to far fewer distribution issues, such as bouncing emails.

In 2014, our Facebook and Meet Up accounts each played a large role in notifying people about our activities. It has also allowed us to reach a whole new audience, including casual hikers. I want to thank Dale Geslien, who has done just about everything there is to do in AMC, for managing the Facebook account. Amy Cason, a relatively new leader, took the initiative to create the Meet Up account. The account hit 500 members in October and continues to grow.

This year, our Young Members Committee became more active than it has been during my tenure as chapter chair. Co-chair Alison Terjek is now dual listing her hikes on both the Connecticut and Berkshire chapter Meet Up sites. The response to the activities that she leads has been consistently good. Young members are the future of our organization, so it is important that we welcome them. That is not to suggest that we do not greatly appreciate the work of all of our hike leaders, including the

subgroups: the East of the River, Family Activities and Western Connecticut Thursday hiking groups. They are all out there every week.

The Education Committee has a deep bench of trainers and annually offers one or more one-day training sessions, as well as the long-form, weekend version at White Memorial Conservation Center in Litchfield. It also supports Wilderness First Aid and Adventure Travel training.

All of our activity committees are the face of the AMC on the trails, roads and waterways of Connecticut and beyond. They are consistently dependable and offer an amazing array of fun things to do. They all can use more leaders, so please consider contacting them to volunteer. Contact information is on the website. Thank you to all the leaders who are already out there.

Our service committees, trails, conservation, program and Fairfield County Group, are also important. Our very dedicated Trails Committee allows us to be one of 31 organizations (four of them AMC chapters) that maintain the Appalachian Trail in partnership with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. The Conservation Committee is very active with just a handful of volunteers. These are the people who are traveling around the state and spreading the word about the important conservation work that AMC does. One thing that I learned after becoming chapter chair is that the club has scientists on staff. Not every conservation organization can say that. Fairfield County Group offers a full program schedule in Westport and Bethel. The Program Committee is rebuilding. It is responsible for the Spring Dinner and the Annual Gathering. With more volunteers, it could do more. I would love to see the return of the new members' dinner, or something similar to Fairfield County Group in the greater Hartford area.

Northwest Camp, a volunteer managed facility, is a wonderful resource in our state. Check it out.

Treasurer Al Puches keeps us on an even keel moneywise. I hear from my colleagues in other chapters about budget deficits or battles, and I can honestly say that I have never had to deal with a budget problem. Thanks, Al, for all that you do.

Jim Scheef, our webmaster or "chief web lackey", as he describes his role, is our link to the digital world. He could use some help. If you are tech adept, please consider this most important volunteer opportunity.

Webmaster/Technology

2014 Accomplishments:

- Maintained the website with current information for the various committees and chapter events.
- Migrated our activity announcements from Yahoo Groups to Constant Contact.
- Grew our presence on Meetup from nothing to a major medium for attracting new participants.

Constant Contact Email: Early this year, problems with the Yahoo Groups email lists became unbearable and we sought an alternative. Constant Contact is a commercial service oriented to small businesses and non-profits. After some discussion, the Executive Committee judged the benefits to far outweigh the cost. All but two have been migrated.

Social Media: Efforts on Facebook and Meetup have been most successful. On Meetup we have 533 group members or "appies" who receive notices posted and approved by committee leaders. Hikes and paddles publicized thru Meetup are attracting a new and younger constituency. Our Facebook audience has grown to 359 "likes" at [facebook.com/AMCConnecticut](https://www.facebook.com/AMCConnecticut). Our Meetup group is [meetup.com/AMC-CT-Chapter](https://www.meetup.com/AMC-CT-Chapter).

Online Trips System: The expansion to allow registration, payment and even carpooling is still underway. The goal is to allow trip leaders to better manage their trips thru online participant registration and payment. We accomplished required improvements to the system infrastructure. Stay tuned.

Chapter-wide Email Messaging: Continue to use of this facility with good results. The mailing list is essentially all chapter members with a valid email address in the AMC membership database. This allows us to reach many members who are otherwise inactive within the chapter.

Chapter Phone Line: Northwest Camp has become the primary user of the phone line with people leaving messages to reserve the cabin. Otherwise, the phone line continues to provide easy "no computer" access to descriptions of the East of the River hikes.

Park Superintendent Wendy Janssen, and ATC Chair Sandy Marra were in attendance.

- Using funding from the LL Bean “Grants to AT Clubs”, the Committee obtained a power scythe, with grass cutting and pole saw attachments
- Significant mileage errors identified in the “Welcome to the AT in Connecticut” map/ brochure were field measured and corrected. The discrepancies were between Sages brook crossing to Paradise Lane, and Iron Bridge to Prospect Mountain. The mileage of the AT in Connecticut is 51.6.
- The “GreenAgers” summer crew improved treadway on the north side of 10 Mile Hill. An incredible 41 step stone staircase was constructed.
- NPS acquired land formerly owned by the Preston Mountain Club north of the Schaghticoke Reservation. A trail relocation removing the Trail from the Schaghticoke land is being planned.
- The summer Ridgerunner program had a very successful season, with over 6,000 hiker contacts.
- NPS provided the services of the Northeast Exotic Plant Removal Team for three days in the Bulls Bridge area. The team removed invasive species in an area which will also benefit the conditions for an endangered butterfly species. The Team is stationed in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

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

Alice Webber, AMC Regional Trails Coordinator
Silvia Cassano, ATC Trail Management Assistant
Adam Brown, ATC Stewardship Conservation Manager

TRAILS COMMITTEE:

<i>Lana Bluege</i>	<i>Hugh Broughel</i>	<i>Walt Daniels</i>
<i>Henry Edmonds</i>	<i>Mary Kaley</i>	<i>Gene Grayson</i>
<i>Alan Spier</i>	<i>Harlan Jessup</i>	<i>Jim Liptack</i>
<i>Elaine LaBella</i>	<i>Paul Palmer</i>	<i>Bob Poitras</i>
<i>Norm Sills</i>	<i>Sue Spring</i>	<i>Ann Sherwood</i>
<i>Russ Waldie</i>	<i>Brian Sears</i>	<i>Walt Reinhart</i>

Dave Boone, Chair

Please also consider participating in August Camp, a club-sponsored event supported by Connecticut volunteers, who serve as organizers and leaders. It involves several weeks of hiking and camping at many beautiful locations out west. The locations change from year to year. Fall Hiking Week, which used to be a club wide event and is 131 years old this year, is now sponsored by the Connecticut Chapter. Leaders from a number of chapters offer hikes in the areas near the resorts that host the event, located in Lincoln, Jackson and East Madison, New Hampshire. Like August Camp, the location changes each year. Next year, it will be in Lincoln.

There have also been a lot of changes at the club level. The club's annual meeting, called the Annual Summit, will be held on January 24, 2015 in Norwood, MA. Attending this event is a great way to find out what is going on. I am particularly excited about the Center for Outdoor Learning and Leadership. Training is what makes AMC different from Meet Up groups and hiking clubs. The center will make many more resources available to leaders.

In closing, I am looking forward to continuing to volunteer with the AMC. I will be serving on several chapter and club wide committees. I hope to see you out there!

Janet Ainsworth, Connecticut Chapter Chair



CONNECTICUT CHAPTER ANNUAL GATHERING – 2013

The 92st Annual Gathering of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was held on November 9, 2013 at the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel, Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

Chapter Chair Janet Ainsworth welcomed everyone to the Annual Gathering. As is tradition, Janet reflected upon the first Annual Gathering, held on November 21, 1921. In the first year of the Chapter, there is record of four scheduled activities. Janet observed that this past year, the Chapter has conducted over 1,000 activities, and she commended leaders for providing an array of outstanding recreational and service opportunities. Janet particularly commended the Trails Committee for providing and managing 4,120 hours of trail work. Janet noted that Chapter revenues once again exceeded expenses, and that Chapter membership has remained stable.

Janet outlined the evening program ahead, and then called forward past Chapter Chair David Cullen to introduce the four Chapter members who were selected to receive the two highest awards the Chapter bestows, the Lifetime Service Award, and the Appie of the Year Award. David Cullen first introduced past Chapter Chairs and spouses Gerry Hardy and Sue Hardy, as recipients of the Lifetime Service Award, and he briefly sketched their decades of valuable service to the Chapter and to the Club. Mr. Cullen then stated that spouses Tom Carruthers and Fiona Nicholson, longtime members of the Fairfield County Group and the Excursions Committee, would jointly share the Appie of the Year Award.

Janet announced that as is tradition, names of Chapter members who have died since the last Annual Gathering would be read aloud, and a period of silence in their memory would be observed. The following names were read:

Laura Allen
Brita Cappel
Ray Dovell
Edgar Dresner
Debby Emmelman
Virginia Fisher
Donald Miller
Robert Nuckols
Herbert Weissenstein
Thomas Willis

All present who were able then stood and observed a period of silence in memory of these Chapter members.



Trails Committee

The Chapter Trails Committee is responsible for the maintenance and management of the Appalachian Trail and its side trails in Connecticut, including the adjoining public lands, in partnership with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the Connecticut DEEP, and the National Park Service. Our accomplishments this year included:

- 121 individual members of the Chapter contributed 7,134 total hours to Trails activities.
- A “Neighbor Brochure” was created for distribution to landowners adjacent to the AT, explaining the management and proper use of the AT and adjoining corridor lands, and what a “Trail neighbor” can expect. The brochure was financed by a LL Bean “Grant to AT Clubs”.
- The issue of trail management responsibilities on the west flank of Schaghticoke Mountain is still not totally resolved between AMC-CT and the new York-New Jersey Trail Conference, although an understanding is nearly ready for acceptance.
- Three new tent pads were constructed at Limestone Springs.
- A large “caretaker” tent similar to the tents used at Camp Dodge was obtained and installed at Sages Ravine. The tent is to be used by the summer ridgerunners, and was a joint project of the CT Trails Committee and the Mass AT Committee.
- The Committee was approached by the CT-DEEP Wildlife Unit to consider working on a New England Cottontail rabbit restoration project on NPS corridor lands. We were supportive, and recommended the DEEP proposal be submitted to NPS.
- Our annual “Give a Day to the AT” had 46 participants, working on 6 different projects.
- A presentation on the work of the Trails Committee, focusing on the issues and successes at Bulls Bridge, was delivered at the spring New England Regional Partnership Committee. APPA

Program Committee

The Program Committee is still in the process of rebuilding. Michelle Baughman is wrapping up her first year as chair. Next year, she will be joined by outgoing chapter chair Janet Ainsworth, who will serve as co-chair. We said farewell to long-time registrar Lori Stethers and welcomed Kathleen Miller and Margaret Johansson to the committee. Remaining with the committee is Wilda Wyse, the friendly presence that you see at the registration table for these events. Bruce Laroche and Barbara Beckerman, who ran the book sale last year at the annual gathering, this year have agreed to run the silent auction, as well as the book sale.

During 2014, the committee planned the Spring Dinner. The featured speaker was William Broussard, outreach coordinator at the Mount Washington Observatory, who talked about how Mt. Washington has the world's worst weather. The Spring Dinner is a popular event that sells out and 2014 was no exception. In the future, we will target our advertising to our members, so they can enjoy the featured speakers and delicious dinner prepared by the folks at the Cheshire Grange.

During the summer, the committee planned a gathering for activity leaders to learn about the club's rebranding effort. You might have noticed the new logo with the tree poking out of the circle, the addition of a river and the mountains looking more like those in the northeast. Lots of other things are going into the rebranding, for later discussions.

Michelle put together a great schedule of Annual Gathering workshop presenters. Ruth "Sam" Jamke, former NH chapter chair, is an Adventure Travel leader. Her feature presentation is on Patagonia. Michelle reached out to other nonprofits at an Earth Day event at UCONN. For the first time, we may see some of them tabling at the AG.

There were some preliminary discussions about the committee becoming involved in AT Day, but it was later decided that the existing and very capable group of volunteers who handle the task will continue.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Janet Ainsworth. Michelle Baughman. Margaret Johansson. Kathleen Miller. Lori Stethers (emeritus), Wilda Wyse

Friends of the Program Committee: Barbara Beckerman. David Bellemere, Cindy Butts, Dale Geslien, John Grasso, Bruce Laroche, David Roberts, Jim Scheef, Darcy Witham

Janet then directed everyone to the Annual Gathering program, in which the contributions of outstanding volunteers are recognized. Janet read the names of those members present who were recognized for receipt of the 2013 Volunteer Stewardship Award, and asked each to stand as their names were read. David Boone, Chair of the Trails Committee, spoke to specifically commend the "spectacular effort" made by the many persons who rallied to successfully contend with the crisis in the vicinity of the Appalachian Trail at Bulls Bridge, Kent, brought on by the repeated convergence of large numbers of young persons along the Housatonic River at that location for cooking, swimming, and partying, which repeated hard use resulted in alarming accumulations of trash, serious damage to soil and vegetation, and generally threatened to overwhelm the site. David Roberts, Chair of the Excursions Committee, then spoke to recognize Michael Cunningham as the 83rd recipient of the 2013 Connecticut 400 Club award, which he earned by having traveled at least 400 miles of the Blue Trails system.

Janet then recognized the past Chapter Chairs in attendance: Judy Besancon; Ledge Clayton; Beth Critton; David Cullen; Mary Dorpalen; Dale Geslien; Sue Hardy; Gerry Hardy; Tim Linehan; David Sinish; and Eric Stones. Sustained applause acknowledged each of these past Chairs. Janet then recognized thirteen Chapter members celebrating their 50th year as members of the AMC: Charles Dickson; Virginia Dowd; Eric Feldman; James Forrest; Jeffrey Lea; Katherine Lea; C. Eugene Mosher; Mary Louise Mosher; Lloyd Reynolds; Bernard Shearon; Irving Stanley; Colin Tait; and Deborah Tait. These persons were acknowledged by sustained applause. Janet also stated that 40 persons had become 25 year members since the last Annual Gathering, and noted that David Cullen sent each of them a commemorative pin.

Janet introduced Bruce Glabe, the Club's Vice-President of Operations & Chief Financial Officer. Bruce commended Treasurer Al Puches for his excellence in maintaining Chapter financial records. Bruce remarked that Connecticut is a leading Chapter in its "conversion rate", the number of new members who re-enroll in the second year - regarded by the Club as the key indicator of successful Chapter integration of its new members into the life of the Chapter. Bruce shared that both the Club's huts and Maine facilities had more visitors than ever in 2013. The Club has established an office in NYC in partnership with the New York YMCA. The Club has extended its "Kids Outdoors" youth program to Worcester, the 2nd largest city in New England, and in partnership with Massachusetts General Hospital, the Club established "Outdoors RX". Bruce spoke of the Club's advocacy for "a more enlightened path" on the

Northern Pass Project, and the Club's enthusiasm for the New England Scenic Trail.

Following Bruce's remarks, Janet introduced Sharon Foster, who has become the Central Region Director. Sharon spoke briefly to introduce herself and to say that she looks forward to serving the Chapter.

Janet expressed the Chapter's appreciation to each of the persons and organizations presenting the afternoon workshops and events. She recognized the following to sustained applause: Dave Sinish; Dr Jelle deBoer; Mike Cunningham; Barry Gorfain; Pete Gajdosik; Mark Sondeen; Jesse Morenz; Charles Muller; Thomas J. Tyler; Joe Leary; and David Roberts. Janet then thanked those who stepped into the breach in the absence of a Program Committee Chair to make the day a success, to sustained applause: Dale Geslien; Jim Scheef; Peg Peterson; Lori Stethers; Dave Bellemere; and Wilda Wyse. Janet thanked the members of the Nominating Committee for their attention to this year's Executive Committee slate, and asked them to stand and be recognized.

Janet spoke briefly about the Harry Duren/Greg Simons Scholarship Fund, the purpose of which is used to send two teens to an AMC Teen Wilderness Adventure, and recognized Eric Stones for his fine management of this program. Contributions for the Fund were accepted as a hat was passed from table to table.

At approximately 7:50 pm, Janet called to order the business portion of the 92nd Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter. Janet called for a motion to accept the Secretary's Minutes of the 2012 Annual Gathering set forth in the Annual Report, which motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously without revision. Janet next called for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for the years ended 2011 and 2012 set forth in the Annual Report, which motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously without revision. Janet then asked Bruce Laroche, Chair of the Nominating Committee, to introduce the slate of nominees for the Executive Committee, and Bruce read the following names and positions and asked each person to come forward as he read their names:

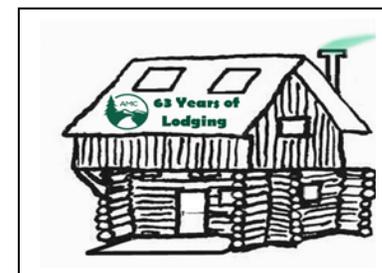
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Youth Program Coordinators:	<i>Jim Liptack and Jennifer Wood</i>
Conservation Committee Co-Chairs:	<i>Jamie Lee and Andrew May</i>

presence known by loudly hooting to another Owl deep in the woods making everyone sit straight up in their lounge chairs. Viewers from the cool clear summit of Bald Peak saw an almost simultaneous Sunset and "Super Moonrise". Most of the streaking meteors were washed out due to the bright full moon, but stargazers with good peripheral vision still counted 14 meteors in one hour. Considering the peak of the shower wasn't to occur for 3 days, participants were happy with the results.

As stated in the Bylaws the NW Camp Committee must maintain a liaison with the Mt Riga Committee, so on August 11, for the first time in modern history representatives of the NW Camp Committee met with members of the Mt Riga Committee. The Mt Riga Corp owns thousands of acres that abut property maintained by the NW Camp Committee. Issues discussed included management techniques on dealing with invasives, GIS, property boundary monitoring and delineation with drones, a mysterious bridge construction on NW Road, vandalism associated with a timber harvest, overuse of sensitive areas, over advertising, trail management, old growth forests, rare flora and fauna, etc. With the Mt Riga committee recommendation the Caretaker was able to find a more local cordwood supplier. A majority of the cordwood will now come from Salisbury instead of Canaan. Everyone agreed to plan a summer outing together next year at NW Camp.

The hope remains that this well managed and treasured piece of property, through the committee and collaborative process will ensure and sustain its long-term health and viability for future generations to enjoy.

COMMITTEE ROSTER: *Stewardship Award w/more than 30 volunteer hrs
Tom McGrath, Co-Chair, Moldering Privy Chair*
Rod Parlee, Co-Chair, Conservation Director*
Merri Fox, Secretary/ Volunteer Hours Coordinator
Donald Klein, Caretaker*
Craig Kennedy, Registrar*
Al Puches, Treasurer*
Paul Thoma, Financial Liaison*
John Hicks, Past Chair/Caretaker, Trails Committee Chair*
Carol Langley, Cabin Monitor & Green Mt Club, CT Rep*
*Chris McGrath**
Art Mauger, Cabin Monitor
Roy Huffman, Past Chair/Caretaker
John Rek, Past Chair/Caretaker
Marge Hicks
Ron Zlotoff
Steve Troop



Northwest Camp Committee

The cabin, constructed of American chestnut continues to stand tall on the Taconic plateau in the very northwest corner of Connecticut tucked away in an old-growth Eastern hemlock forest. The sparkling pristine stream adjacent to the cabin drains to Sages ravine and is part of the Schenob brook watershed drainage basin. This rare watershed has been the target of protection for many years by numerous local, state and national environmental organizations and public agencies. Continuously learning about what makes this watershed so rare is a priority of the Northwest Camp committee. In May, plans were in the works for a botanical study on certain transects. In July, Steve and Rachel Svec of the Allen Bird Club of Springfield, MA volunteered their time and conducted the first phase of a bird inventory.

Members of the Committee had a successful but challenging year of managing Northwest Camp for its 63rd year of lodging. We hosted numerous meetings, participated in many conference calls, attended Volunteer Managed Facilities meetings, attended/taled at the Annual Gathering and attended, tabled and presented at the Annual Summit.

Both spring and fall work parties were very productive with former Caretaker/Chairman, Roy Hoffman serving his gourmet breakfast prior to a day of completing many tasks. Caretaker, Don Klein continued to take pride in organizing the work parties and managing the cabin and the 125 acres, responding expediently to some major repair issues. Registrar, Craig Kennedy took the time to answer the myriad of questions associated with even just one reservation and tracked bed nights efficiently. Financial Liaison, Paul Thoma submitted financial reports including detailed records of every dollar coming in/going out, projected the budget, and informed the committee when grants were available.

The Committee donated \$200 to the very important Ridgerunner program, led an AT Day hike and hosted its annual Perseids meteor shower party weekend. In preparation of the Perseids party from Aug. 8-11th the Committee installed a new Fire pit, solar panel to power an inside LED light strip, added oak slab to bridge tread over stream and measured 250 feet of length for a future Bog Trail bridge. Prior to the meteor shower viewing on Bald Peak, participants enjoyed a tasty cookout at the Camp, then two Power Point presentations powered by the newly acquired battery powered portable projector: "Welcome to Northwest Camp" & "The Elusive Cougar". Before showing the encore movie "The Lorax", a very loud Barred Owl directly overhead, made his

East of the River Chair: *Alexis Kuchel*
Education Committee Co-Chairs : *John Crist and Jennifer Wood Heslin*
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Member at Large : *Bea Holt*
Mountaineering Committee
Co-Chairs: *Pete Gajdosik and Kurt Zoner*
Newsletter Editors: *Maggie Grayson and Darcy Witham*
Northwest Camp Committee
Co-Chairs : *Tom McGrath and Rod Parlee*
Trails Committee Chair : *Dave Boone*
Webmaster/Technology Chair: *Jim Scheef*
Whitewater Committee Co-Chairs: *Mark Schappert and Dennis Wigg*
Young Members Committee Chair: *Mary Grant*

Bruce then called for a motion to accept the slate of nominees, which motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Tim Linehan announced the winners of the Silent Auction.

Janet then called Dale Geslien, past Regional Director, past Chapter Chair, and present member of the Board of Advisors, forward to provide information regarding the upcoming Leadership Training School to be conducted by the Chapter, and to solicit participation.

Lastly, Janet spoke briefly of the Chapter's need for volunteers for the Membership and Program committees. At approximately 8:00pm, Janet called for a motion to conclude the Annual Business Meeting, which motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Dale Geslien then returned to the podium to introduce the speakers for the evening program, Nancy Sporborg and Pat Piper, whose presentation titled "It's Not about the Hike" was warmly received.

John Grasso, Secretary



**TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2013**

Newsletter

	2012	2013
Cash at January 1	\$107,282	\$113,470
Revenue Collected:		
Joy Street dues allocation	28,261	26,981
Program activities	16,586	16,456
Contributions	2,000	2,100
Reserve funds- sources (1)	1,700	2,490
Share of initial memberships	2,250	2,380
Leadership training	7,345	7,847
Merchandise sales	1,560	431
Interest and investment income	<u>7,458</u>	<u>8,588</u>
Total revenue collected	\$67,160	\$67,273
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	19,159	17,324
Cost of Merchandise	5	-
Reserve funds- uses (1)	2,906	4,157
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	659	890
Conservation	800	377
Education	7,498	5,848
Excursions	7	-
Executive	9,521	9,377
Flatwater	-	30
Membership	156	230
Mountaineering	588	554
Newsletter	6,683	6,387
Trails	9,692	8,360
Whitewater	<u>3,298</u>	<u>2,204</u>
Total expenditures	\$60,972	\$55,738
Cash at December 31	\$113,470	\$125,005

The AMC in Connecticut, our CT-AMC newsletter, reaches more than 8,000 chapter members through online distribution and to anyone worldwide through the Internet. 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 your chapter chair, information about upcoming events, and many other stories/articles of interest to our constituents submitted by committee chairs, participating members and AMC.

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 encourage more members to volunteer, recruit, and give of their time.

Darcy Witham has been sole editor of the publication this past year. As a volunteer, she manages all aspects of production, including preparing initial content outlines/editorial calendars, writing, editing, and providing her highly reactive, colorful design and layout skills. Darcy also works on a number of additional CT-AMC associated promotions including but not limited to flyers, announcements, brochures, posters and advertising.

Her recent co-editor Maggie Grayson provided her writing, editing and proofreading services for many years and has moved on to more worldly and personal adventures.

She is surely missed. The position for co-editor is still open.

The online newsletter is produced 3-4 times a year. It gives last minute news and changes a better chance of getting to our members. The newsletter will continue to be available online as a downloadable, printable pdf document.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Darcy Witham, Chair

2015 Objectives:

First, attract new climbers to our group through introductory courses, publicizing our climbing events via Constant Contact and Facebook, and participating in Chapter initiatives such as New Member Day and AT Day.

Second, maintain the large calendar of climbing events. Developing additional new leaders will help distribute the effort of organizing and conducting courses and multi-day climbing trips.

Third, encourage and support members as they progress into more advanced climbing by providing a more defined continuum of training and activity.

MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE:

<i>Mike Adelson</i>	<i>Sandy Bartell</i>	<i>Chuck Boyd</i>
<i>Ron Curtis</i>	<i>John DeAngelis</i>	<i>Skip Frey</i>
<i>Dominick Galletti</i>	<i>Bob Lener</i>	<i>Tim Linehan</i>
<i>Art Morenz</i>	<i>Carol Morenz</i>	<i>Jesse Morenz</i>
<i>Gustavo Nava</i>	<i>Gini Kramer</i>	<i>Mark Sondeen</i>
<i>Audrey Suseno</i>	<i>Steve Wall</i>	<i>James Wolff</i>
<i>Gary Zempel</i>	<i>Paula Zimbrea</i>	

Pete Gajdosik, Co-Chair
Kurt Zoner, Co-Chair



**TREASURER'S REPORT
 FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2013 AND 2014**

			9/30/13	9/30/14
Cash at January 1			\$113,470	\$125,005
Revenue Collected:				
	Joy Street dues allocation		17,989	17,962
	Program activities		8,080	9,191
	Reserve funds- sources (1)		1,320	2,425
	Share of initial memberships		2,040	1,320
	Leadership training		6,950	7,140
	Contributions		1,100	2,100
	Merchandise sales		376	203
	Advertising		100	0
	Interest and investment income		8,586	17,536
	Total revenue collected		46,541	57,877
Expenditures:				
	Cost of program activities		8,165	9923
	Reserve funds- uses (1)		3,925	1872
	Committee operating expenses:			
	Bicycling		214	29
	Conservation		313	520
	Education		4,977	6704
	Executive		4,292	3218
	Flatwater		30	
	Membership		230	292
	Mountaineering			277
	Newsletter		6,283	
	Trails		3,446	3018
	Whitewater		1,587	400
	Total expenditures		33,462	26,253
Cash at September 30			\$126,549	\$156,629

**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:

		12/31/12	12/31/13	9/30/14
Reserve funds:				
	AT Handicap Accessible Project	\$9,207	\$7,422	\$7,422
	Other Trails Memorials/Grants	12,588	13,388	12,943
	Duren and Simons Memorial Scholarships	3,014	2,564	3,080
	Whitewater reserve	5,048	5,337	6,700
General fund:		83,613	96,294	126,484
Total cash:		\$113,470	\$125,005	\$156,629

Al Puches, Treasurer

Mountaineering Committee

Recreation: This year, Mountaineering increased its calendar to over 90 climbing events (up from 80 last year).

Ice Climbing: AMC ice climbers enjoyed excellent conditions in CT this year. We climbed regularly in Canaan and also in Beacon Falls. As usual, the group also travelled north to climb in the White Mountains and the Adirondacks. The Beginners Ice Climbing course in North Conway in January was well-attended and we were able to offer a Steep Skills workshop for more advanced climbers.

Rock Climbing: Indoors, our weekly gym climbing evenings at Prime Climb in Wallingford were usually attended by 8-12 climbers. We established a relationship and AMC discount at the new Central Rock climbing gym in Glastonbury and instituted Tuesday night climbs starting in the Fall.

In April, we moved our Thursday night climbs out of doors and, through September, we rotated through eight Connecticut crags. The outdoor climbs, when not rained out, were well-attended. We also held numerous weekend trips for multi-pitch rock climbing to the Shawangunks, Rumney, and the White Mountains.

This year, there were no serious injuries of AMC climbers.

Education: This year we sponsored 7 training sessions that introduced club members to our activities or enhanced the climbing and safety skills of our members. Winter season programs included: Introduction to Ice Climbing, Coping with the Cold (how to dress for winter climbing), and Avalanche Beacon Training. We also held classes for Beginners Rock Climbing, Top Rope Set-up, Anchor Building, and Self-Rescue.

Organization: We attracted about 6 new, regular climbers to the group, mostly as a result of their attendance of our classes. We updated and expanded the Mountaineering website and migrated our email list to Constant Contact. A Facebook Group was created in October and 110 people had joined within a week. The Yahoo Group was decommissioned. Club gear was inventoried, maintained and, when necessary, retired. We purchased new gear with the goal of being able to provide potential new climbers of any size with loaner gear. We expect to end the year with a balanced budget.

Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee

This year we offered 22 trips serving 196 participants, including many old favorites, plus some new variations to old trips. Our Fun With Kayaks skills session helped new paddlers become familiar with their boats and gain confidence in being the Captain of their vessel.

The committee welcomed a new leader in Steve Lemoine, who has enthusiastically stepped in with new ideas and great energy. He was able to lead a trip on Lake Waramaug celebrating AT Day, as well as paddle some overlooked bodies of water, such as Hopeville Pond and Lake McDonough.

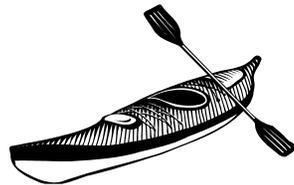
Tom Ebersold continued to lead his favorite trips along the beautiful Housatonic River in Connecticut, as well as the tidal waters along the coast. Debbie Tedford went inland to Mansfield Hollow and along the shore on Four Mile River and the Thimble Islands. We even had a mini Pirate invasion of Mystic Seaport to celebrate International Talk Like A Pirate Day. I must report that we were forced to retreat by a group of children visiting the Joseph Conrad.

We hope you will join us on the water next season.

FLATWATER/COATAL PADDLING COMMITTEE:

*Tom Ebersold
Debbie Tedford
Steve Lemoine
Robert White*

Barry Gorfain, Chair



Bicycling Committee

RIDE COORDINATOR: Joann Hewitt our bike rider coordinator has done a great job again this year keeping all rides for our web-site and the ride leader list up to date.

QUICK NOTICE: Tom Ebersold continues to go above and beyond, sending out weekly notices, entering rides in our trip system and leading many, many rides.

TUESDAY & THURSDAY EVENING RIDES: out of Manchester continued to attract a large number of participants, bike leaders Judy Borrmann, David Waldburger, Rick Merritt and Wayne Tursi. Other leaders assisting were Bruce Ebbets, Tony Calabrese, and Jim and MaryAnn Gleba. Judy extends the season for the faster riders from early spring to mid fall.

THURSDAY EVENING RIDES: were successful again this year with two rides each week averaging 10 to 20 riders and many going to dinner after the ride. Leaders included: Finlay and Mary Ferguson; Beverly Medlin, Mark Henebry and Wayne Chapman.

WEEKEND BIKE TRIPS: included three trips this year - Hampton Beach, NH, leaders, Susan Grant, Rick Merritt and MaryAnn Gleba, Cape Cod, MA, leaders Dick Cable and Joe Thomas, and Fairlee, VT with leaders Finlay and Mary Ferguson and Mark and Leslie Henebry.

WEEKEND DAY BIKE RIDES: did well this year with a ride most Saturdays and Sundays. New this season were Saturday morning rides out of The Bike Shop in South Windsor, led by Andrew Johnson and Sharon Timins. We continue to look for new ride leaders. In addition to those already mentioned, Mark Kiley continues to be a major contributor leading many weekend rides.

*Susan Grant, Co-Chair
Rick Merritt, Co-Chair*

Conservation Committee

During the 1907 Public Lands Convention in Denver, the director of the fledgling US Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot, quietly sat through speaker after speaker lambasting him and his policies which they saw as Federal overreach- they derisively referred to him as, " Czar Pinchot and his Cossack Rangers administering the Forest Reserves". On the third morning; it was his turn to speak. He began, "If you fellows can stand me; I can stand you" He then systematically explained how conservation principles would save them. It was true then and it is true now.

In conjunction with the Club's, "The Greenest Energy" Campaign (i.e., the cleanest Watt is the one that you never use) our devoted and knowledgeable Co-Chair Russ Charest demonstrated his "Energy Conservation Savings Board" at several venues this year. They were: North Haven Earth Day; Hamden Earth Day Windsor Earth Funtastic; Beardsley Zoo's "Party for the Planet"; Naugatuck Earth Day, Shagbark Lumber Earth Day; Fiddleheads Food Co-OP; Connecticut Folk Festival in Hamde ; and Colchester "57 Fest". Besides educating people about the importance of energy conservation and the work of AMC; we also began a promotion whereby everyone who signed-up for AMC's Conservation Action Network received a free LED light bulb.

As Pinchot tried to educate the ranchers about the importance of proper stewardship; Committee Member Bob Andrews continued his work to educate and inspire college students. As in past years he lead an "Alternative Spring Break" with students from ECSU which included a bridge building project, an educational hike, and a day at Goodwin State Forest hearing from such esteemed speakers as Eric Hammerling Executive Director of CT Forest & Park Association, Jim Parda, Dir. of Goodwin Forest, and others. For National Public Lands Day (Sept.27), Mr. Andrews lead a group of ECSU students on a bridge building project

Committee member Jamie Lee also presented The Club's "Climate Change" presentation to several grade schools this year. Co-Chair Russ Charest also lead an "Invasive Species" identification and removal project of garlic mustard as part of The Chapter's, "Give a Day to Trails Day". He also lead a hike with AMC's Mid-Atlantic Policy Manager, Mark Zakutansky , on Bear Mountain to celebrate "Trails Day" in Connecticut and educate participants about the work of The Club to promote and preserve The Highlands Region.



Family Activities Committee

The Family Activities Committee continues to offer one or two hikes per month during the three temperate seasons, as well as an occasional outing in winter. The Committee is thrilled to see other committees offering family friendly programming. Special thanks to the Mountaineering Committee for a 2014 AT Day event that drew families. Families also enjoyed some of the hikes during that event, the chapter's largest outdoor activity. As always, we could use more leaders. For busy families of school-aged children, there is a one-day leader training session at Sleeping Giant State Park in Hamden in early June. Check the Education Committee tab on the chapter website (ct-amc.org) for further information. If you don't want to lead hikes, we could always use a volunteer to plan social activities for this most important part of our chapter and club.

*Janet Ainsworth, Chair
Eric Stones*

Almost all of our speakers now present 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:

Darcy Witham *Lorraine Cronson* *Paul Garborino*
Fiona Nicholson *Al Puches* *Eleanor Sasso*

Tom Carruthers, Co-Chair
David Roberts, Co-Chair



Lastly, with our "forever" partners at the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, we continued our series entitled "Channeling Pinchot", which is an on-going exploration of Gifford Pinchot's life and legacy. We heard from a panel of lobbyists previewing the upcoming legislative session and from a legislator (Rep. Mary Mushinsky of Wallingford) regarding her proposal to raise more funds for the benefit of our State Parks by selectively allowing commercial development of rental cabins. Last month we heard from State Forestry Director Chris Martin and Director of Urban forestry Chris Donnelly regarding DEEP's efforts to promote, protect, and preserve Connecticut's forests

We hope and expect to keep working on these priorities - promoting energy conservation, identifying & eradicating invasive species from the AT; working with CFPA & ECSU for another "Alternative" Spring Break, and Channeling Pinchot. It is inspiring, engaging and interesting work and we invite all those who might have an interest to join us

Andrew May, Co-Chair
Russ Charest, Co-Chair
Jamie Lee
Bob Andrews

East-of-the-River Committee

East-of-the-River remains a very active mature group of hikers. Tuesday and Thursday hikes are varied and found in all directions in Connecticut. The dedicated hike leaders vary the terrain from urban hikes, beach hikes, art hikes, to many of the higher points in the hills of our state.

There are two levels of hikes: one is a more challenging hike and the other is a more moderate hike of about five miles. Attendance for hikes varies and sometimes consists of small intimate groups but can sometimes be a larger group of as many as 30.

Hikes to Boston and New York City will continue for the future as well as hikes in our city parks which include exploration of the Lincoln Culinary Institute buffet. After the hikes, small groups often go for ice cream or coffee at nearby establishments. Our learning on each hike includes identification of tree species, wildflowers, and historical buildings and landmarks.

Come join this friendly group for one or more fun filled hike.

Alexis Kuchel, Chair



Fairfield County Group

Fairfield County Group (FCG) had another successful year. In the twelve months to the end of September 2014, FCG organized a total of ten events. This program consisted of five speaker meetings in Westport; and five speaker meetings in Bethel.

In Westport, FCG's 2013/ 2014 season of five speaker meetings attracted a total audience of around 400 people or about 80 people per meeting. FCG continued to hold its Westport meetings in the Unitarian Church, to which it moved early in 2012 following a major fire at its previous location. To offset rising costs FCG raised the entrance fee for its speaker dinners in September 2013 to \$10 for members having held them at \$8 for members for eight years. However, during this season, the Unitarian Church again raised the rent significantly, forcing FCG to change its long established format, eliminating a hot dinner, and instead adopting the lower cost appetizer, drinks and presentation format it has used in Bethel for many years. Despite the reduced offering for the same fee, FCG's meetings continue to offer great value, and its September 2104 meeting, the first with the new format, attracted a normal sized crowd.

In Bethel, FCG's meetings feature appetizers, entrees, wine, desserts and coffee, as well as great speakers and interesting movies. The five speaker meetings in Bethel during the 2013 / 2014 season attracted crowds averaging about 40 people per meeting and the Bethel meetings continue to become better established with a growing crowd of regulars. FCG's meetings feature a wide range of topics, mainly in the armchair travel category, which in the 2013 / 2014 season included international locations as varied as Sri Lanka, Norway, Quebec, Argentina, Morocco, Tibet and Antarctica. AMC Hike Leaders Frank Keen, Rob McWilliams, Deborah Lewis, and David Roberts were among the speakers.

FCG's events not only help to retain members within the club but have directly resulted in a significant number of people joining the AMC. FCG continued its communications efforts with posters and press releases for its events and has enjoyed good local media support. All FCG events are listed in *Outdoors*, on the chapter web-site, and have featured regularly in the chapter newsletters. FCG email list now has about 700 names and has been transferred from Yahoo to Constant Contact. FCG events are now also featured in the chapter's Meetup group and on Facebook.

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.

Education Committee

Technology continues to be a major factor in the life of the Excursions Committee. The club's Activity Listing System continues to develop well. After significant problems with Yahoo, Excursions led a change for the chapter to Constant Contact, which has proven to be a big improvement, and our hike email lists now contain almost 3,000 names. Excursions has also supported the development of the chapters' Meetup group, now with over 500 names, and its presence on Facebook.

The Excursions Committee is all electronic, has eliminated paper from its operations, and as a result operates at zero cost. Our Weekly Upcoming Hikes List is well established, not only for advertising our hikes, but as a key element in promoting the chapter's events, as well as events run by other committees. Behind the scenes, several dedicated volunteers spend countless hours maintaining our lists, approving hikes, distributing emails, and responding to many emails from hikers and potential hikers. Their contributions are very much appreciated.

We also thank the Education Committee, comprised mainly of Hike Leaders, for organizing the weekend-long Annual Leadership Training School in Litchfield and two single-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 about 20 new Hike Leaders during the year. Jim Scheef, did a great job as our Webmaster and we thank Jim for all of the work he does for the Excursions Committee

After ten years as Chair of the Excursions Committee, I will step down at the Annual Gathering. I am delighted that Peg Peterson will be taking over from me, and that Peg will be supported by a very strong committee: *Dave Cronin, Carol Hassett, Don Button, Eric Stones, Fiona Nicholson and Phil Wilsey.*

Dave Roberts, Chair



In November 2013, the Education Committee hosted the Leadership training at White Memorial in Litchfield. We partnered with the Adventure Travel training to share expenses for food and rental of the facility. We successfully trained 9 participants. The presentations were delivered in a joint effort, which helped the new committee members with their new roles. The participants were engaged in hands-on exercises and activities to help with their learning. The feedback for the weekend training, according to the evaluation forms, was very positive and the role plays were very beneficial.

April 11 through 13 was arguably the largest event combo in CT-AMC Education Committee history. We trained 46 people for WFA and another 11 for LTS. Add to that our Train the Trainer Friday night for 5 and we had 63 people being trained at White Memorial over the course of the weekend. Many committee members had roles as trainers, trainees and volunteers at different points.

The annual June single day Leadership Training at Sleeping Giant trained 13 new leaders. The date coincided with 'Trails Day' and the 70th birthday celebration for Sleeping Giant State Park so participants received complimentary cake and balloons. If we use the Trails Day date again in the future there is no charge for parking at Sleeping Giant.

Education began gearing up for our 2 day leadership training on Nov. 15 & 16 at White Memorial in Litchfield in August. Face Book and MeetUp events were established.

In September we began receiving registrations for the November Leadership Training School. As in previous years we will share the White Memorial facilities in Litchfield with the Adventure Travel program's training class. AT will be in charge of food this year and costs will be shared. We have a solid group of instructors that includes seasoned veterans and new recruits. The class materials are stored in the chapter storage unit in bright green containers for easy access and identification. The class has been altered slightly from previous years to in order to add focus to conservation at AMC staff's request. The Conservation Committee Co-chairs will be stopping in on Sunday to present. We also eliminated the Friday evening curriculum to shorten the class to 2 days. The cost of the program was reduced from \$65 to \$50 in effort to attract more participants. To offset the decrease we will not be printing as much material going forward and will rely on the committee

budget to subsidize the event. Links to the Outdoor Leader Handbook are provided to participants with some thought towards moving the training to all electronic materials in the future. Friday night lodging is available if participants or instructors wish to stay. We had 2 instructors step down recently but have added 4 new. The 'many hands make light work' approach seems to be working well. Jennifer Wood Heslin is stepping down as Co-Chair but will remain on the committee in 2015. She has been instrumental over the last couple years in refreshing our curriculum and staffing our core events. Keith Spaar joins me as Ed Com Co-Chair effective with the chapter Executive Committee transition. He had been a member of the committee for 4 years and brings a vast amount of wilderness and leadership experience with him from years of volunteering with the Boy Scouts. He also had Leave No Trace Master Educator certification.

We will have 5 current or past Education Committee Chairs, going back more than 15 years at the November training. This is a testament to the Education Chairs' passion for the AMC, the safety of its members and quality of its leaders.

The commitment to the club's mission is taken seriously and passed on from leader to leader.

John Crist, Co-Chair
Jennifer Wood Heslin, Co-Chair

Excursions Committee

In the twelve months to the end of September 2014, Connecticut Chapter Hike Leaders posted approximately 520 hikes and a growing number of weekend and other multi-day trips. As usual, hikes and other Excursions' Committee events accounted for almost 60% of all activities run by the CT Chapter during the year.

About 90 different Hike Leaders led at least one hike during the year, demonstrating the depth of our group of Hike Leaders, and almost 60 of our Hike Leaders and volunteers qualified for Chapter "recognition" awards as a result of leading 5 or more hikes or contributing 30 or more hours to support our efforts. All of our Leaders deserve our thanks and appreciation for their efforts.

In addition to hikes led by Hike Leaders, who are not part of a sponsoring group, hikes sponsored by EOR, the Thursday Western CT Group, Young Members, and Family Activities 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 a number of hikes during the year. The Family Hikes program has continued to be active averaging one or two family hikes a month. 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 group coordinators.

Several of our Hike Leaders, in addition to leading local hikes, led backpacking and ski trips both inside and beyond the state, as well as Adventure Travel trips. Hike Leaders also strongly supported chapter – wide events such as National Trails Day, Give a Day to the AT, and AT Day, which was again run by Excursions, and has established itself as the chapter's biggest outdoor event each year. Once again the Excursions Committee supported the AMC's Fall Hiking Week as well as August Camp. We thank everyone who organized and led hikes or other trips.

In recent years Excursions has seen a significant change in the pattern of hikes being submitted for listing. Leaders used to submit hikes well in advance but most hikes are now submitted only a few days before the hike date. If forecasts are bad, Leaders no longer submit hikes for those days, which is more efficient than posting hikes and then cancelling them due to bad weather, but it does reduce the number of hikes posted.