

# **APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB**

**CONNECTICUT CHAPTER**



95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## **Annual Report**

November 13, 2016

# 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  
2016 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Chair:	<i>Bob Guenther</i>
Vice Chair:	<i>Cindy Butts</i>
Secretary:	<i>Jocelyn Eppich **</i>
Treasurer:	<i>Al Puches</i>
Appalachian Trail Chair:	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Bicycling Co-Chairs:	<i>Susan Grant, Rick Merritt</i>
Communications Chair:	<i>David Roberts **</i>
Conservation Co-Chairs:	<i>Andrew May, Russ Charest</i>
East of the River Chair:	<i>Ray Phillips</i>
Education Chair:	<i>Keith Spaar</i>
Excursions Co-Chairs:	<i>Peg Peterson, Phil Wilsey **</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>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 Editor:	<i>Darcy Witham</i>
Northwest Camp Co-Chairs:	<i>Tom McGrath, Rod Parlee</i>
Webmaster/Technology Chair:	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Whitewater Co-Chairs:	<i>Mark Schappert, Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Chair:	<i>Alison Terjek</i>

\* Stepped down during the year

\*\* Elected to position during program year

## CHAPTER CHAIR'S REPORT

A familiar adage says, “Many hands make for easy lifting.” I have certainly found that to be the case in my two years as your chair. Throughout my tenure, our Executive Committee members and activities leaders have risen to every occasion without hesitation whenever asked to assist. If you have ever been tempted to volunteer in some capacity for our chapter but have hesitated for fear that you might be biting off more than you can chew, I want to assure you that you will find plenty of others willing to roll up their sleeves and assist. In fact, I’m regularly impressed by the length of time many of our volunteers have served, either as an activity leader or a volunteer for one of our programs and events.

Our volunteers’ commitment also is evident in very tangible and visible ways. The Connecticut chapter’s level of activities remains among the highest of the 12 AMC chapters. This past year, a total of 100 hike leaders led more than 600 hikes, including several multi-day trips. More than 170 members spent more than 8,000 hours maintaining the 52 miles of the Appalachian Trail that cross the Northwest corner of our state. (In fact, thru-hikers on the AT have commented on the good condition of the Connecticut stretch of the AT.) Our mountaineering group offered 75 events and now has 275 followers on Facebook. The Fairfield County Group drew an average of 70 people – often many nonmembers -- to its 10 gatherings featuring speakers and slide shows. This is just a sampling of what our volunteer-led activities span. I encourage you to read the activities committees’ annual summaries contained in this report and to become involved whatever your area of interest. In large measure, I think that it is this high level of volunteer engagement that accounts for the fact that our chapter’s membership stands well above 8,000.

As active as our members are, there remain ample opportunities to participate – we could use more family hike leaders and a co-editor to assist our veteran newsletter editor, Darcy Witham. Another one of our chapter’s strengths is the members’ willingness to try something new – even when the existing way of doing something isn’t broken. Change doesn’t always come easily to organizations with as many dedicated volunteers as our chapter has or to a club that is the nation’s oldest outdoor recreation and conservation organization. The key to our chapter’s successful adoption of change is twofold. One, your Executive Committee consistently views its responsibility from the perspective of

our members, and, two, we thoroughly debate and discuss chapter matters at our meetings.

I'd like to cite a few examples of positive changes that have come about. One is the Annual Gathering. Last year, we changed the day (from a Saturday to a Sunday) as well as the venue (from a hotel to St. Clements Castle). The feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive on all counts.

Another example is how our activities leaders have taken to Meetup, the online app that brings together strangers who share an interest, to augment the chapter's formal trip listing procedures. Several leaders have reported that a high percentage of people who show up for trips do so through Meetup. This is increasing the level of participation in outings, reaching people who are not currently AMC members, and enabling them to experience for themselves the high quality of AMC leaders and trips. Undoubtedly, some of the people Meetup is bringing to our trips become members.

My final example of our chapter's openness to change is our support for the Youth Opportunity Program (YOP) in New Haven. If you're not familiar with it, YOP is the club's program to reach out to urban youth and introduce them to outdoor adventures that they otherwise wouldn't experience. YOP trains leaders (typically teachers); pays for equipment, such as tents; and provides lodging and transportation to the outdoors both nearby and distant. Beyond teaching outdoor skills, such as map reading and protecting oneself against hypothermia, YOP teaches important values, such as personal responsibility, cooperation, and appreciation of nature. With YOP's focus on large urban areas, like Boston, the New Haven program is the smallest YOP program and the only one in Connecticut. The New Haven program exists only through the generosity of a single club member from New York. There's no guarantee that this donor's generosity will continue. With this year's budget, our chapter has committed \$10,000 a year for three years to support the New Haven YOP. A mid-year report showed how our dollars have been put to work. Here are a few of the highlights that the New Haven YOP program has accomplished thanks in part to our chapters' support:

- About 1,000 New Haven-area youth participated in YOP this summer.
- New winter gear and hiking boots were purchased to replace worn-out equipment and clothing.

- Seven teachers and youth workers participated in the club's Outdoor Leadership Training, Wilderness First Aid, and Winter Exploration.

Beyond our YOP commitment, our long-term goal should be to work with the club to attract other funders so YOP can expand beyond New Haven to Connecticut's other urban centers.

We wouldn't have made a commitment of this magnitude if our chapter's finances were anything less than robust. As you can see in the treasurer's report, our chapter has a solid financial foundation and a reserve fund that is more than adequate. Indeed, it's my hope that our chapter's reserve – its purpose, appropriate level, and potential uses – will be explored and refined further by the Executive Committee.

As much as we've accomplished there remains work to be done. The migration of our Connecticut chapter web page to the club's website ([outdoors.org](http://outdoors.org)) has been delayed into 2017 by the club. This migration, as it was promised, is important for several reasons. It should drive greater traffic to our chapter's trips because we will be integrated more closely into the club's website. The migration also is supposed to make it easier to post and update trips. And from a branding standpoint it should create a consistent look and feel for both the chapter and the club. Our chapter has asked to be among the early chapters to move our content to the club's website, and all the club chapters at a recent meeting stated the vital importance of technology (including a mobile app) to our future. Another hope of mine: the Fairfield County Group (FCG) does an outstanding job of hosting presentations by speakers who have travelled the world or are experts in their field, and the concept behind these presentations deserves to be cloned elsewhere in our state. I'm not the first chair to voice this sentiment, and I'm hoping that in the future volunteers in Hartford or New Haven or another city will express an interest in expanding this valuable program. The blueprint exists with the FCG.

Here's my final call to action. In 2018, Connecticut will host the club's Fall Gathering, an important weekend-long event that brings together members from all 12 chapters for excursions, meetings, meals, bonfires, and camaraderie. Right now, our tentative plan is to combine it with the AT Day in October 2018. The Fall Gathering will be a major undertaking and require a major investment in planning, coordination, communication, and execution. We are one of the club's top chapters; we need to stage a Fall Gathering that is worthy of the great chapter we have.

I hope as many of you as possible will consider volunteering. Stay tuned – you'll be hearing more about this in the future.

In closing, it has been my distinct privilege to serve as your chair. I owe my fellow Executive Committee members a special thank-you for their patience and support throughout my tenure. I look forward to continue serving our chapter and its purpose in some new capacity for years to come.

See you on the trail!

*Bob Guenther*, Connecticut Chapter Chair



## CONNECTICUT CHAPTER ANNUAL GATHERING – 2015

**The 94<sup>st</sup> Annual Gathering of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club was held on November 8, 2015 at Saint Clements Castle, Portland, Connecticut.**

Chapter Chair Bob Guenther welcomed everyone to the Annual Gathering. As is tradition, Bob 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. Bob observed that this past year, the Chapter has conducted over 1,000 activities, and he commended leaders for providing an array of outstanding recreational and service opportunities. Bob noted that Chapter finances are in excellent shape, and that Chapter membership is about 8,300.

Special note was made of AMC's newest facility in Harriman State Park; our Chapter's interest in supporting the Youth Opportunity Program in New Haven to introduce at-risk urban youth to the outdoors; and increasing recognition activities for our volunteers.

Bob outlined the evening program. Names of Chapter members who have died since the last Annual Gathering were read aloud, and a period of silence in their memory was observed, including *Betsy Corman, Dick Gardiner, John Guros, Ben Hager, Louise Hesse, John Kotchian, James Lynch, Neil Morse, Paul Noetzel, Paul Palmer, Lawrence Raisz, Betty Robinson, Emmy Schneider, Robert Thomas, George Wislo and Jason Wolfe.*

Bob announced past chair Janet Ainsworth and activity leader Tom Ebersold for the Appie of the Year Awards. He praised both for their years of service to the Chapter, the Club, and to the Appalachian Trail Conference. Bob noted Janet's years as chair without having served as vice chair, participation in the development of the Meet-up Group and service to the advisory committee for Harriman; and noted Tom's role as a prolific leader of trips for Excursions, Biking and Flatwater for more than ten years. The Lifetime Service Award was presented to Dave Cullen, a past chapter chair, ten plus years' chair for the awards subcommittee, providing hundreds of members with 25 and 50-year service pins, among many other Chapter contributions.

Bob thanked the members of the Chapter Awards Subcommittee and the Nominating Committee for their respective efforts, and asked them to

stand and be recognized. Bob directed everyone to the Annual Gathering program, in which the contributions of outstanding volunteers are noted. Those receiving the Chapter Stewardship Award were asked to stand and be recognized.

David Boone, Chair of the newly renamed Appalachian Trail Committee, commended the many thousands of hours of work of the AT Committee volunteers. Dave read the names of the 2015 winners of the Pychowska Award and the Hart Award, and directed everyone's attention to the Program in which all winners of the 2015 Trail Awards are named.

Bob recognized the past Chapter chairs in attendance: *Judy Besancon, Ledge Clayton, Beth Critton, David Cullen, Mary Dorpalen, Dale Geslien, Leo Kelly, Eric Stones, Tim Linehan, Ken Richardson, Janet Ainsworth and Trish Niece*. Bob then recognized six Chapter members celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> year as members of the AMC with two, *Ledge Clayton and John Shea*, in attendance. Bob also stated that 49 individuals had become 25-year members since the last Annual Gathering, and noted that David Cullen sent each a commemorative pin.

Bob introduced John Judge, AMC's president, who spoke about activities happening in the Club.

Bob expressed the Chapter's appreciation to each of the persons and organizations presenting the afternoon workshops and events: *Felicia Ortner, Rod Parlee, Tom McGrath, Deborah Lewis, Bill Reid, Ford Parker, John Judge, Keith Spaar, Dr. Scott Williams, and Gini Kramer*. Bob then thanked the program committee chair and friends for arranging today's events: *Chair Michelle Baughman*, along with *Jim Scheef, Wilda Wyse, David Roberts, Darcy Witham and Bruce LaRoche*.

At approximately 7:10 pm, Bob called to order the business portion of the 94<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter. Bob called for a motion to accept the Secretary's Minutes of the 2014 Annual Gathering set forth in the Annual Report, which motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously without revision. Bob next called for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as set forth in the Annual Report, which motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously without revision. Bob asked Bruce LaRoche, Chair of the Nominating Committee, to introduce the slate of nominees for the Executive Committee. Bruce read the following names and positions and asked each person to come forward as he read their names:

Chair:	<i>Bob Guenther</i>
Vice Chair:	<i>Cindy Butts</i>
Treasurer:	<i>Al Puches</i>
Appalachian Trail	<i>David Boone</i>
Bicycling Committee Co-Chairs:	<i>Sue Grant &amp; Rick Merritt</i>
Conservation Committee Co-Chairs:	<i>Russ Charest &amp; Andrew May</i>
East of the River Chair:	<i>Ray Phillips</i>
Education Committee Chairs:	<i>Keith Spaar</i>
Excursions Committee Chair:	<i>Peg Peterson</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chairs:	<i>Tom Carruthers &amp; David Roberts</i>
Family Activities Committee Chair:	<i>Janet Ainsworth</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair:	<i>Barry Gorfain</i>
Member at Large:	<i>Bea Holt</i>
Member at Large:	<i>John Grasso</i>
Membership Committee Chair:	<i>Alison Terjek</i>
Mountaineering Committee Chair:	<i>Pete Gajdosik</i>
Newsletter Editor:	<i>Darcy Witham</i>
Northwest Camp Committee Co-Chairs:	<i>Tom McGrath &amp; Rod Parlee</i>
Program Chair:	<i>Michelle Baughman</i>
Webmaster/Technology Chair:	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Whitewater Committee Co-Chairs:	<i>Mark Schappert &amp; Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Committee Chair:	<i>Alison Terjek</i>

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

Bob spoke briefly of the Chapter's need for volunteers for various committees. Lastly, Bob noted the tradition of the red hats, and asked all past chairs to come forward to the podium in recognition.

At approximately 7:16 pm, Bob called for a motion to conclude the Annual Business Meeting, which motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously. Michelle Baughman came to the podium to introduce the speaker for the evening program, *David Roberts*.

*Cindy Butts*, Immediate Past Secretary



**TREASURER'S REPORT  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2015**

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Cash at January 1</b>	<b>\$125,005</b>	<b>\$151,073</b>
<b>Revenue Collected:</b>		
Joy Street dues allocation	26,945	27,984
Program activities	16,832	20,743
Contributions	2,100	100
Reserve funds- sources (1)	2,425	4,559
Share of initial memberships	1,940	1,670
Leadership training	8,055	12,215
Merchandise sales	203	120
Interest and investment income	<u>17,539</u>	<u>(4,143)</u>
<b>Total revenue collected</b>	<b>\$76,039</b>	<b>\$63,248</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Cost of program activities	19,048	24,495
Cost of Merchandise	120	90
Reserve funds- uses (1)	1,872	5,036
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	748	298
Conservation	904	945
East of the River	0	190
Education	8,690	8,406
Excursions	-	285
Executive	8,640	10,632
Flatwater	-	17
Membership	292	512
Mountaineering	495	402
Trails	7,759	7,771
Whitewater	<u>1,403</u>	<u>1,030</u>
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>\$49,971</b>	<b>\$60,109</b>
 <b>Cash at December 31</b>	 <b>\$151,073</b>	 <b>\$154,212</b>

**TREASURER'S REPORT  
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2015 AND 2016**

					<b>9/30/15</b>	<b>9/30/16</b>
<b>Cash at January 1</b>					<b>\$151,073</b>	<b>\$154,212</b>
<b>Revenue Collected:</b>						
	Joy Street dues allocation				18,636	18,610
	Program activities				10,291	11,985
	Reserve funds- sources (1)				4,559	6,255
	Share of initial memberships				1,360	1,330
	Leadership training				6,605	7,358
	Contributions				100	389
	Merchandise sales				120	216
	Interest and investment income				5,597	10,120
	<b>Total revenue collected</b>				<b>\$47,268</b>	<b>\$56,263</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>						
	Cost of program activities				12,185	12,171
	Reserve funds- uses (1)				5,037	17,139
	Committee operating expenses:					
		Bicycling			0	310
		Conservation			806	75
		Education			4,839	8,657
		Excursions			169	148
		Executive			2,028	14,076
		Flatwater			17	43
		Membership			512	474
		Mountaineering			-	49
		Programs			-	161
		Trails			3,285	5,652
		Whitewater			234	789
		<b>Total expenditures</b>			<b>\$29,112</b>	<b>\$59,744</b>
<b>Cash at September 30</b>					<b>\$169,229</b>	<b>\$150,731</b>

**TREASURER'S REPORT  
RESERVE FUNDS**

<sup>(1)</sup> 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:

		<b>12/31/14</b>	<b>12/31/15</b>	<b>9/30/16</b>
<b>Reserve funds:</b>				
	AT Handicap Accessible Project	\$7,422	\$5,176	\$5,176
	Other Trails Memorials/Grants	12,945	13,214	4,544
	Duren and Simons Memorial Scholarships	3,079	4,579	2,366
	Whitewater reserve	5,696	6,451	6,400
<b>General fund:</b>		121,931	124,792	132,245
<b>Total cash:</b>		<b>\$151,073</b>	<b>\$154,212</b>	<b>\$150,731</b>

*Al Puches*, Treasurer

# *Appalachian Trail Committee*

The Chapter Appalachian Trail (AT) 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:

- 170 individual members of the Chapter contributed 8,229 total hours to Trail activities.
- A "Section Maintainer Manual", based on the AMC's "North Country Trail Adopter's Manual", was created, printed, and distributed to all new and current section maintainers, to improve maintainer knowledge and standardize maintenance activities.
- Yale Outdoors was appointed to be the section maintainers for Hoyt Road-Bulls Bridge. We are excited to have Yale become a member of the AT-CT community.
- Corridor maintenance and reclamation is nearly 100% complete. Many sections of corridor had not been monitored since they were first obtained. Moving forward, we can routinely monitor 1/5 of our boundary annually, and thereby assess the entire boundary over a five-year period.
- An initiative to reroof our trailhead signboards was begun, with signboards at Undermountain, Breadloaf, and South Gate completed.
- The "Welcome to the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut" pamphlet was updated and 10,000 copies were printed.
- Our annual "Give A Day to the AT" had 59 participants and featured events including a stone staircase project dedicated to the memory of ATC Board member Arnie Wellman. There was the "Great Garlic Pull" for the removal of invasive garlic mustard.
- Several fires occurred in late spring: one on Mt. Algo and another north of Skiff Mountain Road.

- We were awarded a \$5,000 grant from REI, which we used to help defray the cost of a helicopter airlift of materials into Sages Ravine and Riga Shelter. The fire damaged portions of Riga Shelter were repaired, a signboard was constructed at the Sages caretaker platform, the Sage's privy was made accessible, and damaged tent platforms at Sages were repaired.
- Abuse and misuse of areas with water access by non-hiking day users continues to be a problem with no easy solution. We continue to work with our partners to address this issue, as we are seeing the Bulls Bridge situation migrate up river to South Gate, Swift's Bridge, and Great Falls/Falls Village.
- A relationship has been established with Trinity College, who had several of their freshman orientation backpacking groups perform trail maintenance at St. Johns Ledges. We hope this will become an annual occurrence, and welcome Trinity into our AT-CT family.
- Deteriorating forest health, and increased awareness following a tragic accident in Maryland, has led the Committee to survey and remove hazard trees in our camping areas. The Limestone Springs campsite was temporarily closed for this reason this summer. Approximately 40 hazard trees have been removed this year from Limestone Springs, Caesar Brook, Stewart Hollow, Belter's Bump, and Mt. Algo. This work is being performed by both volunteer certified sawyers and a professional arborist. This work will continue into the foreseeable future.
- The summer Ridgerunner program had the best season in recent memory. Our gratitude goes to our new AMC Southern New England Trail Supervisor Andrea Franklin, Ridgerunner Coordinator Adrienne Grove and her team of conscientious and hardworking ridge runners, who made over 7,000 hiker contacts, did significant routine trail maintenance and developed a strong relationship with our CT volunteers.
- Finally, we mourned the loss of our statesman, mentor, and friend Norm Sills. Norm was a former CT Trails Committee Chairman (twice!), a ATC Board of Managers member, a CT-AT icon and well-loved by many trail wide.

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

*Lana Bluege*

*Rich Cady*

*Craig Cassella*

*Walt Daniels*

*Henry Edmonds*

*Bernadette Ellegard*

*Jeff Glans*

*Gene Grayson*

*Leo Kelly*

*Jim Liptack*

*Elaine LaBella*

*Lisa Luca*

*Bob Poitras*

*Paul Reder*

*Sue Spring*

*Ann Sherwood*

*Russ Waldie*

*Andrea Franklin - AMC Regional Trails Supervisor*

*Hannah Chamberlin - ATC Trail Management Assistant*

*Adam Brown - ATC Stewardship Conservation Manager*

*Dave Boone-AT Committee Chairman*



## *Bicycling Committee*

RIDE COORDINATOR: Tom Ebersold 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, sending out weekly notices, entering rides in our trip system and leading many, many rides. Tom will be giving up his lead role as bike coordinator at the end of 2016. Mark Kiley, a long-time bike leader will take over as the main coordinator and approver. Tom and Susan Grant will serve as back up.

TUESDAY & THURSDAY EVENING RIDES: out of Manchester continued to attract many participants. Bike leaders included Judy Borrmann, David Waldburger, Rick Merritt and Bob Dickenson. Other leaders assisting were Bruce Ebbets, Tony Calabrese, Jim Gleba, 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 with many going to dinner after the ride. Leaders included Finlay and Mary Ferguson, Mark Henebry, Wayne Chapman, and Mary Ann Gleba.

WEEKEND BIKE TRIPS: included only one trip this year - Hampton Beach, NH. The leaders were Susan Grant, Rick Merritt and MaryAnn Gleba..

WEEKEND DAY BIKE RIDES: were less numerous this year. Our current active leaders continue to reach out to riders to become leaders suggesting they lead one to two rides a year. Saturday morning rides out of The Bike Shop continued for a second year in South Windsor led by Andrew Johnson and Sharon Timins.

BICYCLING COMMITTEE:

*Susan Grant, Co-Chair*

*Rick Merritt, Co-Chair*

# *Conservation Committee*

Andrew C. May & Russ Charest represented the Connecticut Chapter of the AMC many times promoting both the AMC as an outdoors club & conservation. Most times tabling was involved.

Andrew and Russ participated at the following events:

- North Haven Earth Day, April 9, 2016
- Hamden Earth Day, April 23, 2016
- Beardsley Zoo, April 23 and 24, 2016

Andrew put on a presentation at the CFPA on October 28, 2016 about photography and hiking trails.

We got rained out of several events which included the Naugatuck Duck Race & Earth Day and the CT Folk Festival and Green Expo. Better luck next year!

Andrew and Russ will both table at AMC Annual Gathering at Saint Clements Castle.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE:

*Andrew C. May*, Co-Chair

*Russ Charest*, Co-Chair



# *East-of-the-River Committee*

East-of-the-River remains a very active group of hikers. Tuesday and Thursday hikes are varied and found in all parts of Connecticut with occasional hikes in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The dedicated hike leaders vary the terrain from urban hikes, beach hikes, rail trails, to many of the higher points in the hills of our state. We continue to explore new trails to add our inventory of hikes.

There are two levels of hikes: one is a more challenging hike and the other is a more moderate hike of about five miles. The more moderate hikes are often called “alternate hikes” by the group. There is both a more challenging hike, as well as, an alternate hike on most Tuesdays and Thursdays. Attendance for hikes varies and sometimes consists of small intimate groups but can also be a larger group of as many as 30.

We have other events such as our annual “cookie swap” that will continue in the future. After the hikes, small groups often go for pizza, ice cream or coffee at nearby establishments. Our learning on each hike includes identification of tree species, wildflowers, historical buildings and landmarks.

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

EAST OF THE RIVER COMMITTEE:

*Ray Phillips, Chair*



# *Education Committee*

On the weekend of November 15-16<sup>th</sup> 2015, the Education Committee conducted a two-day leadership training at White Memorial in Litchfield. Five instructors were on hand over the weekend teaching 13 future hike leaders.

In April of 2016 the Wilderness First Aid course at White Memorial in Litchfield was attend by 35 people. The training consisted of 16 hours of various first aid topics and scenarios. SOLO provided the instructors for the weekend. Next door our one-day Leadership Training School was going on in the Mott-Van Winkle classroom where 15 new hike leaders learned A to Z on what it means to be a hike leader for the AMC.

The addition of the second Wilderness First Aid course was a great success and well received.

The annual June single day Leadership Training at Sleeping Giant trained 16 new leaders. Bill McCarthy, Janet Ainsworth, Dale Geslien, Keith Spaar, and Robin Pleshaw were on hand to cover all the topic areas and role plays.

Facebook, Constant Contact, Meetup and the CT-AMC website is being used to advertise the trainings.

In 2017 the Education Committee will be looking to expand its training offerings with a Leave No Trace Trainer course and Hard Skills Class being offered in the Spring.

The Education will be also recruiting for new Education members to assist in its training offerings.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

*Keith Spaar*, Chair

## *Excursions Committee*

In the twelve months to the end of September 2016, Connecticut Chapter Hike Leaders posted approximately 600 hikes along with several weekend and other multi-day trips. We added 16 new Hike Leaders from Connecticut. In addition, we offered an Intro to Backpacking Workshop led by Bill Curley and Dayton Rich. Other hiking-related workshops were offered by Alison Terjek, Membership and Young Members Chair. Alison achieved Hike Leader Class 3 status and worked to expand our winter 4K and above hiking program. She led several White Mountain hikes last winter.

Almost 100 different Hike Leaders led at least one hike during the year demonstrating the depth of our group of Hike Leaders. Also, over 50 of our Hike Leaders and volunteers qualified for Chapter Stewardship recognition for leading 5 or more hikes or contributing 30 or more volunteer hours. All our leaders deserve our thanks and appreciation for their efforts.

In addition to hikes led by leaders who are not part of a sponsoring group, hikes sponsored by East of the River (EOR), the Thursday Western CT Group, Young Members, and Family Activities again made major contributions. The EOR Midweek Hiking continued to sponsor four well attended hikes each week, the Western CT Thursday Group generally sponsored at least one hike each week, and our Family Activities group sponsored several hikes during the year. Our Young Members group continues to contribute to our hiking totals, with nearly 100 hikes and activities in the past year with several different leaders. 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.

This year, we started a formal program of inter-chapter hiking. We have always had hike participants from border chapters, but this year we formally welcomed interested leaders from the New York/North Jersey and Berkshire chapters as Connecticut chapter leaders. Likewise, interested CT leaders have been listed as leaders in those chapters.

Several of our Hike Leaders, in addition to leading local hikes, led backpacking and ski trips both within and beyond the state, and led 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. AT Day has grown to be the chapter's biggest outdoor event each year. This year, our 10th AT Day anniversary, we had over 185 participants in our AT Day events, which included hiking, biking, paddling, rock climbing, and trail work. Following the events, over 135 people attended the Grand BBQ at Macedonia Brook State Park. Many thanks to our All-Star BBQ Team for making the day a great success.

Once again the Excursions Committee sponsored the AMC's Fall Hiking Week as well as August Camp. We thank everyone who organized and led hikes at these great events. We also thank the Keith Spaar and the Education Committee, comprising mainly Hike Leaders, 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.

Last November, we held a Hike Leader Appreciation Party targeting the leaders in Fairfield County. Another party was held in April at CFPA in the middle of the state, and as of this writing we are planning another November party targeting our leaders in the eastern part of the state.

Jim Scheef remains an invaluable asset to the Excursions Committee and to all the club as our Webmaster and we thank Jim for all his work. Our principal hike email list now includes over 4400 names. We thank David Roberts for continuing to coordinate and send out our Weekly Upcoming Hikes List, which is well established not only for advertising our hikes but as a key element in promoting the chapter's events and events run by other committees. This year, the CT-AMC Meetup group surpassed the 1700-member mark. Many thanks to the volunteers who maintain our Meetup group, another avenue for Hike Leaders to promote their hikes.

Behind the scenes, our Excursions committee members spend countless hours maintaining our lists, approving hikes, distributing emails and responding to many emails from Hike Leaders, hikers and potential hikers. Their contributions are invaluable and very much appreciated. Phil Wilsey has been on the Excursions Committee since 2013 and this May he joined the Executive Committee as Excursions Committee Co-Chair.

EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE:

*Peg Peterson, Co-Chair*

*Phil Wilsey, Co-Chair*

*David Roberts*

*Carol Hassett*

*Dave Cronin*

*Bill Curley*



## *Fairfield County Group*

Fairfield County Group (FCG) had another successful year. In the twelve months to the end of September 2016, FCG organized ten events, which attracted a total of well over 600 people. This program consisted of five speaker meetings in Westport and five speaker meetings in Bethel.

In Westport, FCG's 2015/ 2016 season of five speaker meetings attracted a total audience of around 350 people or about 70 people per meeting, including volunteers, as in the previous year. In June 2015, FCG had to leave the Unitarian Church in Westport after very large increases in rental charges and significant reductions in the services which were supposed to be provided by the church. FCG moved to Saugatuck Congregational Church in Westport, beginning with its September 2015 meeting. The new location provides excellent facilities at a reduced cost. After reducing its offerings to cut costs at the Unitarian Church, FCG Westport meetings once again feature hot pasta, salads, desserts, wine and sodas, and FCG hopes that the new location becomes its Westport home for a long time to come.

In Bethel, FCG's meetings feature appetizers, entrees, usually pizzas, wine, desserts and coffee, as well as great speakers and interesting movies. The four speaker meetings and a movie night in Bethel during the 2015 / 2016 season attracted crowds averaging about 55 people per meeting, including volunteers, as in the previous year, and the Bethel meetings continue to be well established with a growing crowd of regulars. Unlike Westport, where FCG has had to change the location for its meetings several times in recent years, St Thomas Church in Bethel has offered a stable home for FCG meetings for many years.

FCG's meetings feature a wide range of topics, mainly in the armchair travel category, which in the 2015 / 2016 season included international locations as varied as China, Iceland, Vietnam, Chile, The Azores, Scotland and The United States. AMC Connecticut Chapter Hike Leaders Ian Lewis, Deborah Lewis, Dale Geslien, Rob McWilliams, 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 press releases for its events

and has enjoyed good local media support. All FCG events are listed on the chapter web-site, included in the Weekly, and have featured regularly in the chapter newsletters. FCG email list on Constant Contact now has about 700 names. 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. All speakers present for no fee and other costs are controlled carefully.

In addition to having a wonderful committee FCG enjoys the support of many other volunteers who are always willing to help 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*





## *Family Activities Committee*

The Family Activities Committee consists of one leader. Thus, we typically offer one hike per month during three seasons. We are always looking for more leaders. For busy families of school-aged children, there are one-day leader training sessions in April and June. Check the Education Committee tab on the chapter website ([ct-amc.org](http://ct-amc.org)) for further information. If you don't wish to lead hikes, we could always use a volunteer to plan social activities for families.

### FAMILY EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE:

*Janet Ainsworth, Chair*

# *Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee*

This year's events were hampered a bit by cancellations due to weather, low water and contrary tides. We did, however, have a full schedule of trips across the state. There were 17 trips attracting 168 paddlers of all abilities and interests.

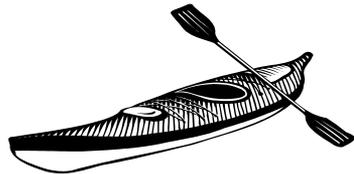
Our stalwart leaders have taken us to new places like the Niantic River, with a lobster and chicken barbeque after, and Rainbow Reservoir with its scenic shoreline. During sea kayaking by the Thimble Islands, we encountered Neptune's face above the surface of the water, and rocks carved by crew members of Capt. Kidd. This year's Fun with Kayaks was well attended and appreciated by new and experienced paddlers alike.

We look forward to next season, to explore new and familiar waters. Ahoy!

FLATWATER/COASTAL PADDLING COMMITTEE:

Eric Barbour  
Tom Ebersold  
Steve Lemoine  
Debbie Tedford

*Barry Gorfain, Chair*



# *Membership Committee*

The membership committee has offered several afternoon Beginner Hikes, workshops at CFPA and at Talcott Mountain State Park in Simsbury. Most have been well attended. Topics included an introduction to three season hiking gear, introduction to winter hiking gear and safety, and simply going for a short hike after work. Our largest event, now in the third year, is the Spring Breakfast and Hike which had 32 hikers this year.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

*Alison Terjek, Chair*



# *Mountaineering Committee*

**Recreation:** This year, Mountaineering offered 79 climbing events (climbs, trips and classes).

**Ice Climbing:** This year, Connecticut ice climbers moped and complained about the warm weather and terrible conditions throughout the region and did very little climbing. Luckily, the weather cooperated and the Beginners Ice Climbing course in North Conway was a success.

**Rock Climbing:** Indoors, we climb on Tuesday evenings at the Central Rock Gym in Glastonbury and Thursday evenings at Prime Climb in Wallingford. Indoor climbs are typically attended by 6-10 climbers. During the indoor season, we alternate monthly committee meetings between the two gyms.

In April, we moved our Thursday night climbs out of doors and, through September, we rotated through eight Connecticut crags. The outdoor climbs typically drew 6-12 climbers and we only canceled a couple of climbs due to bad weather. We offered monthly day trips for multi-pitch rock climbing to the Shawangunks, but there were no other trips to regional destinations due to a lack of available leaders. The Trails Day and AT Day try-a-climb events were very popular and well-attended.

**Education:** This year we sponsored 6 training events. Winter season programs included: Introduction to Ice Climbing and Avalanche Beacon Practice. We also held classes Top Rope Set-up, Anchor Building, and Self-Rescue. This year we experimented with a new format for the Beginners Rock Climbing workshop. In the new two-day Rock Climbing Skills & Techniques Workshop, participants chose two break-out sessions based on their climbing experience and interests. Break-out sessions included basic rock climbing, rappelling, gear selection, rope management, seconding and leading.

**Organization:** We negotiated a discount for AMC members at the Central Rock Gym and this, combined with the discount on AMC memberships, resulted in many new members. We attracted several new, regular climbers to our group and added 2 new leaders which only partially offset the void left by many inactive leaders. The Facebook Group gained an additional 75 members (275 total) and appears to be

drawing new participants to our events. This year, there were no significant injuries of AMC climbers. Club gear was inventoried, maintained and when necessary, retired. We expect to end the year with a balanced budget.

**2017 Objectives:**

First, recruit additional new leaders to help maintain our large calendar of events and offer more regional climbing trips.

Second, 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.

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

**MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE:**

*Mike Adelson*

*Robert Gregory*

*Dominick Galletti*

*Jesse Morenz*

*Mark Sondeen*

*Steve Wall*

*Chuck Boyd*

*Paul Hayes*

*Tim Linehan*

*Gustavo Nava*

*Julia Surkis*

*Gary Zempel*

*John DeAngelis*

*Patrick Jacques*

*Art Morenz*

*Gini Kramer*

*Audrey Suseno*

*Paula Zimbrea*

*Pete Gajdosik, Co-Chair*

*Kurt Zoner, Co-Chair*



# *Newsletter*

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 electronic 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.

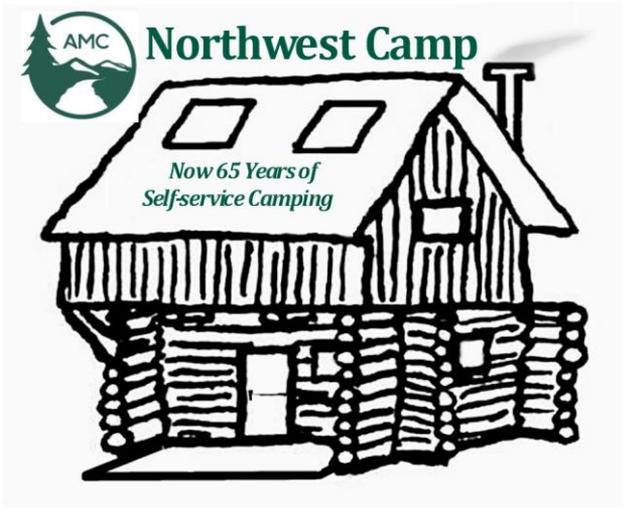
Each newsletter is always a group effort. Committee leaders and members are all encouraged to submit and share their activities, events and experiences. The goal of the newsletter is to foster greater Connecticut AMC membership and to recruit participants for upcoming events. This publication works to inform members, introduce new activities and encourage more members to volunteer, recruit, and give of their time.

Darcy Witham is editor and producer of the publication. 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 puts together several additional CT-AMC associated promotions including but not limited to flyers, announcements, brochures, posters and advertising. Eric Stones has been on board this past year volunteering his time and expertise to production support and as copy-editor. Thank you, Eric! The online newsletter is produced 3-4 times a year. All newsletters are archived and available online as a downloadable, printable pdf document.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

*Darcy Witham, Chair*

# *Northwest Camp Committee*



The Committee had an active year managing the cabin and its surrounding 125-acres, high on the Taconic plateau. The rustic but cozy cabin is constructed of American chestnut logs, tucked away under an old-growth forest canopy in a remote and environmentally sensitive area in the very northwest corner of Connecticut. The Northwest Camp committee volunteers managing this self-service facility continue to balance the needs of its guests with a safe and environmentally responsible self-service camping experience.

The sparkling pristine stream adjacent to the cabin drains to Sages Ravine and is part of the unique 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 this rare watershed and sharing what makes it a fragile and vulnerable property is a high priority of the NW Camp committee.

Productive meetings took place throughout the year and the two annual work parties, held the first Saturday in May and November, resulted in the completion of many tasks. Some highlights included, Keith Spaar of the CT Chapter Education committee leading a Leave No Trace (LNT) workshop for the committee at the Fall work party, two new Cedar rocking chairs were assembled by Rich Michna for the front deck, and a custom crafted bookcase with a painted AMC logo was installed by Trent Link at the Spring work party.

The Perseid Meteor Shower Weekend Extravaganza was action packed with two nightly cookouts, a LNT mini-workshop, a skit performed by six Ridge Runners, a Bog Trail Bridge Plant Identification Walk led by Bill Moorhead an independent consulting field botanist, a report on the Fawn Mortality Project of Northwest CT by Ray Hardy a CT DEEP Master Wildlife Conservationist, an invigorating Owl Prowl led by special guest Donna Rose of the Audubon Society, Bog Trail Education, Project Power Point (PPT) presented by Eagle Scout candidate Josh Michna and a NW Camp Potpourri PPT of volunteers in action presented by Rod Parlee. In appreciation of the importance and effectiveness of Ridge Runners, the Committee donated \$200 to the program and strongly supports more regimented monitoring and an extended season beyond Labor Day.

New committee members, Eagle Scout candidate Josh Michna (of New Hartford Troop 19) and his father, Rich were active all year planning for the completion of the Bog Trail Education Project. Josh raised funds to pay for the publication of a NW Camp Bog Trail Guide brochure with many corresponding (professionally printed and laminated) sign posts describing bog indicator species and access to the trail.

Thanks to the generosity of the CT Chapter, a new woodstove was purchased, shipped and installed, all during the month of September. The new air-tight wood stove has a cast-iron door instead of glass, thereby making it safer to use and much more efficient than the previous one. It should reduce cordwood consumption which has been on the increase. As a token of appreciation, the committee has agreed to make a plaque or emblem stating it was "Donated by the AMC CT Chapter in recognition of the role they played in building this beautiful cabin and acquiring this Forever Wild Property".

The hope remains alive that this well managed and fragile piece of property, through the committee's collaborative and information

sharing process will ensure and sustain its long-term health and viability for future generations to enjoy.

*Submitted by Rod Parlee*

### **Committee Roster with Volunteers**

Tom McGrath (Co-Chair, Moldering Privy Committee) \*  
Rod Parlee (Co-Chair, Conservation Director) \*  
Merri Fox (Secretary) \*  
Donald Klein (Caretaker) \*  
Craig Kennedy (Registrar) \*  
Al Puches (Treasurer) \*  
Paul Thoma (Financial Liaison) \*  
John Hicks (Past Chair/Caretaker – Trails Committee) \*  
Roy Hoffman (Past Chair/Caretaker)  
Carol Langley (Cabin Monitor & Green Mt Club, CT Rep)  
Trent Link (Past Chair/Caretaker) \*  
Art Mauger (Cabin Monitor) \*  
John Rek (Past Chair/Caretaker)  
Eric Harvey  
Marge Hicks  
Chris McGrath  
Josh Michna\*  
Rich Michna\*  
Tom O'Connor  
Joe Parenteau  
Ethan Rain\*  
Tim Stalling  
Angel Vega

\* denotes Stewardship Award with more than 30 volunteer hours

## *Program Committee*

The Roast Beef Spring Dinner was held April 9 at the Cheshire Grange. The Keynote speakers were husband and wife photography team Cindy Walpole and Chuck Fritsch who gave an informative and delightful presentation on "Hummingbirds of Costa Rica" to a sold-out audience. Their photography-based art is based on accurate depictions of the hummingbirds taken in the wild. Artistic license has been taken with the backgrounds and supporting elements to maximize the artistic impacts. These images show details and colors of the hummingbirds not visible to the naked eye. They present nature in a way that is both truly realistic and imaginary at the same time. Many of their remarkable photographs were compiled in their book. A book signing session followed the presentation.

The 2016 Annual Gathering returned to the lovely, historic Saint Clements Castle venue on Sunday, November 13th. The keynote speaker and sponsor for the 2016 Annual Gathering is Deborah Lewis of Bredeson Outdoor Adventures who shared her experiences as part of a groundbreaking trip to Kosovo, Macedonia and Albania that was organized by the Adventure Travel Trade Association and the United States Agency for International Development plus the tourism agencies of the governments of the toured countries. This unprecedented cross-border partnership was designed to jumpstart adventure travel as a cultivator of economic stimulus in these unexplored Western Balkan countries.

### PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

*Michelle Baughman*, Chair



# *Webmaster/Technology*

## **2016 Accomplishments**

- Maintained the website with current information for the various committees and chapter events.
- Participated in requirements study for new Chapter websites.

## **Constant Contact Email**

The use of Constant Contact has achieved the goal of better quality messaging for our members. The better format and more consistent delivery have proven this to be well worth the effort. Our emails are opened 24% of the time, which is exceedingly high for mass emailing, and indicates a high level of interest.

## **Social Media**

Our efforts on both Facebook and Meetup continue to draw people in. Our Facebook “likes” increased by 50% as Dale Geslien continues to post pictures and chapter events. Weekly our page reaches hundreds of people as posts are shared. Our Meetup group has also grown by 50% to just over 1700 appies”. Meetup continues as our best means to reach out to new people. Events are mostly posted by the leaders. An “organizer” then makes sure it is in the AMC Trips System which ensures the event and the leader are approved by the appropriate committee. Please check these out at [www.facebook.com/AMCConnecticut](http://www.facebook.com/AMCConnecticut) and [www.meetup.com/AMC-CT-Chapter](http://www.meetup.com/AMC-CT-Chapter).

## **Online Trips System**

Our chapter continues to be among the top users of the Trips System as our leaders continue to lead interesting and successful events. Key to our success here is the weekly email that contains all events coming in the next ten days. Sent using Constant Contact, the weekly reaches about 4300 people (both members and non-members).

## **Chapter-wide Email Messaging**

We continue to use this facility with good results. The mailings go to all members within our chapter with a valid email address in the AMC membership database. This allows us to reach many members who are otherwise inactive within the chapter. If you do not receive these emails, you likely need to update your email address in the AMC Member Center.

## **Chapter Phone Line**

Northwest Camp and East of the River (EOR) continue to make beneficial use of the phone line. For Northwest Camp, it is a toll-free way for people to make and confirm reservations. For EOR, the phone line provides an easy, “no computer” way to learn about each week’s East of the River hikes.

## **Online Payments**

Positive comments from members demonstrate they prefer the convenience of online payments. Over the past year we expanded use to the Education Committee and their events.

## **2017 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 hosting provided by AMC. We are scheduled to be a lead chapter in this project which has been stalled for more than a year.

## **Committee Page Maintainers**

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

Jamie Lee	Conservation
Mark Schappert	Whitewater and Young Members

All other sections are maintained by your webmaster.

Your faithful web lackey,

Jim Scheef

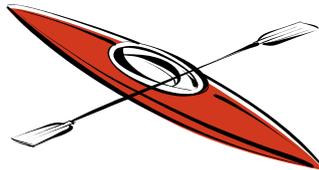
# *Whitewater Committee*

In 2016, as in years past, the Whitewater Committee started off the year with our pool instructional in Middletown and Bridgeport. These drew great attendance. CT Whitewater home river is Tville on the Farmington River, where a [Thursday evening](#) paddle was a success with many paddlers turning out for this multiple Thursday evening paddle. This led to the summer lake session instructional in July/August in combination with an on the river instructional with kayakers that attended the lake session. We have also run our annual trip to the Ottawa Kayak School in Beachburg, Canada.

This November we are held our annual leaders appreciation picnic and will presented the Stephen Forster Award, recognizing excellence in whitewater kayaking and leadership. Then Award went to Mark Schappert. Coming up in December we have our annual pool and pizza party. As in past years we have had many river trips to different states and different rivers.

*Mark Schappert, Co-Chair*

*Dennis Wigg, Co-Chair*



## *Young Members Committee*

Young Members has expanded its hike listing to include winter high elevation hiking in addition to local hikes in Connecticut and Massachusetts. I usually lead a hike at least once a week alternating between local day hikes and travel weekends. While some of our regular hikers have needed to relocate for work this year, new members continue to join our hikes. Many who have joined AMC within the past 6 months are beginning to become frequent hikers.

I do most of the event organizing for Connecticut Chapter Young Members. Thanks to Tim Hale who has led several events for the Young Members this year. We also have a leader in training, Nick Dagenais who will be co-leading the Winter Warm Up Weekend in North Conway, New Hampshire in early December. Grace Ferrante and Paul Glazebrook of Berkshire AMC will also be leading during the Winter Warm Up Weekend December 2-4<sup>th</sup>.

*Alison Terjek, Chair*

# *Nominations for the 2017 Executive Committee*

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

Chapter Chair	<i>Cindy Butts</i>
Chapter Vice Chair	<i>John Grasso</i>
Secretary	<i>Jocelyn Eppich</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
Appalachian Trail Chair	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Susan Grant</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Rick Merritt</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 Chair	<i>Keith Spaar</i>
Excursions Co-Chair	<i>Peg Peterson</i>
Excursions Co-Chair	<i>Phil Wilsey</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Family Activities Co-Chair	<i>Janet Ainsworth</i>
Family Activities Co-Chair	<i>Open</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair	<i>Barry Gorfain</i>
Member at Large	<i>Bea Holt</i>
Member at Large	<i>Open</i>
Membership Chair	<i>Alison Terjek</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Peter Gajdoski</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 Chair	<i>Michelle Baughman</i>
Webmaster/Technology	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Chair	<i>Alison Terjek</i>

## *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.

*James Cobbs* of Stamford, Connecticut

*Barbara Fraser* of Goshen, Connecticut

*Martha Griffin* of Newington, Connecticut

*Bobbie Hopkins* of Stamford, Connecticut

*Richmond Hopkins* of Stamford, Connecticut

*David Moore* of Glastonbury, Connecticut

*James Morrow* of Storrs Mansfield, Connecticut

*Patrick O'Neill* of New Canaan, Connecticut

*Sandra O'Neill* of New Canaan, Connecticut

*Alan Spier.* of Glastonbury, Connecticut

*Rosalind Spier.* of Glastonbury, Connecticut

