



APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB
CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

East of the River Newsletter

Betty Robinson, Editor

No. 48, August 2007

COMING EVENTS IN THE CHAPTER

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2007

NEW MEMBER DAY ACTIVITIES

See *AMCOutdoors* or go on Web for complete listing; Two are East of the River

Salmon River Trail, E. Hampton/Colchester, L Beth Critton
Nayantaquit Trail, Lyme, L Carol Hassett

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2007

NEW MEMBER DAY SUPPER at NORTHEAST UTILITIES, BERLIN

Social hour: 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Spaghetti Dinner: 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

The presentation is by story teller/outdoorsman/author Dick Sederquist. His topic, drawn from his book, "Hiking Out, Reflections and Stories Along the Way," is "Hiking Out," and describes "a metaphor...from the heart, about friendship, adventure, hiking, fun science, travel, spirituality, and surviving depression with humor and insight."

Cost for dinner and program is \$15. No pre-registration is required. Call: David Bellemare 203-753-9126 or e-mail: programs@ct-amc.org for more information.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2007

EAST OF THE RIVER DAY

Save this date, open to all, for hikes followed by a picnic supper at
Valley Falls, Vernon—see page 6

APPALACHIAN TRAIL DAY!, OCTOBER 20, 2007

Years ago, as old timers may recall, Marathon Day was celebrated each spring. Groups hiked the entire AT, in sections, followed by a pot-luck supper. Some of us thought it should have a revival, so save this day. It looks as if we will have about 10 hikes, several with AT themes, one a YM hike and one linked to a climbing session at St John's Ledges. In addition there will be events set up by other committees and a Grand BBQ at Macedonia SP running from mid afternoon. Our hikes are planned so that they will all finish roughly in time for the BBQ.

Beth Critton, Chair, CT Chapter

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Betty Robinson, President

Friendsofmansfieldhollow.org**FROM THE CHAIRS**

This summer three EOR hikers (Steve Garska, Dave Morris, and Phil Wilsey) completed all requirements, and were approved by Excursions, to become new hike leaders. We now have 37 leaders available to lead EOR hikes.

An EOR sub-section (similar to the Bicycling, Conservation, Education, etc. sub-sections) will be added to the CT Chapter section of AMC Outdoors beginning with the October issue and will appear in all future issues. This sub-section will provide an overview of our group's activities.

We have adopted the Spring Manor Trail in Mansfield as part of the AMC's "Chapter Trail Challenge" program. Only three hikers showed up on Betty Robinson's work party on June 7 to re-blaze the trail. I would encourage you to join Betty on her next workparty (date TBD). Please see a related article elsewhere in this newsletter.

Doug Atwell will be retiring as Co-Chair in December. I will continue on as Co-Chair. We need someone to replace Doug. Any volunteers? In addition, we will be looking for individuals interested in planning programs, suppers, and other activities. With all of the other CT activities this Fall we decided against having a Fall supper.

The CT Chapter will be sponsoring AT Day (formerly known as Marathon Day) on October 20. The entire section of the AT in CT will be divided into 10 sections with a leader for each section. Three of our leaders (Phyllis Freeman, Gene Grayson, and Betty Robinson) have volunteered to lead hikes that day. There will be a BBQ after the hikes. Details will be provided in the October issue of AMC Outdoors or can be found on the CT Chapter website.

Steve Braciak

East of the River Co-Chair

TRAILS NEWS**KOLLAR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA—A WALK IN THE PARK**

I recently hiked here, an area in the town of Tolland along the Willimantic River, which abuts the Nye Holman State Forest.

Ebenezer Nye established his homestead on this land around 1720, and also Nye's toll bridge, which spanned the river to link the Tolland stage road with West Willington. The land remained in the Nye family's hands until Alice Holman Hall donated it to the state in 1931 for use as a demonstration forest. Majestic evergreen trees remain from past forestry projects.

Because this part of the river is ideal habitat for trout, the Connecticut DEP designated it as the Cole W. Wilde Trout Management Area. This catch-and-release area extends three miles upstream from the bridge and offers year-round fly-fishing. You may see fishermen wading in the river as you follow the road along the wooded shore to a view of the river meandering through a wet meadow. (from the Willimantic River Alliance web site)

The Kollar Area of 911 acres was purchased by the state of CT in 1988 from Vladimir “Red” Kollar. Mr Kollar dedicated his life to assembling and preserving one of the largest areas of open space East of the River.

This management area protects ruffed grouse habitat, funded by the Ruffed Grouse. On my hike I didn't see any grouse, but I did see three deer and three birds no longer common in CT—redstart, evening grosbeak and a pair of towhees.

The main trail is an unmarked 3 ½ miles, but an easy to follow woods road. There are a number of spur trails as well. These trails are unmarked by request of the DEP, but hikers are welcome. To reach the Kollar take I-84 to exit 69 (Route 74 in Tolland), left over the highway onto 74, and the first right onto North River road all the way to its end on dirt Babcock Road for 1¼ miles. Parking is available just up Babcock road on the left.

Don Patterson,

Historical data from the Willimantic River Alliance's web site; see their “River Rambles.”

Conservation Issues in CT

Many of you have followed the issues concerning the presence of ATVs on our trails. No legislation was passed this year—the industry just seems to have very strong lobbies and influence. In the mean time, if you run into problems while on the trail try to get some info on the make of machine. Use that cell phone to make a call to:

Toll free number to report problems: 1-800-842-HELP (4357)

The DEP web site is very helpful and Gina McCarthy, DEP Commissioner, responds quickly to e-mail. Contact her at gina.mccarthy@po.state.ct.us

To contact Governor Rell:

Gov. M Jodi Rell

Executive chambers, room 200, State Capitol, Hartford, CT 06106

Toll free phone: 800 406-1527 E-mail: governor.Rell@po.state.ct.us

CARDIGAN EXPERIENCE, '07 and '08

Twenty-seven of us had a wonderful Cardigan Experience in May. We climbed Mt Cardigan on a glorious clear day (some are sure they spotted Mt. Washington!). We spent one day going up to Franconia Notch, visiting the impressive Visitor Center and climbing to Lonesome lake Hut. For some it was their first experience in the White Mountains. On the last morning, Steve Braciak led the group over to Welton Falls before it was time to head home to Connecticut. This skeleton account doesn't begin to cover the fun we had together, the comfortable lodge, the great meals, and getting to know the manager, Tom Fisher.

By popular demand we have again reserved Cardigan Lodge for 2008. Save the dates, May 19-22, 2008. This time the East of River Committee has made all the arrangements; the only difference is that the "wonderful food" meant a lot of work, planning and transportation of food stuffs. This year's leaders said that "Next Year, Meal Service."

The total cost for the three nights, with all meals and "extras" will be about \$185.00.

More details will be coming out as the time grows closer, but we are looking forward to having a cut-off number of 35. Here's looking forward to "CARDIGAN EXPERIENCE 2008."

Steve Braciak

FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you to all who contributed to this issue—this Fall is going to be a busy one for the Chapter. As usual, I urge that you let me know when you have a change of e-mail, or move to another address. Because this goes out either by e-mail or by bulk mail we get no returned mail, only notices from your former e-mail providers that state "no longer at this address." As a member of the Membership Committee, I am responsible for hosting one of the chapter's data bases I can often pick up changes, especially old telephone numbers. It's amazing that many of the old time members still have an 203 area code in the data base when they live here east of the river. Almost all of us have an 860 code. When you notify the membership office of a move, try to remember to include your new phone and/or e-mail.

If this comes to you by snail mail, and you prefer e-mail in PDF format, please let me know at pbrobinson@snet.net

And, a special note to those of you new members who are receiving this for the first time: Welcome! As a group, EOR sponsors mid-week hikes, holds chapter wide events, publishes this newsletter and now has "Adopted a Trail."

Volunteers will be needed who can: 1. install posts along the trail's open portions, 2. help monitor the trail, and 3. install signs along the way. To help contact Steve Braciak, sbcthiker@yahoo.com, 267-4371 or Betty Robinson, pbrobinson@snet.net, 429-3206.

Betty Robinson

STORIES FROM THE TRAILS

Casey The Bandit

It was a dark and stormy night...

But wait, I am getting ahead of myself. It was a sunny and pleasant first day of summer. Twenty of us walked along the trail to the summit of Case Mt. for lunch. A few of the hikers noticed a black and white dog, partially hidden by boulders, lying next to a large rock. Dick Don, Phyllis Freeman and I hung back from the group concerned as to what he/she was doing so far into the woods. Stepping closer, drew us a "Get Out of Here Look" and when Phyllis asked him/her "Are you okay?" the dog looked away to the side, and actually turned its nose up at us. HAH! Be that way, you ungrateful creature!! So off we went, had lunch and resumed the hike. When someone said that there was a dog walking behind us, oh, it's HIM--Snooty!!! We stopped, and he cautiously approached us. Buddy, our trail dog, immediately sniffed him out and declared him harmless. After some water and treats from Barry, he became somewhat friendly, keeping up the pace and mingling with us. We, at that time, decided to name him Casey. Ever concerned, Ann Brown put together a makeshift leash and when we returned to the parking lot, she decided to take him with her. After arriving home, she called the dog warden and he was very happy to hear from her as a family had been calling and frantically searching for him.

But wait, back to the beginning.

It was a dark and stormy night, when Bandit, spooked by thunder and lightning, bolted from his home, crashing through a window and a screen, to the safety of the elements. When we found him he had spent five nights alone, lost in the woods. The End (Happy Ending)

Nijole (Nola) Currie

Several months ago two fellow hikers accompanied me to scout a hike in Penwood. While I have led hikes there before, this time I wanted to incorporate a new trail into my hike. We started off and found the trail to be filled with hard ice. But with our stableicers we were able to march forth. However, after one and half hours of trudging through the snow and ice, I decided this was not what I had in mind. So we bushwhacked over to a house and pleaded for help. The lady called her husband and he arrived on the scene from a gym where he was working out. He explained that help was on the way. Shortly thereafter a police cruiser arrived. The young officer drove us back to the car lot which had we had to walk that distance would have been the death to us three.

When we got out of the police car people in the lot looked askew at us and wondered who we were. I asked the policeman not to give us away but let them think we were famous people who was going to hike the park. I did get back to discover that we went by the sign directing up into the correct direction. I have since led a hike there using that trail successfully. It was a funny experience and I am not ashamed to share it with you.

Dick Don

SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2007

EAST OF RIVER DAY

VALLEY FALLS, VERNON

Nola Currie has reserved the pavilion at Valley Falls for a picnic! This will replace our usual potluck supper. Details will follow, but here is the general outline: there will be at least two hikes in the park, one a B, the other a C, followed by the picnic. The committee is planning to have grilled foods, with members bringing salads and desserts.

Stay tuned for more information. It sounds like a great idea, and something that we haven't done in quite a while. I am sure that Nola and Carolyn Olsen will be looking for volunteers.



EOR TRAIL BADGE

LEARN HOW TO EARN ONE TO WEAR WITH PRIDE,
SEND FOR INFO TO THE EDITOR.
LOOK FOR ONE ON MEMBERS' PACKS



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