



APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

East of the River Newsletter

Betty Robinson, Editor

No. 49, March, 2008



AMC East of the River Committee Spring Pizza Party

Saturday, May 17, 2008

Rockville United Methodist Church, 142 Grove St., Rockville
Social Hour Starts at 5:30 p.m.

\$10 per person

A variety of Pizzas will be served, Meat, Vegetarian, Cheese
Salad
Cake

Beverages: Soda, Coffee, Tea and Water

Presentation by Ann Colson, Editor of Ct Walk Book

A Virtual Tour

of some unique features along Connecticut's Blue-Blazed Hiking Trails

Directions: From the W and S, Take exit 67 off of Rte 84 and take a left and go through the intersection of Grove St. and Rte 30 (Hartford Tpke.) The church is on the left. Coming from the N Take a right off of the ramp and follow the above directions.

Reservations: Send checks, made out to CT Chapter AMC:
to Ruth Griffin: 17 Grandview Ter., Vernon, CT, 06066 by May 14.

If you have any questions contact Ruth Griffin (860)875-2427 or
e-mail Carolyn Olsen, carolynolsen@juno.com

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***Directory
 Other Environmental Groups***

Connecticut Forest and Parks Assn., 346-2372
 Connecticutwoodlands.org
Goodwin Forest 860-455-9534
QSHCorridor, 963-7226
 quinebaug.shetucket@snnet.net
Eric Thomas, WRA, wralliance@yahoo.com
Joshua Trust, joshua'slandtrust.org
Northern CT land Trust,
 northernCTlandtrust.inc
Friends of Mansfield Hollow State Park
 Betty Robinson, President
 Friendsofmansfieldhollow.org
CT State Parks
 dep.state.ct.us

FROM THE CHAIR

Our Program Committee (Nola Currie, Dot Davis, Ruth Griffin, and Carolyn Olsen) has been busy planning our Spring Pizza Party in May. Details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Thanks to all of them for their hard work!

Phyllis Freeman and Carolyn Olsen have been our Tuesday alternate hike coordinators for almost 2 years now. Michelle Baughman will be replacing them starting this summer. Thanks to Phyllis and Carolyn for their efforts in organizing these hikes and to Michelle for taking over. Zellene Sandler, with assistance from Bill Novoa (thanks Bill), will continue to coordinate the Thursday alternate hikes, Bob Nickels the Tuesday regular hikes, and Barry Resnick the Thursday regular hikes.

Since we had such a great time at Cardigan Lodge last May, we are once again organizing a trip there May 19-22. Phyllis Freeman and Betty Robinson will join me as trip leaders. The deadline for registration has been extended to April 6. Contact Steve at sbcthiker@yahoo.com, 860-267-4371

We currently have 37 EOR hike leaders who guide us over varied terrain on long and short hikes in central and eastern CT throughout the year. Some lead very often and others occasionally. We need to expand our leader pool so that we can continue to provide the wide variety of hikes we have come to enjoy so much. If you are interested in becoming a hike leader, please send me an e-mail (eastoftheriver@ct-amc.org). The next Leadership Training Session is scheduled for Sunday, June 29 at Sleeping Giant State Park.

I'm getting lonesome being the EOR co-chair all by myself. Would anyone like to help out by joining me on the CT Chapter Executive Committee as co-chair? The Executive Committee meets once every month, with the exception of July and August, at the Connecticut Forest and Park Association headquarters near Middletown. The meetings last from 7:00 to 9:00 PM with free pizza, salad, beverage, and occasionally dessert served to those showing up at 6:30.

Steve Braciak, Chair

EAST OF RIVER PATCH

This effort of introducing members to a wide variety of trails east of the Connecticut River was first approached many years ago. Members of the EOR committee shared ideas on trails which should be included, and the final decision was to include all of the Blue Trails in the area. Next we chose state parks with their own trail systems identified on park maps, such as Gay City, Bigelow Hollow, Mansfield Hollow and Mashamoquet. Additions of trails located in parts of the state where there were no Blue Trails include Goodwin Forest, West Thompson Lake and Hartman Park. This is not all-inclusive, but rather meant give an idea of the history of this project.

There is a list below of the trails which is also available on Word by requesting it. Questions have come up about “how many trails must we do in one of the parks?” the best response is that all of the identified trails (blazed and on park maps) should be done.

State parks and forests can be located on the web using dep.state.ct.us, using ‘recreation’, state parks and clicking on the desired park. The maps are in the Adobe format. One disclaimer is that some of these maps are already outdated!

For more information contact the editor.

Betty Robinson

The following trails are to be completed by the hiker in order to achieve the "EAST OF RIVER HIKER" patch. The () after the trails refers to the source of information

BLUFF POINT _____

HALEY FARM (H) _____

CASE MOUNTAIN (W) _____

DEVIL'S HOPYARD (H) _____

GAY CITY (W) _____

GILLETTE CASTLE (H) _____

GOODWIN FOREST (J) _____

HARTMAN PARK (S,H) _____

HURD ST. PARK (H) _____

MANSFIELD HOLLOW
STATE PARK _____

MASHAMOQUET (H) _____

NARRAGANSETT (W) _____

NATCHAUG (W) _____

BIGELOW HOLLOW (W) _____

NAYANTAQUIT (W) _____

NEHANTIC (W) _____

NIPMUCK TRAIL (W) _____

OLD FURNACE (W) _____

PEQUOT (W) _____

PIGEON SWAMP (J) _____

ROCK SPRING (T) _____

QUINNEBAUG (W) _____

SALMON RIVER (W) _____

SHENIPSIT (W) _____

TRAILWOOD (J) _____

WEST THOMPSON LAKE (COE) _____

J-Joshua Tract Walk Book
T-TNC/Country Walks in CT
W-CT Walk Book
H-50 Hikes, 98

EOR'S ADOPTED TRAIL—WORK DAY—THE MANOR TRAIL

Saturday, April 19, 2008 10 AM

Meet in Mansfield on Route 44, about .3 mile west of Route 195, and 0.1 mile west of the int. of Route 32. It's the site of the former Depot Restaurant.

There will be two groups:

1. The placing sign posts group, who will bring equipment and install signs along the way.
2. The 'follow the trail group' whose job is to remove small stuff from the trail, note places where new signs are needed, and to re-paint blazes as needed. We will need to have gloves and clippers and bring snacks and water. The jobs should be over by noon.

Contact Steve Braciak at sbcthiker@yahoo.com, 267-4371, or Betty Robinson at pbrobinson@snet.net, 429-3206, for more information.

HELP NEEDED BY THE EAST OF RIVER GROUP

- * **A CO-CHAIR TO WORK WITH STEVE, E-mail Steve, sbcthiker@yahoo.com,**
- * **HELPERS FOR SUPPERS, EVENTS e-mail Carolyn Olsen, carolynolsen@juno.com**
- * **NEWSLETTER CO-CHAIR—to work with Betty, computer knowledge a plus! e-mail at pbrobinson@snet.net**
- * **TRAIL WORK ON MANOR TRAIL, MANSFIELD, E-mail Steve**

FROM THE EDITOR

It continues to be a pleasure to serve as your editor, but with increasing pressures on my time, and my rather limited computer expertise, I am asking for assistance! Carol Hassett does a great job of proof reading my Publisher draft and transferring it to a PDF mode that can be received by a majority of computer users, and deserves my hearty thank you. Thanks also to all who contributed to this issue—this Spring is going to be a busy one for the Chapter. As usual, I urge that you remember to 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. If you receive this by mail and you wish it to come via e-mail, please let me know.

To help, call Steve Braciak, sbcthiker@yahoo.com, 860-267-4371 or Betty Robinson, pbrobinson@snet.net, 860-429-3206,

Betty Robinson

From the CT-AMC Conservation Committee

Our focus this year has been to raise money in support of the AMC's Maine Woods Initiative, So far we have raised nearly \$3000 in tax deductible donations. You can find out more about what you can do to help by accessing www.ct-amc.org/conservation (& we'll send you a very nice tote bag for your donation of \$10). We are also working to let people know they can sign up for clean energy for their homes, paying close attention to discussions about a carbon cap for the state of Connecticut, various legislative issues that directly impact our environment as well as organizing social activities that take us hiking outdoors, exploring and studying invasive species and so much more. If any of these sound of interest to you, or if you have a conservation related idea you'd like to share, please send an e-mail to conservation@ct-amc.org or visit our Web site. You can also visit us on the first Wednesday of each month at the CFPA HQ in Middlefield.

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

*Jamie Lee
CT-AMC Conservation Co-Chair*

LETTERS FROM FORMER MEMBERS

Greetings from Seattle where I am slowly settling in to my new residence and am acclimating to a new and different environment. The positive aspects are that my new home consists of spacious accommodations (I can even see Puget Sound when it isn't drizzling) and the closeness to my daughter and grandchildren. The negative is the leaving my many friends and acquaintances who were so supportive to me during the darkest period of my life and leaving the area we loved. It is very difficult to leave the wonderful community, which of course I will never forget and the satisfaction of being with so many splendid people.

My new address is 12523 GREENWOOD AVE.N, SEATTLE, WA. 98133.

My e-mail is miltwend2@q.com and my phone is 206-367-0068.

Milt Clark

Dear Friends,

The word may not be out, but Irene and I are moving back to the West coast. Family call; our son and daughter-in-law are there and we want to spend more time with them. Age is another a factor. In our forest retreat, we are isolated from emergency health care. We made the decision to move last year. The question remained, what to do with our 45 acres of forest nested in the Meshomasic State Forest? The best solution was to sell the property to the State.

We left Connecticut in 1956 and came back in 1996. Since then, the AMC has been an important part of my life not only as a hiker and hike leader, but as co-chair of the Conservation Committee.

We have to vacate the property by Dec. 31. Special thanks to John Cunningham who welcomed me to the AMC, guided me through the RAP hike process and got me started as a hike leader. We shared many special hikes. John is a special friend. More special thanks to Betty Robinson, who kept the EOR together, and is not only a friend, but a great role model. Thanks to Ed Richardson, for sharing his immense knowledge of Connecticut trees with all of us and enlivening many hikes with stimulating political conversations. To all of you, who listened to my ranting and political rhetoric, thank you for your patience. I've enjoyed every step of every hike with every one of you. It will be impossible to replace the warm friendships.

We will be in the Seattle area, with Franz and Robbie, for a few months and then will settle in the Portland, Oregon area. You are all welcome to visit us. Our e-mail address is: fjunga@aol.com

Best Wishes for many more years of EOR hikes. Happy Hiking,

Frank Junga

TRAILS DAY, June 7, 2008

A brochure, set up by the CFPA, will be coming out soon. Many hikes will be led by AMC leaders. We need to show our appreciation to the trails crews who keep these pathways open for our enjoyment—it's a big job, especially in a season of high waters and higher winds.

Family Hike. 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. **Mansfield Hollow State Park** A moderate hike over rolling terrain with no real hills. Sponsored by Friends of Mansfield Hollow and AMC. We'll follow the Red Trail down to the dam and have lunch on the lawn below dam. The trail passes thru wooded areas to the lake edge; we will climb to the top of the flood control dam, then check out the old dam downstream. Back to meeting place via dike. Meet at the Mansfield Hollow State Park picnic area. Bring lunch, beverage, and sun-screen.

AMC Hike Leader Betty Robinson, pbrobinson@snet.net, 860-429-3206

EOR TRAIL PATCH

Two leaders are pairing up to offer hikes based on this badge; watch for hikes led by Beth Critton and Debbie Tedford. Trails include blue Trails, state park trails and those on properties owned by land trusts in the area.

**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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