

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

East of the River Newsletter

Betty Robinson, Editor

NO. 43 , Febraury,2011

EOR Spring Ethnic Potluck & Program

At

Columbia Congregational Church

Route 87, near the Route 66 junction.

Saturday, March 26th

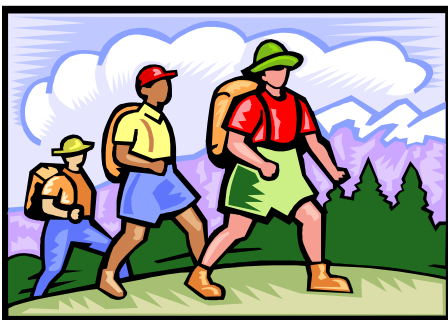
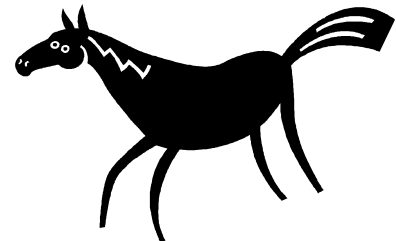
Event begins at 5:30 pm with hors d'oeuvres
Dinner at 6:00 pm
Program at 7:15 pm



AMC Horse Trek in Mongolia

Presented by Anne Bailey, former CT-AMC Chair ,
member of club's board of directors and 'world traveler'

Join us in "Going Green" and bring your own
place setting. Bring a main dish to serve 8—committee will furnish
salads, desserts and Beverage
Cost: \$6 per person



Please help plan and call in your reservations to:
Marilyn Lasso at 860-646-2291.

Questions, e-mail carolynolsen@juno.com.
Please RSVP by March 22nd.

Members of Program Committee:
CURRIE, NOLA,; DAVIS, DOT;
LASSOW, MARILYN,; MCCARTHY, JEAN; OLSEN, CAROLYN

EOR DIRECTORY

Nancy Mann, EOR Chair

860-643-1648 nancymann54@yahoo.com

Jeff Keel, Co-Chair

jensenkeel1182@att.net(860) 262-7072

Betty Robinson, editor

860-429-3206, pbrobinson@snet.net

FRIENDS OF MANSFIELD HOLLOW

We're celebrating!:

**TENTH ANNUAL MEETING,
FRIENDS OF MANSFIELD HOLLOW**

DATE:

FRIDAY MARCH 4, 2011

**PLACE: FIRST CHURCH OF
CHRIST, MANSFIELD CENTER**

**TIME: 5:30 MEET AND GREET
6:00 CATERED DINNER,**

Choice of chicken or vegetarian option

Annual meeting during dessert

7: 00 PM Program

Bill Reid, of the Last Green Valley,

will present a power point show,

"The Rivers of The Last Green Valley",

Deb Tedford, Barry Gorfain and Betty

Robinson led trips during that

three months period—maybe Bill will

have shots of us in action. It was an excit-

ing time as we followed the rivers from

their sources in Massachusetts down to

the Thames, and then to the Sound.

Bill , Director of External Affairs at

TLGV, gets to lead paddle events as part

of his job!

Cost: \$10 fmh members,

12 non-members

Checks to Deb Tedford

51 Bush Hill Dr., Niantic, CT 06357

SAD NEWS

Birge Dayton passed away on Saturday. . Birge led the first snowshoe that I ever went on. He was a major contributor in building and maintaining Connecticut's trails. I don't know if he was a member of the NHHC, but many of our members would know him. If you would distribute this information, I would appreciate it. The memorial service was in Coventry

Sandra Lee

We who have hiked with him, who have used the bridges he designed on the Blue Tails, who sat with him at hearings related to trails have missed him since he became ill. CFPA and AMC have lost a good man

Ann Colson, who used to work for CFPA also passed along the news that Dick Blake, a trail man of note, died on January 23

Eleanor Bielak died after a battle with cancer;She loved to paddle and hike;She was an 'old nurse' and shared some wonderful stories on paddles with the 'Thursday group'

From Frank Defazio & Betty

TRAIL BADGE

See page 3 for an update—yes they are still available. There must be many of our hikers who would like to sport one of these—how about checking the list and find out where you will plan a hike, or even a snowshoe trek.

The snow will be around for a long while unless a strong thaw happens!

Since the original listing, please note that some of the Joshua Trust properties now have maps on their website

EAST OF RIVER PATCH

This effort, that of introducing members to a wide variety of trails east of the Connecticut River, was first explored 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. 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

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|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| BLUFF POINT STATE PARK _____ | NEHANTIC (W) |
| HALEY FARM (H)_____ | NIPMUCK TRAIL(W)_____ |
| CASE MOUNTAIN (W)_____ | OLD FURNACE (W)_____ |
| DEVIL'S HOPYARD(H)_____ | PEQUOT (W) _____ |
| GAY CITY (W) _____ | PIGEON SWAMP (J)_____ |
| GILLETTE CASTLE (H) _____ | ROCK SPRING (T)_____ |
| GOODWIN FOREST(J) _____ | QUINNEBAUG (W)_____ |
| HARTMAN PARK (S,H) _____ | SALMON RIVER (W)_____ |
| HURD ST. PARK (H) _____ | SHENIPSIT (W) _____ |
| MANSFIELD HOLLOW
STATE PARK _____ | TRAILWOOD (J) _____ |
| MASHAMOQUET (H)_____ | WEST THOMPSON
LAKE (COE)_____ |
| NARRAGANSETT (W)_____ | |
| NATCHAUG (W) | |
| BIGELOW HOLLOW (W) | |
| NAYANTAQUIT(W) _____ | |

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

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

WINTER OF 2011 HIKING NEWS

Most of the 16 hikes planned for January by EOR leaders were cancelled due to adverse conditions.

The following comments from EOR Leader Phil Wilsey explain January trail and driving conditions very well.

Nancy Mann

I have been hiking with the EOR Group since the end of 2006 and I don't ever remember seeing so many hike cancellations. I have not been on a hike since the one on 1/11 at Penwood. Right after that hike, we got the first really big storm, which as all snow. After that, the storms seemed to come at a time where travel to the hike was hazardous or the trail conditions were not good. I went out to Burlington the afternoon before my hike to scout out a shorter version of it. No such luck. When I got there, the roads were all wet, at about 35 degrees, from the melting snow. The next morning it was supposed to be well below freezing with windy conditions. The alternate parking lots were either locked or not plowed. The trails were basically untracked snow about 2 feet deep with a breakable crust. That was after you had climbed over the 3-4 foot high banks from the snowplows. Too deep for even using Stabilicers and too crusty for snowshoes. The hike could have been done, but it would not have been enjoyable. I reluctantly canceled it, but will do it again in March. By then the snow will be gone? One advantage to this weather is that the coordinators should have an easier job filling hikes for the next month (s)? Like me, many leaders have just I rolled the hike over to another month."

Phil Wilsey

LETTER FROM AN OLD FRIEND

2010 wasn't a terribly exciting year, no major changes in our lives (no problem with that). The most exciting things have been seeing how fast our Granddaughter's mental and physical development progresses. She's 22 months old now. We see her about every six weeks, so changes are really evident. She is an incessant talker and is very quick to pick up new words. Everyone is watching their language these days. The other exciting thing was our trip to Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite. TM is North and East of the Valley at an elevation of 8600'. We all went there after Labor Day. That's late in the season, in a place that has only 30 frost free nights per year. This year was warmer. Days in the low 80's, crystal clear sky and no thunderstorms. There was a nagging worry that the altitude would bother Madelyn, but she didn't seem to notice the thinner air. There is a significant change from sea level when done in half a day. She was too busy inspecting every pebble and pine cone, etc. she ran across. TM has been a special place for Irene and me since about 1960. Franz made his first visit at five years and immediately fell in love with it. The meadow is about three miles long and a mile wide. The N. Fork of the Tuolumne River winds through it. Sharp spired Cathedral and Unicorn Peaks are to the south and granite domes are in every direction. It was especially dry; we don't remember ever seeing so many stars. The stay was over all too quickly. But, we have our reservations for next year.

Yesterday was Irene's birthday, 1/1/11, a nice symmetric date. We always celebrate with a New England lobster dinner with coleslaw and french fries and a bottle of bubbly. It's always fun. But, where did 77 years go to!

Take Good Care, stay in touch

As Ever, Irene and Frank Junga

PROFILE OF A LEADER

Phil Wilsey of Newington, Connecticut retired as an engineer after working for 34 years at Pratt & Whitney.

Phil has been hiking, camping and skiing, for over 60 years. When he retired in 2006, he became a hike leader. His leadership style is both refreshing and unique. Phil will patiently answer all questions about the hike and anything else—even if the same question was asked 25 times by 25 different hikers on that same day! Thoughtfully, he always helps hikers who need a helping hand in crossing streams or scrambling up or down those steep ledges. He is reassuring and confident about what he does and where he goes. While leading hikes, he will often tell us about some of the local history and other pertinent information of the area we are hiking on that day. Once, Phil planned a hike in West Hartford (a hike that Marty Griffin used to lead) to point out some of the campsite fire sites and routes used by the French General Rochambeau and his troops and General Enoch Poor's New Hampshire Brigade of the Continental Army in 1778 during the American Revolutionary War. While we were having lunch on some of those same camp sites, Phil shared some stories about the Continental Army, General Rochambeau and those difficult times of our nation's history. Between sites like this and Phil's willingness to share everything he has learned about the subject—it's no wonder why Phil's hikes are so interesting to all of the hikers—and his hikes not only exercise our bodies, but our minds as well.

QUESTION: What and who got you interested in hiking?

ANSWER: My parents—they took my sister and me hiking when I was 8 years old.

QUESTION: Will you share a memorable hike with us?

ANSWER: Forty years ago a friend and I hiked to Madison Spring Hut from Pinkham Notch. We went via the Osgood Trail— a difficult and strenuous hike. While hiking, the weather changed dramatically. It became severe with strong winds, heavy rain, with thunder and lightning. We took cover in my tent. Since that time, I have never seen weather like that in my many hikes in the White Mountains.

QUESTION: What is one of your favorite places to hike and why?

ANSWER: The Presidential Range of the White Mountains—because of the great views from the rock ridge area above the tree line. However, there are many other areas I enjoy as much in Connecticut such as the Mattebasett and Metacomet Trails.

QUESTION: What made you decide to become a volunteer to become a hike leader?

ANSWER: Actually, I've been leading hikes since I was in the Boy Scouts so that I could share the great outdoor experiences with others. I still do for the same reasons.

Thanks to Peter Colonis

FRIENDS OF MANFIELD HOLLOW



Over ten years ago the EOR board, Pam Lewis Chair, started looking into how we could help the park, the victim of years of neglect—we created the Old Mansfield Hollow Trail, working with the park’s supervisor, John Folsom. We looked into the possibility of formalizing our work by starting a Friends of Mansfield Hollow. This year the group is celebrating its tenth anniversary; together with DEP and CFPA we have achieved an improved trails network, advocated for a new sign board and map, a water pump, and access to the dike via a ramp. They have recently been approved for a grant in order to construct a picnic shelter!

The improved trails are in use by our hikers and skiers even in this winter of unending snow.

You are invited to join us on March 4 for dinner and program. See page 2.

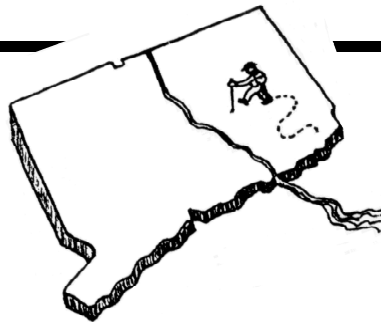
Betty Robinson, President FMH

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Now I’m wearing my other hat, as the editor for all forty three of these issues! I have loved doing it, but the pains of keeping the mailing list up to date, trying to keep e-mail lists current, even collecting materials and finding time to make the computer programs do what I want them to do, are getting to me. I desperately need a computer-savvy member to take over—for years another person, first Ruth Pfeifer, then Neal Felsing, did all the set-up. Unless some other member comes forth, this will be my last newsletter.

I do this with sorrow—it’s been a good ride, but I’d like to have more time for ‘fun AMC stuff’ rather than what is becoming just another chore.

Betty



Appalachian Mountain Club
Connecticut Chapter
32 highland Avenue
Redding, CT 06896
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Editor:
Betty Robinson

Please send changes of
address, e-mail or phone
To:
5 C Sycamore Drive
Storrs, CT 06268
Or:
Pbrobinson@snet.net

Mailed: Feb. 22, 2011