



MAINE CHAPTER

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Maine Chapter
Appalachian Mountain Club
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WILDERNESS MATTERS

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Update on Appalachian Trail Conservancy's 2017 Conference

There is a lot of work going on right now to prepare for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's 2017 Conference "Views from the Maine Woods" to be held at Colby College in Waterville, Maine on August 4-11th 2017. The conference is sponsored by the Maine Appalachian Trail Club (MATC) and the Maine Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC).

This week-long event includes over 250 hikes, numerous workshops and excursions to local areas of interest. Each evening there are exciting adventure presentations and stellar entertainment. There are options for camping, staying in the dormitories at Colby, and obtaining lodging nearby. The event draws people from around the world, and primarily from locations along the nearly 2,200 mile Appalachian trail (A.T.) At the last conference held in Maine (1997 - Sunday River) 1,380 people participated. We anticipate over 1,200 attendees in 2017.

The conference will be preceded on August 3rd and 4th by an Art and Land Conservation Symposium exploring the role of artists in American Land Conservation. Nationally-recognized scholars in art, history, American studies and law will relate how artists helped policymakers embrace a land protection ethic based on the aesthetic values of nature that played an essential role in the creation of our national and state parks. Presentations on contemporary artists in Maine and national parks with a thematic focus on the arts will also be included.

There are still plenty of opportunities to volunteer to lead hikes or help out at the conference itself. For more information or to volunteer go to: www.appalachiantrail.org/Maine2017Volunteers



Registration for the conference starts on **May 1, 2017**.

For more information about the conference go to: www.ATC2017.org

Free Food, Free Lodging for Doing Trailwork in the Maine Woods

By John Mullens

Have you thought about doing some volunteer trail work to give back for the hours you've spent hiking trails? Want to have fun doing it? Like to stay overnight as part of it and eat chef-prepared meals in a log cabin lodge? Like to sleep where you can smell the pine-scented fresh air? The Maine Chapter has the deal for you!

Apply for a scholarship that will cover all costs for food and overnight lodging during one of three trail work opportunities in AMC's MWI. The Peter Roderick Trail Work Award (PRTWA) will cover the cost of a multi-day volunteer trail work outing in AMC's MWI area in Maine. With preference to 1st or 2nd time trail work volunteers and to Young Member (20's & 30's), up to four scholarships may be awarded during any of 3 volunteer trips during 2017.

These trips have been happening for many years, are very popular, and have a limited number of participants. Normally, every participant pays a (discounted) rate to stay in the bunkhouse for 3 nights and eat 3 days of lodge-prepared meals. The trips tend to fill up with a wait-list, primarily because prior participants want to return year after year.

One purpose of the new scholarship is to open these trips to new and younger folks who may use the scholarship to attend for free. Each trip is led by one or more seasoned volunteer leaders and new volunteers get as much instruction, oversight, and independence as their experience allows.

Trip details. The three volunteer trips during 2017 are May 26-29, July 10-13, and October 6-9. Each trip begins with dinner and an overnight at one of the three AMC lodges outside of Greenville, Maine, and ends after lunch on the final day. Participants are responsible for bringing appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear, sleeping bag, and other personal items, (list provided). All charges

for bunkhouse accommodations and all meals during that time are covered by the scholarship. Participants will need to cover their transportation costs to the lodge. Final details and carpooling information will be sent in advance.

Who may apply. The PRTWA is open to anyone who has the desire to build or improve foot trails, bridging, or bog bridging in the Maine woods under the supervision of a volunteer leader. Preference will be given to first- or second-time trail work volunteers and to "young member" volunteers, generally considered to be in their 30's or younger.

How to apply. Complete the PRTWA Scholarship Application, found as a link on the Maine Chapter website. Applicants should identify their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd preference for trip dates. Complete the form online or download, complete electronically and email to mwi@amcmaine.org.

Deadline for applications. Deadlines for receipt of completed applications are April 20 and May 20. Applicants should submit a completed application ASAP. Depending on the volume and quality of the applications, all available scholarships could be awarded after the April deadline. Applicants who desire to be part of the July or October trips are advised to use the April 20 deadline. Any remaining scholarships for the July and October trips will be awarded following the May 20 deadline.

Questions? Contact MWI Committee Chair Paul Hahn at mwi@amcmaine.org for answers to specific questions.

Not for You? The Maine Chapter offers other trail work opportunities with a shorter time commitment, in Maine at no cost. For further information on volunteering for these other trail work opportunities, email trails@amcmaine.org

Wilderness Matters

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Address corrections: Send to AMC Member Services, 5 Joy Street, Boston, MA 02108 | (800) 372-1758 | amcmembership@outdoors.org

Newsletter submissions and photographs: Send to Carey Kish, Editor, at newsletter@amcmaine.org | (207) 838-9669

Maine Chapter Executive Committee

Chair: Doug Chamberlin, chair@amcmaine.org, (207) 737-2737
Vice-Chair: Kathleen Redmond-Miller, vice@amcmaine.org, (207) 400-2529
Secretary: Jeanine Libby, secretary@amcmaine.org
Treasurer: Cindy Caverly, treasurer@amcmaine.org, (207) 465-9097
At Large: Robin Kerber, atlarge@amcmaine.org
At Large: Dave McCarthy, atlarge@amcmaine.org, (207) 363-2791
Conservation: Pete Carney, conservation@amcmaine.org, (207) 236-9463
E-communications: Tim Flight, web@amcmaine.org, (207) 650-6809
Archives Chair: Chris Beam, chrisbeam9@hotmail.com, (207) 784-8933
Meetings & Education Chair: Nancy Jacobson, education@amcmaine.org, (207) 942-4924
Membership & PR: Kristen Grant, membership@amcmaine.org, (860) 675-9339
Maine Woods Initiative: Paul Hahn, mwi@amcmaine.org, (207) 222-2837
Newsletter Editor: Carey Kish, newsletter@amcmaine.org, (207) 838-9669
Nominating Chair: Paul Hahn, nominating@amcmaine.org, (207) 222-2837
Outings Chair: Bill Brooke, outings@amcmaine.org, (207) 549-5100
Past Chair: Roger David, past_chair@amcmaine.org, (207) 737-9870
Trails: Jeff Pengel, trails@amcmaine.org, (207) 446-8290
Young Members Co-Chair: Marielle Postava-Davignon, youngmembers@amcmaine.org, (617) 823-6845
Young Members Co-Chair: Sarah Keats, youngmembers@amcmaine.org, (207) 756-4226

Other Contacts

Regional Director: John Mullens, rd@amcmaine.org, 207-361-1210
Newsletter Designer: Lauren Mier, brightredbicycledesign, laurenmier@gmail.com
E-newsletter Distribution: Laura Flight, enews@amcmaine.org

Maine Policy Office

Kaitlyn Bernard, Maine Policy Associate, kbernard@outdoors.org, (207) 808-4424
Office: 30 Exchange St., Portland ME 04101.

Maine Woods Initiative Office

Dan Rinard, MWI Operations Manager, drinard@outdoors.org, (207) 695-3085
Office: 15 Moosehead Lake Rd., PO Box 310, Greenville ME 04441

Maine Chapter Volunteers in the MWI: Utilizing Many Talents

By John Mullens

Yes, you know that AMC volunteers frequently get opportunities to demonstrate and practice a wide range of talents during all seasons of the year, and, yes, you probably think this article is about some new aspect of trail maintenance only done in the winter: clearing brush so a former hiking trail can be used by snowmobiles carrying gear into one of the Maine lodges perhaps, or using downed timber to fill in low, wet spots that cause a ski trail to go soft and boggy too early in Spring.

But no, this article is about Maine Chapter volunteers having fun as they help to complete the new construction of Medawisla Lodge and Cabins in Greenville, Maine, nearing completion for a scheduled July 1 grand opening. In January and February, small groups of Maine Chapter volunteers converged on Medawisla ready for anything that would help bring the new facility closer to the finish line.

Upon arriving at the construction site in that deep winter timeframe, they found that the new buildings were all up, insulated, closed in, and getting finished inside. That included the new lodge, 5 full-service cabins, 4 self-service cabins, 2 bunkhouses, a pavilion for warm-weather gatherings, an equipment barn, and a couple of staff cabins.

What was needed then, in the depth of winter, was help finishing the insides of the buildings. Some volunteers got to show off their sanding skills on the interior floors and wood wall paneling in the new cabins. Some folks worked with big floor sanders, while others did the delicate hand sanding in tight corners. Still others got to perfect their skills applying urethane to the now sanded walls and floors or to a whole pile of baseboards cut to length, but not yet installed. A lucky few got to paint the sheet-rocked walls of meeting rooms in the lodge. Working alongside the construction crew, volunteers knew their work was valued and helped the project move along at a faster rate. Conversations with Dan Rinard, MWI Operations Manager, indicated that the volunteers were doing work that AMC seasonal staff, not yet hired, would have been responsible for completing later in the project. Now the new staff will be able to accomplish additional projects.

Lest you feel sorry for these hardworking volunteers, don't. In addition to their primary goal of contributing to AMC's building mission, these volunteers had time to hone their talents of bonding over valued work, shared good food, intriguing conversations, and incomparable memories. For AMC and Maine Chapter volunteers it was a win-win!

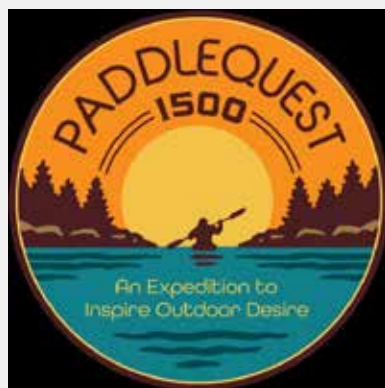
PaddleQuest 1500:

An Expedition to Inspire Outdoor Desire

Linking the Northern Forest Canoe Trail and Maine Island Trail via Canada OR How I met the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Survived Violent Storms

On June 25, 2016, John Connelly became the first to both canoe the Northern Forest Canoe Trail and kayak the Maine Island Trail, but went a step further connecting them with the Saint John River and Bay of Fundy in New Brunswick, Canada; 1500-miles in 75-days. Connelly's trip took him through 2 countries, 4 states, 22 streams, 58 lakes and the North Atlantic. Check out his trip at paddlequest1500.com. Join us as John Connelly shares this journey with us.

Thursday, April 6 at Curtis Memorial Library, Morrell Meeting Room, 23 Pleasant St., Brunswick. Presentation starts at 7pm. Optional potluck dinner will start at 6pm (please bring a dish to share, help us be green and bring your own cup, plates and silverware). Doors open at 5:30pm. Free and open to the public.



John with his canoe and kayak.
Photo credit by Chris Wall.

In Memory of John Andrews

By David McCarthy



John Andrews

The Executive committee voted to donate \$250 to the Eastern Trail Alliance in memory of John Andrews, past Chair of the Maine Chapter.

John was an innovative and acclaimed electronics design engineer who made time to be an outstanding advocate for the outdoors. He led by example as a Registered Maine Guide and trip leader for hiking, biking, and paddling activities.

Of late, he is best known as the founder of the Eastern Trail, a 65-mile transportation-recreation greenway connecting Kittery to Casco Bay in South Portland. His vision, enthusiasm, hard

work, and persistence has made the Eastern Trail a reality.

Next time you drive under the Eastern Trail/East Coast Greenway bridge over I-95 in Kennebunk - or better yet, ride over the bridge - give thanks to John Andrews.

AMC 141st Annual Summit *By Kathleen Redmond-Miller, Maine Chapter Vice-Chair*

The AMC's 2017 Annual Summit was held on January 28 in Norwood, Mass with over 300 attendees. Open to all members, it's AMC's way of thanking all the people that make the AMC's Mission a reality. There were over 20 workshops and presentations that covered the gamut of topics for the outdoors enthusiast including:

- Trouble in The Presidentials: What a Mountaineering Tragedy Teaches About Decision-Making & Managing Risk, with Primex CEO Ty Gagne
- Primitive Navigation: The Lost Art of Finding Our Way
- Yoga for the Outdoors
- Adding GPS & Apps to Map & Compass, with Philip Werner of SectionHiker.com
- CPR Certification
- AMC in DC: Our Conservation Mission in the Halls of Congress
- The Clubhouse: A Joy St. History & Slideshow
- Mountain Shenanigans, 1930s-style: The Wild Adventures of Thelma Hall & Friends

I attended the Chapter's Committee meeting - a gathering of Chapter Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Regional Directors, from all 12 Chapters. It was a good opportunity to share information among the Chapters and learn how volunteers in similar positions in other Chapters navigate the challenges and opportunities of carrying out the AMC's Mission.

I also attended an outdoor workshop, *Trails, Ecology and Forestry: AMC's Approach to Managing 70,000 acres in Maine*, by AMC conservationist and Maine Woods land manager, Steve Tatko. Steve's presentation was outstanding as he described the art and science of sustainable forest practices applied in the Maine Woods. I have to admit, I wasn't sure how Steve was going to pull off a presentation on Managing 70,000 acres in northern Maine from the lovely rolling hills and hardwood forest of the Blue Hill Reservation in Massachusetts, but he really did an A+ job.

For me, the highlight of Summit 2017 was the 141st Business Meeting held Saturday evening where incoming Board Members and Chapter Chairs were introduced, and retiring Board Members and volunteers were recognized for their service. There were many heartwarming stories of volunteers that tirelessly and selflessly served the AMC in various positions.



The Maine Chapter delegation at lunch listening to AMC President John Judge talk about the latest developments at Maine's Medawisla Camp. Photo by Tony Barrett

Three Maine Chapter members were given the Marian Pychowska Award for contributing at least 96 hours toward trail work, conservation and other efforts for the protection, enjoyment, and wise use of public lands. Congratulations and thank you to John Mullens, Dave McCarthy, and Peter Roderick.

In his talk, AMC President and Chief Executive Officer, John Judge was both reflective of the Club's proud heritage and forward looking. He talked about 140 years of annual meetings that came before and the challenges that lie ahead under a new administration and during uncertain times. He reminded us the AMC's Mission is non-partisan and that we and the Club need to remain steadfast in our commitment to the Mission. He also talked about the upcoming move from the long-time AMC Clubhouse on Joy Street this summer to a new headquarters at 10 City Square in Boston. The new location will have event and meeting space, a new archives space, and will be equipped with 21st Century Information Technology (IT) and digital systems. He talked about milestones accomplished based on the Club's Vision 2020, and starting to think about the AMC's Vision 150, when the Club celebrates 150 years in 2026. It was a valuable opportunity to listen, learn, and get to know the many good people that make up the AMC.



Internship Report *By Julia Nelson*



During my sophomore year at Colby College, I was interested in learning more about conservation work and environmental advocacy in Maine. I worked as an intern for the Appalachian Mountain Club. AMC is the oldest conservation and recreation organization in the US and has over 100,000 members and supporters as far south as Pennsylvania and as far north as Maine. In Maine, AMC employs 14

full-time staff in Greenville to manage and operate 3 wilderness huts and in Portland to direct conservation policy projects.

Opportunities for conservation and recreation are extremely important to Mainers, seeing as many residents live in rural areas surrounded by forests, mountains, and coastlines. However, these wild spaces are at constant risk of a variety of types of development; much of the state is privately owned and therefore not protected. AMC's mission is two-fold: fight for the preservation of Maine through political advocacy and connect Mainer's to the outdoors via a variety of recreational programs.

My role as intern for the Conservation Policy office was primarily to help plan the Great Maine Outdoor Weekend (GMOW), a project of the Maine Outdoor Coalition of which AMC is a member of. GMOW is a biannual event that brings together over 50 events that are outdoors-related, open to the public, and mostly free. I job shadowed Kaitlyn Bernard, the Maine Program Associate for AMC. January is the month of the legislative session for Maine and therefore AMC is working on a lot of environmental lobbying efforts at the State House and in strategy meetings with other organizations and coalition members.

My first week at AMC was partially spent orienting myself with the technology used to coordinate GMOW and then beginning to organize and

promote events that had been submitted on the event website, Facebook, and Twitter. During that week I also attended a public hearing with the Board of Environmental Protection and the Committee of Environmental Protection in Augusta regarding proposed mining regulations. It was interesting to hear concerned opposition to the changes because they would essentially allow for mining beneath water bodies and on public lands.

I attended two interesting meetings that week. The first was a power-mapping meeting on how the Maine Environmental Priorities Coalition (of which AMC is a member) can motivate Senator Susan Collins to oppose the nomination of Scott Pruitt as head of the EPA. Then, I attended a strategy meeting regarding the crafting of a comprehensive solar bill for Maine. I found it notable that the meeting included environmental NGO's and was hosted by NRCM, but there were also representatives from solar panel companies present to contribute as well.

The following week I got to visit the Maine State House. I helped the Environmental Priorities Coalition lobby during the legislative session for a variety of bills regarding conservation and environmental protection. I also observed a meeting with the Maine Committee on Environment and Natural Resources in which various concerned NGO's and companies explained how their mission is relevant to the committee.

The end of my time with AMC was spent finishing up the necessary planning for the Great Maine Outdoor Weekend (February 3-5, 2017). The Maine Outdoor Coalition is trying to involve more school children in the GMOW, so one of the collaborations I participated in was introducing the project to the Tree Street Youth Center, an organization that offers Lewiston-Auburn children with learning opportunities that they might not otherwise have access to. It was rewarding to see bonds between AMC and Tree Street being made that could potentially pay off in life-changing opportunities for students.

My experience working with AMC was powerful. I realized how crucial the role of NGOs in American society is. They are able to work effectively with both community members and government and industry officials, often as a link between these groups, in order to better our world.

SPRING CALENDAR: OUTINGS | EVENTS | MEETINGS

A note about the listings: The listings below—presented in date order by category—include only those posted online prior to the submission deadline for this issue of *Wilderness Matters*. For the most complete and accurate information and up-to-date listings—and so you don't miss spontaneous outings—please periodically check out the calendar online at www.amcmaine.org/calendar.

For general questions or comments regarding these calendar listings, contact Bill Brooke, Outings Chair and Master of the Calendar Listings, outings@amcmaine.org or (207) 549-5100. *Note: Please be courteous when contacting trip leaders by doing so before 9:00 PM unless otherwise specified. Thanks!*

Next Deadline for Wilderness Matters (Summer Issue) is June 1, 2017.

Submission info: *Wilderness Matters* is your chapter newsletter. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to contribute, be it stories, news, opinions, photos, or whatnot. We want to hear from you! Please send submissions to newsletter@amcmaine.org. *Submission guidelines: Articles, opinions, stories and such are limited to 400-500 words maximum (word counts greater than that may be edited or may not be accepted). Photos should be reduced in size to 1024 x 768 pixels or thereabouts and include a photo title, captions and any other identifying info plus proper photo credit. Thank you!*

MEETINGS

Thursday, April 6, 2017: Potluck and Presentation: PaddleQuest

1500 - An Expedition to Inspire Outdoor Desire.

<http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#95212> Contact the leader for details and to register. Leader: Michelle Moody, 207-406-5221 before 9pm, meamc@micstan.us Co-Leader: Stan Moody. PLEASE SEE FULL DESCRIPTION OF THIS PROGRAM ON P. 2 OF THIS NEWSLETTER

Thursday, April 6, 2017: The Maine Woods Initiative: the history, development and management objectives of 70,000 acres of AMC land in northern Maine with Steve Tatko, Land Manager for MWI

<http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#94158> Contact the leader for details and to register. Leader: Nancy Jacobson, 207-942-4924 before 9pm, education@amcmaine.org PLEASE SEE FULL DESCRIPTION OF THIS PROGRAM ON P. 5 OF THIS NEWSLETTER

Wednesday, April 26, 2017: OUTINGS LEADER MEETING

<http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#95592> Pot-luck dinner and Leader meeting for current leaders, leaders in training, and those who would like to become leaders. Contact the leader for details and to register. Leader: Bill Brooke, 207-549-5100 before 9pm, bill@mesoft.org

TRAIL WORK

Friday, May 26, 2017 - Monday, May 29, 2017: Trail Work - Little Lyford

Pond Camps <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#95088> Contact the leader for details and to register. Leader: Peter Roderick, 207-293-2704 before 9pm, roderick1027@fairpoint.net

Monday, July 10, 2017 - Thursday, July 13, 2017: Trail Work - Gorman Chairback Lodge and Cabins - July 11 - 14, 2017

<http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#95089> Contact the leader for details and to register. Leader: Peter Roderick, 207-293-2704 before 9pm, roderick1027@fairpoint.net

Friday, October 6, 2017 - Monday, October 9, 2017: Trail and Boundary Work - Medawisla Lodge and Cabins

<http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#95563> Contact the leader for details and to register. Leader: Peter Roderick, 207-293-2704 before 9pm, roderick1027@fairpoint.net

PADDLING

Saturday, June 17, 2017: Sea Kayaking, Brunswick. New Meadows River

<http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#95624> From the Sawyer Park boat launch in Brunswick, we'll paddle out with the tide, have lunch on an island, and return on the incoming tide. About 5 hours or so. Contact the leader for details and to register. Leader: Carolyn Welch, 207-725-8178 before 9pm, cwelch6789@gmail.com

Saturday, July 15, 2017: Sea Kayaking, Brunswick. New Meadows River

<http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#95631> From the Sawyer Park boat launch in Brunswick, we'll paddle out with the tide, have lunch on an island, and return on the incoming tide. About 5 hours or so. Contact the leader for details and to register. Leader: Carolyn Welch, 207-725-8178 before 9pm, cwelch6789@gmail.com

Saturday, August 26, 2017: Sea Kayaking, Androscoggin River,

Brunswick <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#95642> From the Water St. boat launch in Brunswick, we paddle out with the tide, have lunch on an island, and return on the incoming tide. About 5 hours or so. Contact the leader for details and to register. Leader: Carolyn Welch, 207-725-8178 before 9pm, cwelch6789@gmail.com

Tuesday, September 5, 2017: First Debsconeag Lake Canoe Camping

Getaway <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#95666> 3 night camping and paddling outing in The Nature Conservancy's Debsconeag Lakes Wilderness Area. We'll throw in a bit of hiking as well, with a visit to an ice cave and another pond with a full view of Katahdin. Contact the leader for details and to register. Leader: Michelle Moody, 207-406-5221 before 9pm, meamc@micstan.us Leader: Stan Moody meamc@micstan.us

HIKING/WALKS

Tuesday, April 11, 2017: Full Moon Walk/Biddeford, Maine

<http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#93996> Evening walk to watch the full moon rise over East Point Lighthouse off Biddeford Pool. Leader: Lorraine Hussey, 207-619-9444 before 9pm, lorrainehussey66@gmail.com

Saturday, April 15, 2017: Center Pond Preserve

<http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#93995> 5-7 mile hike on local land trust trails. Leader: Lorraine Hussey, 207-619-9444 before 9pm, lorrainehussey66@gmail.com Leader: Debby Kantor, 207-854-3431, before 9:00pm, dlkantor@aol.com

Wednesday, April 26, 2017: Cathance River Trail - Head of Tide


<http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#95846> Start at the Head of Tide Park in Topsham and head up river to the Cathance River Preserve. Trail is mostly a narrow woods trail and follows the river most of the way. We'll head up along the ravines and rapids to Barnes Leap. Leader: Michelle Moody, 207-406-5221 before 9pm, meamc@micstan.us Leader: Stan Moody meamc@micstan.us

Thursday, May 11, 2017: Full Moon Walk/Scarborough, Maine

<http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#93998> Cliff Walk, Prouts Neck, Scarborough, ME. Evening walk along the shore where Winslow Homer lived and paint to watch the full moon rise over the Atlantic. Leader: Lorraine Hussey, 207-619-9444 before 9pm, lorrainehussey66@gmail.com

Saturday, May 13, 2017: Spring Hike Warm up on Pleasant Mtn (20',

30s & Young @ Heart) <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#95484> Hike up the Southwest Ridge Trail (5.8 miles roundtrip) to the Southwest and Main summits of Pleasant Mountain. Contact the leader for details and to register. Leader: Denise Fredette, 207-939-3670 after 5pm, deniserae77@gmail.com Co-Leader: Matt Kahrman

Find us on 

<http://www.facebook.com/MaineAMC/>

Friday, May 19, 2017: Inter-Chapter Young Members Galehead Hut Weekend <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#95721> Stay at Galehead Hut and have fun hiking with YM from all over the Northeast. Contact the leader for details and to register. Leader: Sarah Keats, 207-756-4226 before 9pm, slkski@gmail.com Leader: Marielle Postava-Davignon marielle.pd@gmail.com

Wednesday, June 28, 2017: WHITE MOUNTAIN STEP-INTO-SUMMER HUT TO HUT HIKE <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#95722> Trek in the White Mountains. Much of the hike is above treeline. There are opportunities to peak as many as 3 of the Presidentials while enjoying amenities of AMC Huts. Contact the leader for details and to register. Leader: Emily Davis, 207-542-2824 after 9 PM, emilyjfdavis@gmail.com

BACKPACKING/CAMPING

Saturday, June 10: Cutler Coast Beginner Backpack (20's, 30's & Young at Heart) <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#95724> 1 night, 2 day Loop hike/backpack along Maine's shore line. Contact the leader for details and to register. Leader: Denise Fredette, 207-939-3670 after 5pm, deniserae77@gmail.com Leader: Sarah Keats, 207-756-4226 before 9pm, slkski@gmail.com

Saturday July 29: Grafton Loop Backpack West Section (20's, 30's & Young at Heart) <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#95725> 2 day, 1 night Western Grafton Loop backpack. 17.1 miles, several summits including Sunday River Whitecap and Old Speck. Contact the leader for details and to register. Leader: Denise Fredette, 207-939-3670 after 5pm, deniserae77@gmail.com Leader: Sarah Keats, 207-756-4226 before 9pm, slkski@gmail.com

BICYCLING

Friday, June 23, 2017: Hike, Bike and Boat Weekend June 23 - June 25 <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#95714> A weekend of hiking, biking and boating while staying in the bunkhouse at AMC's Little Lyford. Contact the leader for details and to register. Leader: Jeanine Libby, 207-858-5500 Before 8PM, jjlibby13@roadrunner.com

INSTRUCTION

Saturday, April 22, 2017: Advanced Wilderness First Aid <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#95438> AWFA goes into greater depth than the Basic Wilderness First Aid (WFA) on basic first aid subjects by teaching new skills such as litter packaging and traction splinting. Must have taken WFA prior. Contact the leader for details and to register. Leader: Bill Brooke, 207-549-5100 before 9pm, bill@mesoft.org

Saturday, April 22, 2017: Wilderness First Aid <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#95437> Learn to assess & treat injuries in outdoor situations. 2-day course, at Maine Audubon in Falmouth, ME taught by Stonehearth Outdoor Learning Opportunities (SOLO). Contact the leader for details and to register. Leader: Bill Brooke, 207-549-5100 before 9pm, bill@mesoft.org

Wednesday, May 3, 2017: INTRODUCTION TO BACKPACKING WORKSHOP <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#95590> For beginners and experienced hikers who would like to take the next step from day hiking to multi-day trips. The workshop will cover the basics needed for a safe and enjoyable three season backpacking trip. Contact the leader for details and to register. Leader: Bill Brooke, 207-549-5100 before 9pm, bill@mesoft.org Leader: Wayne Newton, 207-897-3072, before 9pm, hikerfig@myfairpoint.net

Saturday, June 17, 2017: Self and Assisted Kayak Rescue Course - Range Pond <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#95664> We will cover the basics of wet exits, self rescue with a few different methods and assisted rescue with a partner. We'll go over gear, safety issues and maybe throw in a few paddle strokes and techniques. Contact the leader for details and to register. Leader: Michelle Moody, 207-406-5221 before 9pm,

meamc@micstan.us Leader: Albert Mandell, 607-316-5773, before 9pm, mandell.ah@pg.com

Saturday, September 23, 2017: AMC LEADER TRAINING WORKSHOP <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#95591> This 1-day workshop is for new and prospective leaders with no prior AMC leader experience and for experienced leaders looking to improve their skills. Contact the leader for details and to register. Leader: Bill Brooke, 207-549-5100 before 9pm, bill@mesoft.org

Meetings & Education

Spring Presentation Schedule for the Bangor Region

Monthly talks are held free of charge from 6 – 7:30pm at the Bangor Public Library, generally in the first floor Croffut Room (if not there is an elevator to the 3rd floor lecture hall). **Questions?** Contact Nancy Jacobson, 207-942-4924 before 9pm, education@amcmaine.org



Steve Tatko

Thur, April 6, Steve Tatko, Land Manager for The Maine Woods Initiative will present, "The history, development and management of 70,000 acres of AMC land in northern Maine". As AMC's most ambitious conservation project, the Maine Woods Initiative has afforded the club a tremendous opportunity to practice what it preaches at a landscape scale in one of the most important conservation regions in Maine. Combining sustainable forestry, world-class recreational facilities and trails, and ecological restoration, AMC has been pioneering a new model of conservation ownership in Maine. AMC's Land Manager will reflect on the first decade of AMC's ownership and what lies ahead.

Tues, May 9: A Promising Method to Combat Climate Change. Carbon Fee and Dividend has received accolades from both sides of the aisle in Congress, and from leading scientists and economists who taught it as the best method to combat climate change. Come learn about it with representatives from a panel from the Bangor chapter of the Citizen's Climate Lobby.



Aislinn Sarnacki and her dog Oreo, Photo credit Brian Feulner.

Thur, June 8 join Aislinn for Maine Hikes and Tales. Aislinn Sarnacki is an outdoor reporter for the Bangor Daily News and author of the new guidebook "Family Friendly Hikes in Maine," to be released by Down East Books in June 2017. Aislinn will talk about some of her favorite trails from her book. She also plans to tell some entertaining stories about observing wildlife, hiking solo and endeavoring to Leave No Trace. Her presentation will include photos and video clips, a Q&A session, and a book signing if her new book is available by then!

Maine Chapter Volunteers in the MWI: Cold Sledding in the Early Morning *By John Mullens*

Do you remember what you did the weekend of February 4&5, 2017?

Remember the cold temps below zero in the early morning hours. There was snow on the ground in and around Greenville, Maine, waist deep in places and crunchy cold where others had walked. A perfect morning to dig deeper into a warm bed, turn over, and go back to sleep until the sun was up.

A hardcore group of Maine Chapter volunteers willingly ventured into that pre-dawn cold to help the 100 Mile Wilderness Sled Dog Race off to a good start. 12 volunteers performed tasks necessary to pull off both a 70-mile and a 30-mile race safely and efficiently. With nearly 20 teams of dogs needing to be harnessed and guided to the starting line, there was plenty for volunteers to do.

This was not their first dogsled "rodeo." AMC has been a sponsor of the Wilderness Sled Dog Race nearly since its inception and AMC staff and volunteers continue to be among the race's many helpers. When the snow cover is sufficient, the long race was 100 miles and teams took a mandatory layover and rest stop at AMC's Medawisla Lodge. The volunteers cared for the dogs and made food for the mushers during that two-hour layover.

This year, Susan Mullens and Gail McCarthy were official greeters and gatekeepers making sure all spectators were safely behind orange fencing where they could see all the action. Peter Roderick, Dave McCarthy, David Axelman, Henrietta Trantum, and Tom Weaver guarded road and

snowmobile crossings where race routes and public byways intersected. Their job was to give priority to the four-footed racing teams, throwing snow across plowed roads, and stopping traffic when needed. Roger David was the timekeeper at the 70-mile race turnaround checkpoint responsible for advising race headquarters when teams had arrived safely.

Kristen Grant, Kenyon Grant, Tony Barrett, and John Mullens worked as a team directly with the dogs and the mushers. First completing an inventory check with each musher to ascertain they had the required safety gear (booties, red lights, food, etc for the dogs and sleeping bag, knife, stove, compass, etc for the musher). As the dogs were hooked one by one into their harnesses and onto the long gang-line running back to the sled, Kristen and her group were often called upon to be with the dogs, helping to contain their excitement, holding back the dogs, and making sure the lines didn't get tangled. When all the dogs were ready, perhaps the most challenging task was running with the eager dogs to the start line as the timer counted down the start.

AMC staff members also helped out. Steve Tatko, MWI Land Manager, traveling the course on a snow machine, made sure the dogs and mushers were safe. Jenny Ward, AMC's Greenville Office Manager, updated a wall-sized "current standings" chart with timing information called in from Roger David and others. And MWI Education Coordinator Dawna Blackstone organized snowshoe races and games for kids in-between dogsled races.

AMC staff and volunteers worked together, each in their own tasks, contributing toward another successful race. Despite the cold, snow, and early morning start, the volunteers said they'd be back next year to do it all over again!



Unidentified Maine Chapter volunteer holds dogs just prior to race start. Photo by Tony Barrett



Musher makes last-minute adjustment to dogs' booties before heading to start line. Photo by Tony Barrett



Volunteer Kristen Grant stays warm while musher readies dogs for race. Photo by Tony Barrett



AMC Members Enjoy Playing Outdoors in Maine



Taking a hike on the newly opened Gorman Lodge Trail, Maine Chapter members have lunch just off the loop trail at West Chairback Pond and decide to 'LEAVE A TRACE' Photo by Tony Barrett



◀ Brewer Chapter member, Kristina Sullivan enjoying a ski on Little Lyford Pond. Photo by Tony Barrett

Jeanine Libby co-led this mid-November hike up French Mtn. in the Kennebec Highlands. About 10 hikers took advantage of the mild weather for this Maine Chapter hike. Photo by Tony Barrett



Monique Losier, pauses on her hike on Third Mountain along the A.T. above Long Pond and the Gorman Chairback Lodge. The white blaze is indicative of the 4-foot snow base. Photo by Tony Barrett

Checking out the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument

By Stephen & Roberta Brezinski

We visited the new Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument last September. Entry from the east is through Sherman and Staceyville west on Rt 11 and then west on the gravel Swift Brook and Old Matagamon Roads. Have a vehicle with good road clearance and tires as the roads can be rough. On the roads, give way to heavy trucks, and pay attention to your map as we noted few markers for "KWW" and no street signs. The first indicator of the monument is the heavy duty bridge crossing the East Branch Penobscot River with a small picnic area, canoe launch and toilet.

The first official part of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument is Sandbank Stream tent site which has two sites with picnic tables, fire pits, a first-rate vault toilet, and an information kiosk. The tent and parking area has access to an adjacent beaver pond. In addition to camping gear, bring your own toilet paper, and some firewood to keep from needing to strip the local forest, which I observed has already begun. You'll have to bring water with you or get it from the pond or stream and treat it.

The official entry into the Monument's Loop Road and Mile-zero is at a main gate west of Sandbank Stream tent site. There is a short hiking trail next to a photogenic beaver dam and Sandbank Stream which flows east from Lynx Pond. Mile-0.2 past the gate is another trail that goes north to Deasey Ponds, however we found the trail not recently maintained and blocked by multiple fallen trees.

When you hit the Loop Road at Mile 1.8, I recommend going clockwise, as the gravel road can be narrow in areas and this is the direction that the mile markers are visible. Soon after turning south onto the Loop at Mile-2.1, stop at Lynx Pond, a short walk in from the road; the Lynx Pond parking area is a little south of the trail.

At Mile 6.4 is a wonderful viewpoint and rest area with several picnic tables and a vault toilet. The viewpoint faces Katahdin, Millinocket Lake, and the 100-Mile Wilderness. This is a good place for lunch and to enjoy the view. There is parking for 4 or 5 vehicles.

Hiking Off the Loop Road

The Loop Road and side roads look ideal for mountain biking, but as it is narrow and shared with cars, be careful. There are several signs at the



parking lots stating: "Overnight Parking Permits Required" though when I visited, there did not appear to be anyone to get a permit from. During our 3 days there we saw no National Park Service staff, but lots of other visitors.

At Mile 5.8 is the south end of Rocky Pond Trail which parallels the Loop Road but at a lower elevation. Like other trails in the Monument, Rocky Pond Trail is a former logging road of about 3.5 miles that reconnects with the Loop Road at Mile 9. From the trailheads it looks to be former logging road, perhaps suitable for mountain bikes as well. At approximately Mile 6.6 on the Loop Road is the 3/4 mile long Slash Trail which, according to the map, goes downhill and connects with the Rocky Pond Trail. The trails are well marked where they meet with the Loop Road.

At Mile 10.8 the International Appalachian Trail intersects and goes west toward Katahdin Lake Trail and Baxter Stake Park. The IAT travels north along the Loop Road for about a mile until Mile 11.8 where the IAT branches off the Loop Road northerly at the Barnard Mountain parking lot. The IAT bends east around Barnard Mountain and

zig-zags through the KWWNM over Wassataquoik Stream, then north over Deasey Mtn (1964') and Lunksoos Mtn. (1811'). The IAT heads north mostly following the west bank of the East Branch Penobscot River and along the east side of the monument, past Haskell Hut and north on its way to Canada.

Another way to hook up with the IAT is the northerly gravel road signed Orin Falls at Mile 11.9 of the Loop Road. Drive several miles up the road to the gate and hike in from there a short distance to the IAT. If you walk 1.5 miles NW you will intersect the trail to Orin Falls which is two miles or so further. You'll also go by the Wassataquoik Ford, one of several fords where the IAT crosses the stream.

1.2 miles in from Mile 11.8 of the Loop Rd is the 0.8 mile long gentle trail up Barnard Mtn. Barnard offers a good view west into Baxter and features a picnic table.

0.3 miles in from the Barnard Mtn. parking lot is the Katahdin Brook Lean-To that holds about 6 and has a vault toilet; water can be found in the nearby Katahdin Brook. My map shows additional IAT lean-to's near the side trail to Orin Falls, NW of Lunksoos Mtn. and another lean-to far north by Grand Pitch.

Leader Recognition

Outings Committee: Bill Brooke, Outings Committee Co-Chair

This past year, 24 Outings Leaders have lead 61 biking, hiking, paddling, snowshoeing, and skiing trips in the winter, spring, summer, and fall. Our leaders generously volunteer their time in planning and leading these trips as well as the time they spend training to become and remain leaders. This year we are recognizing the leaders who have volunteered the most, both in the past year and over the past five years.

The Three Trips Award is for leaders who have lead three or more trips in the past year. The award is for one year AMC membership dues for an individual. Those achieving this award are: Bill Brooke, Cindy Caverly, Emily Davis, Denise Fredette, Lorraine Hussey, Debby Kantor, Sarah Keats, Jeanine Libby, Michelle Moody, Stan Moody, Peter Roderick, and Kim Sanders.

The Five-Year Leader Award recognizes the leaders who have lead trips for the past five consecutive years. A fleece pullover with the Maine Chapter logo was given for this award. The award recipients are: Jeff

Aceto, Ginette Beaudoin, Bill Brooke, Jeanne Christie, Roger David, Jane Gibbons, Lorraine Hussey, Debby Kantor, Sarah Keats, Michelle Moody, Judy Oneal, Peter Roderick, and Kim Sanders.

New Leaders



Sue Levene completed her leader requirements in December 2016 with a hike on the Sprague Pond trail in Phippsburg. Sue lives in Phippsburg and leads hikes in the mid coast area.



Sue Surabian led a hike on Ragged Mountain in West Rockport in January 2017 to finish her requirement to become a leader. Sue lives in Skowhegan and leads hikes throughout the state.

Young Members Section

Our focus is to get young folks in their 20's and 30's and the young-at-heart involved in outdoor recreation, raise awareness of conservation and sustainability and have fun!

How an Unpleasant Backpacking Adventure Led Me to Discover the AMC *By Sarah Hunter*

Grafton Notch: It's one of our favorite places. My husband and I visited the area in the summer of 2015 and summited our first 4,000 footer - Old Speck. Our boys were off at camp and we felt free to do anything we wanted to do. We wanted to hike. We climbed 7 more mountains that summer, but our favorite was Old Speck. When our boys returned home, we all headed to Grafton Notch and spent the weekend hiking, cooling our feet in the shallow pools at Screw Auger falls, and relaxing by the campfire each night.

In our leisure hours that weekend, I read about the Grafton Notch Loop, a 38-mile trail complete with campsites, swimming holes, and sweeping views of the Mahoosuc Mountain Range and beyond. I became enamored with the trail and with the idea of backpacking. In the months that followed I read several books about backpacking and I poured over gear reviews.

The following Christmas had a distinct backpacking theme. A two-person tent and sleeping bags were tucked under the tree, along with a Jetboil stove, solar lanterns, water bottles and filters. Poking out of the stockings, maps of the Grafton Notch trail.

Soon summer arrived and we were ready for our adventure. When our work schedules prevented us from embarking on our trip as planned, we pushed it further into the summer, to the end of July. As it happened, that weekend was hot, really hot. Without divulging the unfortunate sequence of events that unfolded, I'll simply share what I learned: If you



*Clockwise from left:
Sarah Keats climbs one of the ladders along the Eastern section of the trail. Photo credit: Sarah Hunter
John Hanmer climbs the ladder between Baldpate's East and West Peaks. Photo credit: Sarah Hunter
Sarah Keats and Sarah Hunter look back at Baldpate's East Peak. Photo credit: Denise Fredette*



enjoy carrying a heavy pack up big mountains in oppressive heat and humidity but your partner does not, I strongly recommend leaving your partner at home when the mercury rises. Also, 2-person tents are designed for two people who are happy to be together.

After one night, we hiked out in silence. It was an ordeal we would later laugh about, but in the meantime I still wanted to hike the trail. So, when we returned home I ordered a single person tent and Googled "Hiking Groups in Maine". Voila! Not only did I discover that the AMC offers backpacking trips, but the Young Members group had a Grafton Notch trip planned for the following weekend. I emailed the trip leaders and assured them that I could keep up with any twenty-year-old. I didn't have any recent evidence to support this statement, but I wholeheartedly believed it to be true.

The next Friday I pulled into the trailhead and introduced myself to the strangers I would walk into the woods with. Our backgrounds were different but our goal for the weekend was the same. That first afternoon was a mix of light conversation and quiet contemplation. We were all appreciating the trail. When evening came and we took turns trying to hang the bear bag, hilarity ensued. Friendships blossomed. We laughed a lot that weekend.

Since then I've hiked many more peaks with those friends and with others I've met on subsequent AMC hikes. My husband and I still enjoy hiking together, but now I have a whole network of people who share my enthusiasm for hiking and backpacking. I'm grateful for that difficult night that my husband and I spent in our tiny tent, because it led me to discover the AMC and some very good friends.

To be added to our Events mailing list, email: amcyoungmembers@amcmaine.org
Join our group on Facebook: [amcmaineyoungmembers](https://www.facebook.com/amcmaineyoungmembers)

Fun Weekends Planned for the Young Members!

In addition to hikes, socials and other activities, the Young Members have a number of fun camping, hut and backpacking weekends planned for this Spring and Summer. **May 19-21** is the Interchapter Young Members Galehead Hut Weekend where you'll get a chance to stay at an AMC Hut and explore the area mountains and trails, **June 10-11** we'll be doing a Beginner Backpack along beautiful Cutler Coast, **July 21-23** is our 5th Annual Interchapter Rangeley Camping Weekend with hiking and paddling options, and **July 29-30** we will be exploring the western side of the Grafton Loop on a 2-day, 1-night backpack. For more activities led by the Maine Chapter Young Members, check out the calendar at www.amcmaine.org and our Facebook page at AMC Maine/NH Young Members. See you on the Trails!



Enjoying the Sunrise on Cutler Coast June 2016 – Photo by Denise Fredette