

Wilderness



Matters

Maine Chapter
Appalachian Mountain Club
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Maine Chapter, Appalachian Mountain Club

Volume XXXIV ♦ Number 5 ♦ Fall 2009

Annual meeting celebrates new lands, leaders, travels

By Carrie Walia, chair

Seventy Maine Chapter members gathered on October 2-4 at Camp Kawanee in Weld for the Annual Meeting to celebrate another year of the chapter's success in delivering its mission of recreation, education and conservation activities throughout the state. The weekend gathering was also a time to appreciate those who make the chapter what it is.

Jeff Aceto was given the "Appie of the Year" award for his outstanding contributions to the chapter and the Executive Committee in his role of Meetings and Education chair for the past three years. Wayne Newton was honored with the "Lifetime Achievement" award and a package of Fig Newtons for being an integral part of the Outings Committee for years.

Resigning members of the Executive Committee, Jane Danielson (Conservation), Matt Colello (At Large), and Janet Roderick (Membership) were given certificates of appreciation for their service. Outings Committee awards were given by outgoing chair, Peter Roderick, to leaders who led trips in the past year.

Laura Flight was given a LL Bean life jacket for her tireless work as the chapter chair for the past two years, as well as her role in the club's Outdoor Leadership Development Committee.

Laura led the Saturday evening business meeting with a recap of chapter activities from the last year, information on subscribing to "Wilderness Matters" electronically through the AMC Member Center, and an election for incoming Executive Committee officers.

Officers who were welcomed to their new position and term include: Paul Hahn (At Large), Scott Dyer (At Large), Carrie Walia (Chair), Bob Goldman (Conservation), John Mullens (Meetings and Education), Mara Kruse (Membership), Jeff Aceto (Outings), Laura Flight (Past Chair), and Larry Dyer (Vice Chair).

Officers who will continue in their current role for another term include: Bob Cummings (Newslet-

ter), Brenda Cummings (Newsletter), Jeanne Christie (Public Relations), Diane Edwards (Secretary), Peter Roderick (Trail Maintenance), Keith Chapman (Trail Maintenance), Denise Courtemanche (Treasurer), and Tim Flight (Webmaster).

Gary Dethlefsen, the Maine Woods Initiative Operations Manager, gave an update on the recent acquisition of 29,500 acres of conservation land, a critical link in a protected greenway running from our Katahdin Iron Works (KIW) property all the way to Baxter Park and Katahdin, and the newest wilderness lodge, Gorman Chairback Camps, which is scheduled to open in 2011 in Maine's 100-Mile Wilderness region.

Guest presenter Reinhard Zollitsch of Orono showed his latest solo sea canoe adventure, "On Historic Tides: Looking for John Cabot's first landfall in the New World on Cape Breton Island,

Nova Scotia and Newfoundland." Reinhard's colorful presentation and historical teachings inspired the crowd to take up their own sea adventure. Check out Reinhard's articles at www.zollitschcanoeadventures.com.

The chapter still is in need of a Young Member chair. There are other volunteer positions in addition to serving on the Executive Committee, such as helping at presentations, training, and becoming a chapter outings leader. Contact Carrie Walia, chapter chair, at chair@amcmaine.org or 207-928-2277 to learn more about helping your AMC chapter.

Please see related story on page 3

Below, a rainy annual meeting day on Mount Abraham. Jeff Aceto photo.



Join us for fall and winter hikes and meetings

Meetings

Mon., Nov. 9 Please join us for a discussion of a landmark Clean Energy bill that will soon be voted on in the United States Senate. This major bill has already passed the US House. A representative from the Repower America organization will explain the details of the bill and its intended positive effects for the US and for Maine, including the vital goal of halting climate change. Light refreshments will be served. We'll be meeting at the South Portland Public Library, 432 Broadway, at 7 PM. L Bob Goldman (831-5929, bobg@maine.rr.com).

Thu., Nov. 12. Maine Chapter Executive Committee Meeting, The Executive Committee of the Maine Chapter meets every odd month (Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, Nov) on the second Thursday. Come voice your opinion on the direction of the Maine Chapter on important conservation topics, outdoor outing activities, and more. Meetings are open to all Maine Chapter members. The meetings are held in the upstairs meeting room of the Freeport McDonald's from 6:30PM to 8:30PM. L Carrie Wallia (928-2277, carrie.amcme@yahoo.com)

Tue. Nov. 17 Trekking in England potluck presentation. 7 PM, Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick. Contact: John Mullens at js.mullens@att.net with any questions.

Tue., Dec. 1. Beginner Series Winter Series workshop, Join experienced winter leaders Peter Broderick and Laura Flight for this introduction to clothing, gear, snow travel, and taking care of your self in the winter. Learn to keep warm, dry & functional. The workshop is designed to get experienced three-season trampers and those who would like to learn a few tricks ready for our winter hiking series. This evening workshop will be held at the S. Portland Library. Please call Peter Broderick (778-0801) to register. L Peter Broderick (207-778-0801, coolbrod@gwi.net), L Laura Flight (685-5515, flyrodflight@systemfolder.com).

Mon., Dec. 7 Maine Woods National Park discussion. Please join us as we learn about the proposal for a Maine Woods National Park & Preserve. Ken Burns called the national parks our best idea in his recent PBS series. Is this proposed park a good idea for Maine? Jym St. Pierre, Maine Director of RESTORE: The North Woods will be leading the 7 PM presentation, which will be colorful and detailed. Light refreshments will be served. We'll be meeting at the Curtis Memorial Library, 23 Pleasant St., Brunswick. L Bob Goldman (831-5929, bobg@maine.rr.com).

Sat., Jan. 30. AMC Annual Meeting. Join us on Saturday January 30th, 2010 at the Sheraton Ferncroft Resort in Danvers, MA for a full day of AMC workshops and meetings. We will wrap up the day with dinner and our keynote speaker Jon Waterman, an adventurer, photographer, and author his latest book "Where Mountains are Nameless - Passion and Politics in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge" relates his journeys into the Arctic Refuge. More information can be found on our website. Seats are ALREADY selling quickly, so register today! Overnight accommodations are also available. L Laura Flight (215-5306 before 9PM, flyrodflight@systemfolder.com).

Outings

Sat., Dec. 12. Beginner Winter Series - Bradbury Mountain State Park. Practice winter hiking skills at Bradbury Mountain State Park. 3-4 mile winter hike will include rolling hills and some short challenging climbs to lookouts on Bradbury Mountain. This hike is an opportunity to apply winter skills. Hikers are encouraged to bring full winter gear to practice taking on and off snowshoes, using crampons and preparing for more challenging winter hikes. This trip is the first hike in the Beginner Series. L Jeanne Christie (310-8708, evenings before 9, jeanne.christie@aswm.org), L Larry De Hof (310-8952, evenings before 9, ldehof@access4less.net).

Sun., Dec. 13. Pineland - Beginner Winter Series, New Gloucester. Practice winter hiking skills in the pine forests of Pineland! This 4 to 6 mile hike is an opportunity to learn winter skills including team hiking, heat management, food and drink, and gear changes. Hikers are encouraged to bring full winter gear to practice taking on and off snowshoes, using crampons, and preparing for more challenging winter hikes. This trip is the second hike in the Beginner Winter Series. L Jeff Aceto (650-5674, before 9 pm, acetajt@suscom-maine.net), CL Mary Reindeau (Mary_Riendeau@fc.sad57.k12.me.us).

Sat., Dec. 19. Beginner Winter Series - Table Rock Grafton Notch. Beginner Winter hike of 4 miles with opportunity to learn snowshoe basics conditions permitting. Great views of Grafton Notch and surrounding ridges from this ledge that hangs on the side of the notch. Can add more miles if group is interested. We will also offer heat management tips and other pertinent info for winter hiking. L Peter Roderick (293-2704, Before 9PM, roderick1027@fairpoint.net), L Carrie Wallia (carrie.amcme@yahoo.com).

Sun., Dec. 20. Rumford White Cap Mountain. For beginners and all others. Will expand on some of the basic layering and heat management. On this

short 4 mi. RT hike over moderate grades to open summit with excellent views in all directions. L George Brown (585-2259, gwbrown@tds.net), L Peter Broderick (788-0801, coolbrod@gwi.net).

Fri., Jan. 1-2. New Year's Weekend 6 Pack Mix-up #1 of 2. Cupsuptic Snow, Kennebago Divide, White Cap, Boundary, East Kennebago mixup #1 of 2. We will be hiking an assortment of these trailless 100 highest peaks this weekend depending on this year's access options. These are 5 of the 6 mountains in remote western Maine also referred to as the 6 pack. These hikes are geared towards winter 100 highest peak gatherers and will include several long miles and days. Experienced winter hikers only. A follow-up weekend is planned for January 16 and 17. Please call for more information or to sign up. L Joleen Rice (892-2685, Before 9 p.m., jrice@verrilldana.com), L Mike D'Orio (892-2685, Before 9 p.m.).

Fri., Jan. 1. Winter Series Advanced Hike - Mount Madison, White Mountains, NH. Mt Madison 5366', 8.4 miles, 4100' elevation gain. A challenging hike at a moderate pace. Full winter gear required. L Lew Dow (890-8512, Before 9PM, lwsdow@yahoo.com), L Wayne Newton (897-3072 Before 9PM), CL Peter Roderick (293-2704, Before 9PM, roderick1027@fairpoint.net).

Sat., Jan. 9-10. Winter Series Advanced Hike - The Bigelows. Backpack to beautiful Horns pond. Camp for the night. Up and over the "Horns" and then over to West Peak "4145" and Avery Peak "4088" and down Firewardens trail. Approx. 13 miles. L Chris Martin (890-6111, anytime, chrismtn@megalink.net), CL Brian Strothmann, R Chris Martin (107 Western Ave., So.Paris, ME 04281, 890-6111 anytime, chrismtn@megalink.net).

Sat., Jan. 9. Burnt Mt. - Beginner Winter Series, Carrabassett Valley. If you're new to winter hiking, here's your chance to bag a snow-topped mountain! Mid-winter hike to 3,595 ft summit of



Burnt Mountain. Outstanding views of Sugarloaf, Abraham, Crockers, and Bigelows. 6 miles total with rise of 1,600 v.f. Easy pace, intended for beginning hikers with full winter gear and some winter hiking experience. L Jeff Aceto (650-5674, before 9 pm, acetojt@suscom-maine.net), CL Jason Toner (453-8371, before 9 pm, jandstoner@roadrunner.com).

Sat., Jan. 9. Passaconaway, White Mountains, NH. Passaconaway Mt. 4043' 9.2 mi. 2950' elev. gain. Winter gear required. L Wayne Newton (897-3072, hikerfig@myfairpoint.net), CL Wanda Rice (432-7840, before 9pm).

Sat., Jan. 16-18. Zealand Falls Hut Weekend White Mountains, NH. Martin Luther King weekend at Zealand Hut. Join us for our annual winter wknd. at beautiful Zealand Hut. Sat. snowshoe or ski 6.3 mi. on roads and trails. Sun. climb a 4,000 footer, take an easy snowshoe, x-c ski, or just lounge around the hut. Bring wine and cheese to share for Sun. night, if you want. Mon. back out. \$85 covers 2 nights lodging, 2 great dinners and b'fast. Limited space; reserve early. L Wayne Newton (897-3072, hikerfig@myfairpoint.net), CL Susan Sharkey (781-961-3203, 10am to 2pm)

Sat., Jan. 16-17. MLK Weekend 6 Pack Mix-up #2. Cupsuptic Snow, Kennebago Divide, White Cap, Boundary, East Kennebago mixup #2 of 2. A continuation of our New Year's weekend hikes. We will be hiking the trailless 100 highest peaks not summited earlier in the month. Hikes are dependant on this year's access options. These are 5 of the 6 mountains in remote western Maine also referred to as the 6 pack. These hikes are geared towards winter 100 highest peak gatherers and will include several miles and long days. Experienced winter hikers only. Please call for more information or to sign up. L: Joleen Rice & Mike D'Orio. L Joleen Rice (892-2685, before 9 p.m., jrice@verrilldana.com), L Mike D'Orio (892-2685, before 9 p.m.)

Sat., Jan. 23. Little Bigelow- Beginner Winter Series. Experience winter hiking on one of Maine's most revered mountain ranges! We will ascend Little Bigelow (casually referred to in oxymoron-speak as "Little Big") via the Appalachian Trail. The 3.5 miles to the summit gains 1,750 feet in elevation and includes some open ledges and a stream crossing. Total hike 7.0 miles. The open ledges afford some great views without the risk of full summit exposure. Come experience moderately steep terrain in winter in a low-risk setting. Intended for beginner winter hikers. Snowshoes with cleats, and crampons or heavy-duty traction system (such as Katoola's "Micro-Spikes") required. L Laura Flight (215-5306 before 9PM, flyrodflight@systemfolder.com), CL Kit Pfeiffer (446-9768 before 9PM, kit_pfeiffer@yahoo.com)

Sat., Jan. 30. Winter Series Beginner Hike - Speckled Mountain. Speckled Mtn 2906'. 9.0 miles, 2306 elevation gain. A challenging beginner hike on a very moderate trail at an easy pace. Snowshoes and some sort of traction device required. L Lew Dow (890-8512 before 9PM, lwsdow@yahoo.com), CL Jennie Warner (229-1368 before 9 PM)

Winter hikers: opposite page, Cranberry Peak. Right, chapter members on the summit of Katahdin last February. A new winter hiking series for beginners and those who want to hone their winter skills begins on December 1.

Jeff Aceto photos

Jeff Aceto, Wayne Newton honored at Annual Meeting

By Laura Flight, past chair

Two chapter-wide awards were given at the annual meeting on Saturday October 3, 2009 at Camp Kawanhee in Weld.

Since 2007, the chapter has given an "Appie of the Year" award, and this year's recipient is Jeff Aceto. Jeff has served as the Meetings and Education Chair on the Executive Committee for the past three years. This series of nearly monthly presentations has been revived under Jeff's leadership and with his contagious enthusiasm. In addition to his official Executive Committee role, Jeff is a very active trip leader, both on the ground and on the water. This year he developed and led a popular sea kayaking series. Jeff also supplies photos content for the newsletter, and if you meet Jeff at an AMC event, he insists you chant the Maine Chapter web address: "www-dot-amcmaine-dot-org." Jeff was recognized with a hand-hewn maple walking stick that will be held by the current year's Appie. In addition, he was awarded a plaque with the following engraved:

Jeff Aceto, Chair of the Meetings and Education Committee of the Maine Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club is hereby recognized for his outstanding contributions to the growth, success and leadership of the chapter and the Executive Committee and is hereby designated Appie of the Year for 2009.

Awarded this day, October 3, 2009 at the AMC Maine Chapter annual meeting held at Camp Kawanhee, Weld, Maine.

The Maine Chapter also gave a "Lifetime Achievement" award. This award is given on an as deserving basis typically to someone who has served the chapter in many capacities over several years. Wayne Newton was the recipient of the award for his multiple years of leading hiking trips and his involvement with the Outings Committee for the Maine Chapter. Wayne has led well over 100 hikes and backpacks, and all of them with a dry sense of humor and with unending patience. He has the innate ability to lead a group of hikers with varying skill levels, and keep the group together and importantly also having fun! He also shares his experiences at leadership training and gives presentations of his long-distance hiking trips to other outdoor enthusiasts. Wayne was recognized with a package of Fig Newtons in honor of his trail name "Hiker Fig." In addition, he was awarded a plaque with the following engraved:

Wayne Newton is hereby recognized for his outstanding contributions to the growth and success of the Maine Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club, and for his tireless outings leadership efforts in the Appalachian region.

Awarded this day, October 3, 2009 at the AMC Maine Chapter annual meeting held at Camp Kawanhee, Weld, Maine.



Let us all welcome the wild wolves home

By Bob Goldman, AMC Maine
Chapter Conservation Committee
chairperson

*Only the mountain has lived long enough to
listen objectively to the howl of the wolf.*

—Aldo Leopold, from *Thinking Like a
Mountain*

If Katahdin and mountains in the northeast could talk, they would be urging us to help restore the wolf to its rightful place in the ecology of our region.

Wolves, along with other great predators, roamed Maine and the Northeast and throughout most of the North American continent for centuries before the arrival of the European settlers. Hundreds of thousands of wolves were part of the web of life on this vast continent. Native Americans, unprotected by homes of wood, lived among them with reverence and respect. After much observation they learned to appreciate their intricate family structure, the fascinating bond of the wolf pack, the cooperative hunting and their great intelligence.

European settlers had a different perspective on the wolf, a perspective dominated by fear, fables and ignorance. As early as 1630, wolves were targeted for elimination by the early settlers. And that drive for elimination did not end until the wolves were exterminated from all regions of the fast growing United States nearly 300 years later.

Other predators were targeted as well, but none more thoroughly and viciously as the wolf. They were shot, trapped, and poisoned. Wolf pups were destroyed in their dens, sometimes with explosives. Maine and other Northeastern states participated in this terrible injustice and assault against nature.

Wolf extermination programs were often-times sponsored by federal, state and local authorities. After centuries of mindless killing, only tiny remnants of the wolf population remained in the US, along the Canadian border, in Minnesota, and far Northern Montana.

With the emergence of the science of ecology and wildlife study in the 1920's and 1930's, some voices began to be heard that predators are a vital part of the web of life and indeed hold a key to life itself. The concept of a web of life was a new one for the American people, though certainly not for Native Americans. Aldo Leopold, who started out as a hunter and killer of wolves, played a significant role in the emergence of a more thoughtful understanding of ecology and ecosystems and how everything fits together.

It's taken a long time and is still an ongoing process. In 1973, the United States established the Endangered Species Act and since then progress has been made in righting some of the wrongs that were

committed against the natural world and the many species of wildlife that were so abused and persecuted, including the wolf.

By now, everyone is aware of the reintroduction of wolves in the Yellowstone region beginning in the winter of 1995. The wolf population of the Northern Rockies is now estimated at 1,500. In northern Minnesota where wolves were never fully eliminated, the new protection has allowed their population to grow to approximately 3,000 in Minnesota and expand to nearby Wisconsin. There are even small populations of wolves slowly being reestablished in the desert Southwest and the deep South.

So what about Maine and the rest of the Northeast? Why, thirty six years after the passage of the Endangered Species Act, is there no plan in place for restoring wolves to our state and region? It is time for the US Fish & Wildlife Service to create a wolf recovery plan for Maine and the Northeast. That is the first step that must be taken for wolf restoration to occur.

There is a general consensus in the scientific and wildlife community that the vast forest lands of Maine and the Adirondacks, along with abundant prey species, including deer, moose and beaver, could accommodate up to 2,000 wolves and some believe even more than that number. With the continued growth of the conservation and environmental movement in this country, studies consistently show a clear majority of the public embraces the goal of wildlife restoration and protection.

The wolves themselves are not waiting for us to help them return to our region. For the past twenty years, there have been numerous confirmed and

last decade by state wildlife officials. And in March of 2008, the Boston Globe reported that the US Fish & Wildlife Service confirmed the existence of an Eastern gray wolf in Western Massachusetts the month before.

Some say the wolves are here now, others say it's just an inconsequential few. Here's the point though, the wolves are trying to return, likely from nearby Quebec where they face many obstacles getting here, including the St. Lawrence River, but they are trying to return.

And we in Maine and the Northeast are doing little to help them. The conservation community needs to come together on this issue and demand a Northeast wolf recovery plan be undertaken and implemented. It starts with us coming together on behalf of the wolf, just as we are doing regarding the issue of climate change.

As a lover of this region, our wonderful mountains, forests, rivers and coast, I know that I speak for many of us in the conservation community, when I say that I also care deeply for the wildlife of my home land. Without wildlife, the landscape itself is a silent and lonely place. And the great predators are a vital part of the natural world we treasure. Our generation of conservationists here in Maine and the Northeast have an opportunity now to right a great injustice that was done to the wolf in an earlier time. Will we turn our back still and leave it to others or will we finally join together and make amends to the wolf and the nature of our home land? Let's help the wolf return home to Maine and the Northeast. Katahdin and the mountains of our region. The wolves are waiting for us to lend a hand at last.



unconfirmed reports of wolves in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York and even Massachusetts. Some of these animals were shot by hunters who claimed to be killing coyotes. DNA tests have revealed some of these 'coyotes' to be wolves. At least two wolves were confirmed here in Maine in the

If you'd like to learn more about wolves in Maine and the Northeast::

- Look for a upcoming educational/informational event sponsored by the AMC Maine chapter conservation committee on 'Welcoming the Wolves Home to Maine and the Northeast on the AMC Maine chapter website.

- Visit www.lordsofnature.org and order a newly produced one hour video entitled "Lords of Nature: Life in a Land of Great Predators." It is very well done and presents an objective, scientific and poetic view of the wolf and the success of its reintroduction to Yellowstone. You'll also hear for yourself from Minnesota farmers, ranchers and hunters how they

have come to live with the highest density of wolves in the lower 48 states and learned to accept, appreciate and respect them and their right to live among us.

- Visit www.restore.org to find out about wolf habitat protection.

Mark your calendars for Jan. 30 AMC club-wide annual meeting

Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 30, 2010. This is the date of the 134rd Annual Meeting of the Appalachian Mountain Club that will be held at the Sheraton Ferncroft Resort in Danvers, Massachusetts. There will be workshops and committee meetings during the day, and then a dinner, business meeting, and presentation in the evening. This year's Keynote Speaker is Jon Waterman, an adventurer, photographer, and author. His latest book, *Where Mountains are Nameless - Passion and Politics in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge*, relates his journeys into the Arctic Refuge. Registration is filling up quickly, especially for Saturday evening activities, so register soon at: <http://www.outdoors.org/about/annualmeeting>. If you have any questions regarding the 2010 134th Annual Meeting, please call Cindy Martell, Event & Office Coordinator, at 617-391-6603, or e-mail her at cmartell@outdoors.org.

Discussions about proposed energy bill and a Maine Woods National Park scheduled for November 9 and December 7

On Monday, November 9 at 7 PM the Chapter's Conservation Committee will hold a public discussion on the Comprehensive Clean Energy Legislation that is now before the US Senate.

Please join us for a discussion of a landmark Clean Energy bill that will soon be decided. As this is being written, this major bill has already passed the US House. A representative from the Repower America organization will explain the details of the bill and its intended positive effects for the US and for Maine, including the vital goal of halting climate change.

Light refreshments will be served. We'll be meeting at the South Portland Public Library, 432 Broadway. L Bob Goldman (207-831-5929, bobg@maine.rr.com)

On Monday, December 7 at 7 PM the committee is sponsoring a public discussion of the long-talked-about Maine Woods National Park.

Please join us as we learn about the proposal for a Maine Woods National Park & Preserve. Ken Burns called the national parks our best idea in his recent PBS series. Is this proposed park a good idea for Maine? Jym St. Pierre, Maine Director of RESTORE: The North Woods will be leading the presentation, which will be colorful and detailed.

Light refreshments will be served. We'll be meeting at the Curtis Memorial Library, 23 Pleasant St., Brunswick. L Bob Goldman (207-831-5929, bobg@maine.rr.com)

500 chapter members participated in 2009 outing activities

By Peter Roderick, outings chair

The Maine Chapter Outings Committee just completed another very successful year of activities. We offered 50 trips attended by 500 attendees ranging from winter hiking to sea kayaking to photography workshops and backpacking in the Maine woods.

All of our trips were very well attended – so well in fact that we offered a second trip to the same locale when the demand for the trip outstripped our group size restrictions. This was required several times, especially during the winter hiking series.

We offered Advanced Wilderness First Aid, Map and Compass training, Leadership workshops, and Introductions to both 3 Season and Winter hiking, as well as Sea Kayaking basics during the year. All of these offerings were well-attended, with the winter hiking workshop attracting 80 people.

Several members qualified as Maine Chapter trip leaders by completed the necessary hikes and First Aid training. We hope to continue to add to our excellent group of Maine Chapter trip leaders.

Goals for the coming year include offering more beginner and intermediate hiking trips including winter trips to better serve those members who are interested in become hikers.

We also plan to expand the sea kayaking schedule to include more trips over a wider area of the coast, including some intermediate to advanced trips including overnight trips.



Left: A Maine Chapter member creates the classic kayak-in-the-sunset-profile scene during one of the Sea Kayak Series events in August 2009. Look for an expanded series of ocean kayak trips in 2010!

Jeff Aceto Photo

Here's how you can view *Wilderness Matters* electronically on your own computer screen

By *Laura Flight*

What are you holding in your hand right now? A PAPER copy of *Wilderness Matters*. Would you prefer to save the Maine Chapter money and save a couple of trees?

If so, starting right now you can opt to receive your Maine Chapter newsletter in an electronic version only. Yes, that's right! Your AMC Maine Chapter newsletter *Wilderness Matters* is now available to you in pdf. So, if you prefer to forgo a paper copy entirely and only receive an electronic copy sent to your e-mail inbox for each issue, you can select this preference through AMC's Member Center (<http://www.outdoors.org/membership/member-center.cfm>).

Or, did you misplace your paper copy, or would you simply like to view past issues? Starting with the Summer 2009 issue, these will be posted on the Maine Chapter Website (<http://www.amcmaine.org/newsletter/>). However, in order to provide members with inside benefits, we will only post the current issue to the public one month after regular postal and electronic mail distribution.

Electronic distribution could save the chapter valuable funds, as right now it is 40% of our annual expenses. But don't worry, paper issues will be available for some time to come!

To receive the newsletters electronically, you will need to visit AMC's "Member Center." Here you can also take care of many administrative tasks such as change of address and membership renewal, and get links to Maine and other chapter activities sent to your e-mail inbox through the "Activity Digest."

The web address is: <http://www.outdoors.org/membership/member-center.cfm>. If you shared your e-mail address with AMC when you joined or renewed your membership, you should have received an e-mail informing you of this new opportunity. If not, you can go to the above address and sign on.

For complete instructions with screen-captures on how to set up an account on the Member Center, please refer to the guide posted on our website at: <http://www.amcmaine.org/wp-content/uploads/Member-Center-Guide.pdf>

To create an account on the Member Center, go to:

1. www.amcmaine.org and click on "Membership."
2. Scroll down a bit and click on "Member Center." If you have an account in the Member Center, see the information under the heading "To sign-up for electronic delivery of..." below. If this is your first visit to the Member Center, you will need **your AMC membership number to set up an account**. You can find your membership number:
 - a. on your membership card,
 - b. on the mailing label of your Maine Chapter newsletter *Wilderness Matters*, or
 - c. on your *AMC Outdoors* magazine just above

your name.

If you still can't find your member ID, you can call Member Services at 1-800-372-1758 M-F from 9-5 Eastern time, or contact:

AMCinformation@outdoors.org.

3. Enter your membership ID number.
4. Select your name.
5. Select a user name, password, and security question and answer. You will receive an e-mail confirmation.

To sign-up for electronic delivery of the Maine Chapter newsletter *Wilderness Matters*:

1. Under "Manage Your Member Profile," select "Edit Chapter Newsletter Preferences."
2. Fill in your first name, last name, email address, and email format.
3. Next to "Chapter Newsletter Preference" select "Electronic."
4. Under "Maine Chapter Newsletter" check the "Yes" box next to "Yes! I'd like to receive electronic delivery of the Maine Chapter's newsletter, *Wilderness Matters*, ..."
5. You will get a confirmation screen detailing your preference.

If you have problems, e-mail:

AMCinformation@outdoors.org or call 1-800-372-1758 Monday-Friday, 9-5 Eastern time.

Ray and Janice Ronan to tell about trekking England at Nov. 17 potluck.

Welcome to a new season of potluck presentations with the AMC Maine Chapter! We've got some great new talks planned.

First up is **Trekking in England**. Ray and Jan Ronan will present on their trekking experiences in England in 2008 on Tuesday, November 17, at the Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick.

As of last weekend, Jeff Aceto is now the Outings Chair and the Maine Chapter's new Meetings and Education Chair is John Mullens! Look for emails and more information from John in the future.

Please contact John at js.mullens@att.net with any questions.

Below, Carrie Walia, left, and Laura Flight, chapter chair and immediate past chair, caught at a recent executive committee meeting by photographer Jeff Aceto.



AMC Maine Chapter Trails Committee Reports

By Peter Roderick, chair

The trails committee offered 25 trail work trips during the reporting period. 250 volunteer trail workers joined co-chairs, Keith Chapman and Peter Roderick on these trips.

While those who volunteer are enthusiastic about doing trail work we continue to have an inconsistent turnout for all work trips with some trips unable to accommodate all volunteers who would like to join them –

mostly at Little Lyford Pond Camps in the Maine Woods Initiative area – while other trips are sparsely attended and even occasionally not attracting any volunteers other than the trip leaders.

Despite various attempts to attract more chapter members to join in the trails committee mission, the results are mixed.

Both co-chairs have announced that they will serve in those positions for one more year after which time they plan to be involved to some

degree with the committee but not as co-chairs. Consequently, the search has begun to find new leadership. With the increase in trail work activity by land trusts throughout Maine our opportunities for adding to our trail work opportunities seem to have reached a standstill and even decreased. This requires the trails committee to concentrate on those trails for which we currently provide stewardship.

One place where more trail volunteers will be needed is in the MWI area since the AMC trail crew is adding more miles to the existing trail system all of which will need to be maintained going forward. We hope to reach out to chapter members especially those in the Piscataquis County area in hopes of recruiting as trail adopters members who live nearby.

New edition is hot off the presses

Need a fresh copy of the *Appalachian Trail Guide to Maine*?

The 15th edition of the *Appalachian Trail Guide to Maine* has been published.

During a sunny September weekend, two dozen Maine Appalachian Trail Club volunteers packaged the guide book with the seven Maine maps in “zip lock” bags and sent most of the 10,000 copies to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy in Harpers Ferry, WV.

The new guide should be in stores that cater to hikers soon. Copies also may be ordered directly from MATC. That keeps more of the profits from the guide in the coffers of MATC, which maintains nearly 300 miles of the Appalachian Trail system in this state.

Just send a check or money order to Barbara Gorrill, MATC, PO Box 55, Gray, Maine, 04039.

The price is \$24 for MATC members; \$30 for non members. Membership dues are only \$15 so if you send an extra \$9 and you can both get a guide book at the non-member price, and become an MATC member.

Maine Chapter, AMC; and the Maine Appalachian Trail Club, share many members now. However, more joint memberships would help the Maine mountain trail systems that we all use.

The AMC trail crew in Pinkham Notch, assisted by volunteers, maintains the Appalachian Trail from Grafton Notch south to the Maine-New Hampshire border, and beyond, through the White Mountains, and points south.

The Maine Appalachian Trail club maintains the trail from Grafton Notch, north through the Mahoosuc Preserve, Four Ponds, Saddleback, Bigelow, Nahmakanta — and all points and side trails in between — all the way to Katahdin.

AMC’s Maine Woods Initiative in the so-called “100 mile wilderness” is bisected by several miles of the Appalachian Trail. So when you buy one of the new trail guides, think about adding the few bucks needed to become an MATC member also.

— By Bob Cummings, newsletter editor and MATC volunteer

Of building bog bridging
And benches
I take no earthly delight
But leave me alone
With a paintbrush
And I’ll blaze
All through the night
—Nancy Booth

Maine Chapter AMC Order Form

Poly Shirts

Long Sleeve	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	
Medium Blue	not avail.	not avail.	_____	_____	Unisex sizing
Forest Green	_____	_____	_____	_____	Unisex sizing
Light Blue	_____	_____	not avail.	not avail.	Women's sizing

Total # of shirts= _____
X \$20= _____
Shipping and handling (up to 3 shirts) + \$4.95= _____

Short Sleeve	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	
Medium Blue	not avail.	_____	_____	_____	Unisex sizing
Forest Green	_____	_____	_____	_____	Unisex sizing
Light Blue	_____	_____	_____	not avail.	Women's sizing

Total # of shirts= _____
X \$17= _____
Shipping and handling (up to 3 shirts) + \$4.95= _____

Cotton Shirts

Short sleeve	Small	Medium	Large	X- Large	
Eggplant	_____	_____	_____	_____	
Serene Green	_____	_____	_____	_____	

Total # of shirts= _____
X \$15= _____
Shipping and handling (up to 3 shirts) + \$4.95= _____

Zipper Pulls

With Maine Chapter logo

Note quantity to order _____
x \$4= _____
Shipping and handling (up to 3 pulls) + \$1.00= _____

Contact information

Name _____
Address _____
Town/City _____
State _____
ZIP _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

Total Cost= \$

Call or e-mail Deborah with any questions
debfl@fairpoint.net
207-293-2225

Make check payable to:
AMC- Maine Chapter

Send to:
Deborah Flight
P.O Box 268
Mount Vernon, Maine 04352

Wilderness Matters

is the newsletter of the Maine Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the policies or views of the AMC, or its Maine Chapter.

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Interested in serving on a committee or otherwise helping? Please contact us.

Maine Chapter Website:

www.amcmaine.org



Above: Janet and Peter Roderick show the fun of kayaking in tandem near Eagle Island during an ocean kayak trip in August 2009. Jeff Aceto photo.

Right: Kit Pfeiffer has joined the ranks of the Maine Chapter hike leaders with her successful mentor hike thru Camden Hills in October 2009. A resident of Camden, Kit loves sharing her midcoast “neighborhood” with fellow AMC members and this photo shows two of her favorite mountains (Bald and Ragged) in the background. Her passion for the outdoors extends to all four seasons, so look for Kit to be active in the upcoming winter hiking series. Jeff Aceto photo.



Below: Mary Riendeau became a new Maine Chapter hike leader at the annual meeting with a hike up Bald Mountain. Mary has been an AMC member since 1989. She attended Mountain Leadership School in 2007 and began leading hikes in 2008 for AMC Mountains and Music at Pinkham Notch and AMC Echo Lake Camp.

Mary lives in North Waterboro and works as a speech-language pathologist in the elementary schools in Waterboro and Shapleigh. She sings with the Choral Art Society in Portland. Mary is looking forward to leading easy and moderate hikes for the Maine Chapter. Joleen Rice photo.

