



**MAINE CHAPTER
APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB
2011 Annual Report
October 1, 2010 – October 1, 2011**



The programs, trainings and trips offered in the past year by the Maine Chapter’s Executive Committee, committee members and leaders are highlighted in this report. As you will read, the Maine Chapter has offered a wealth of information and experiences thanks to a dynamic, committed group of volunteers.

Respectfully compiled and submitted,
Carrie Walia
Maine Chapter Past Chair

Meetings & Education Committee (M&E)- John Mullens, Chair

■ **Activity Period.** This M&E Committee annual report covers the activity period from September 1, 2010 to August 31, 2011. M&E programs follow a “program year” calendar, generally running from early fall to early summer and so this report covers that activity period.

During this period, the primary function of the M&E Committee was to sponsor indoor evening events with educational and enlightenment benefits to Chapter members and others. The free events, advertised and open to the public, also served to develop a sense of belonging to the Chapter, generate enthusiasm for other Maine Chapter activities, and introduce AMC and the Maine Chapter to non-members. A secondary function of the committee this year was to sponsor programs on conservation topics in the absence of a Chapter Conservation Committee. This year’s monthly indoor events started in October 2010 and ended in May 2011. Because of the prevalence of summer outdoor activities, M&E events were not held in September 2010, or in June, July, or August 2011.

The speakers, topics, locations, and attendance are detailed below:

Table 1: 2010-2011 Events organized by the Meetings and Education Committee showing speaker, topic, location, and number of attendees by meeting.

Date	Speaker	Topic	Location	# Attendees
Oct 19	Eliza Townsend, Maine Comm of Conservation	Maine State Parks	Brunswick	47
Oct 28	Eliza Townsend, Maine Comm of Conservation	Maine State Parks	Bangor	25
Nov 9	Nathan Alsobrook, Bowdoin XC Ski Coach	Cross-country Skiing	Brunswick	34
Nov 16	Andy Tinto, AMC Facilities Mgr	Maine Mountain Lodges	Bangor	12
Dec 14	Peter Roderick and Laura Flight	Hiking the Maine AT in Winter	Brunswick	85
Jan 26	Peter Roderick and Laura	Hiking the Maine AT in	Bangor	47

	Flight	Winter		
Feb 22	Sarah Long and Steve Yenke	Mt Washington Observatory	Brunswick	67
Mar 24	Wayne Newton	True Stories of the AT	Brunswick	77
Mar 29	Carey Kish	Isle Royale National Park	Brunswick	41
Mar 31	Four Panelists and a Moderator	Land-based Wind Power in Maine	Holden	67
Apr 6	Madelyn Given	Trekking Mt. Kanchenjunga in India	Brunswick	56
May 5	Joy Norkin	Hiking with Kids	Brunswick	15
May 25	Wendy Pollack	Kilimanjaro and the Serengeti	Brunswick	32

Numbers Reached. Please somehow *quantify* the number of people reached or involved with your activities, ideally per activity and then totaled for the year. Use tables and other graphical displays as appropriate to help summarize the information.

In the 2010 program year, the M&E Committee-sponsored events reached a total of 605 attendees at 13 potluck and presentation events during this eight-month period for an average of 46 attendees per event. Although the number of attendees at each event ranged widely—from 12 to 85—the Committee believes that each program offered interesting information that was valued by our audiences. “Numbers reached” is one measurement of the committee’s success, but it is not the ultimate objective of our committee. For example, two programs drew fewer than 25 attendees each but were terrific educational events: a Registered Maine Guide shared innovative ways to engage children in hiking and other outdoor activities, and the Facilities Manager of the AMC’s Maine mountain lodges described Maine AMC facilities open to the public. The committee believes that both programs, despite their low attendance, were important to present and provided valuable and interesting information that was not reflected in the number of participants. In fact, one couple from Bangor who attended the AMC mountain lodges talk, got in touch with me a month later to say they had gone to Medawisla for a snow shoe weekend, were thoroughly entranced by the experience, and would undoubtedly return.

At the other extreme, two Brunswick programs by AMC legends Peter Roderick, Laura Flight, and Wayne Newton drew crowds far above average. Wayne’s experience and advice gained from his three AT through-hikes drew crowds eager to learn about long-distance hiking. Peter and Laura’s slide-illustrated tales of their winter hiking travails and perseverance astonished and mesmerized their audience. And in Bangor, the jointly sponsored wind power forum hit a new attendance record for the Bangor area when 67 people came to the Audubon’s Fields Pond Center.

Table 2: 2006-2011 Events organized by the Meetings and Education Committee showing number of events, total number of attendees, the percent change of total attendees, and average number of attendees by program year.

M&E Series	No. of Events	Total Attendees	Total Attendees Percent Change from	Average Attendees at Each Event
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			Previous Year	
2006-2007	5	75		15
2007-2008	10	313	+ 317	31
2008-2009	9	288	- 8	32
2009-2010	10	427	+48	42
2010-2011	13	605	+42	46

Attendance at M&E events has grown over the last five years for which we have records and this has been encouraging. As illustrated in Table 2, the 2010-2011 program year continued an upward trend in the total number of people reached. The total number of attendees during the 2010-2011 program year (605) was a 42 percent increase over the previous year (427), which was itself a 48 percent increase over 2008-2009.

In addition to assessing the total number of attendees, the M&E Committee also evaluated the number of participants by location. This was particularly interesting because of our committee objective to hold some events in other outlying cities, such as Bangor, that are historically underserved with such opportunities. We wanted to see how this strategy affected attendance in the north and south:

Table 3: 2009-2011 Events organized by the Meetings and Education Committee showing number of events and average number of attendees by location and program year.

Program Year	Number of Events by Location		Average Number of Attendees by Location	
	Brunswick and south	Bangor and Holden	Brunswick and south	Bangor and Holden
2009-2010	8	2	47.1	25.0
2010-2011	9	4	50.4	37.8

In last year's report, we theorized that the Bangor 2009-2010 program year numbers were low because there had been no recent history of AMC indoor events there in previous years and we expected that a solid participant base would take time to develop. During 2010-2011 we worked toward that goal by trying to increase both the number of Bangor events and the number of attendees. We doubled the number of events (from 2 to 4) and increased by 50 percent the average number of attendees (from 25 to 39). This was encouraging.

Much of that northern improvement resulted from our single collaboration with Maine Audubon for the wind power forum. That one event drew 67 people, nearly double the average number of attendees at the other three Bangor events. Whether this is due to the joint membership potential of both organizations, to the immediacy of the topic, or both, we can not say. However, it convinces us that we should continue to pursue both: additional programs with Maine Audubon and programs with current relevancy.

The Brunswick and south numbers continue to be larger than the Bangor area numbers. We would expect this since Brunswick and Portland are AMC population centers and have a history of M&E events.

Further, we utilize the Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick, an outstanding facility for both potlucks and speakers. Like the northern numbers, the southern numbers increased this year over last year, but the percentage increase was much less than in Bangor. The average number of attendees in Brunswick this year was 50, a seven percent increase from the Brunswick/Portland area average attendance last year.

The M&E Committee will continue to track numbers, locations, and types of events to better determine how we can reach more members and non-members.

Quality Assessment. Please somehow *qualify* how well received the activities were. Is there enthusiasm for these types of activities? Are they in demand?

Yes and yes. Enthusiasm for M&E events in Maine has grown and demand has increased steadily over the last five years. The success of these events is likely due to several factors including popular and timely topics that often combine education and adventure in a single talk, well-traveled speakers who are also accomplished presenters, prior publicity in print and on the web, and a growing membership base that has learned to expect good programs.

In addition to the typical M&E events this year, the committee also organized three events that focused more on conservation issues. While there can often be overlap between M&E and Conservation evening programs, this year the ExCom provided additional funding for M&E to develop conservation-related programming in the absence of a conservation committee. Three programs were specifically conservation-oriented. Eliza Townsend, Maine Commissioner of Conservation, spoke to the chapter and the public in Brunswick and Bangor during October. These were the first two events of the season and attendance was about average. We also organized a forum on land-based wind power in Maine in cooperation with the Fields Pond Center of Maine Audubon. This event was significant for two reasons. We initiated contact with Maine Audubon in Holden, suggested a programming partnership using their facility, discussed several possible topics and formats, selected and then worked jointly to develop the wind power program. The warm reception and resulting help from Matt Dubel, Director, and Holly Twining, Program Person, was both essential and greatly appreciated. Their contacts in the state legislature and with First Wind combined with our contacts with conservationists and AMC staff scientists resulted in a competent and balanced panel that was essential to the event's success. This event was very well attended. In fact, it had the highest attendance of our four programs in Bangor and only two Brunswick programs drew a larger audience. Many in the audience were opinionated but controlled, others were questioning and absorbing. Both sponsoring organizations were pleased with the process and outcome and we are considering a similar forum in Falmouth and other jointly sponsored events in Holden for next year.

Next year, the 2011-2012 M&E Committee will address two administrative issues: finding one or more additional program locations in the south and evaluating the benefits of consistent scheduling. In January 2011, the Committee decided to forego any further events at the South Portland Public Library unless conditions there change. We had been notified the previous year that budget restraints would change their administration of outside programs in the basement meeting space. They would no longer have a custodian available to lock up when we were finished and all programs would need to conclude in time to have participants out of the building by 8pm, about 45 – 60 minutes earlier than our usual stop time. We determined that there was insufficient time for people to eat (with us as part of a potluck or separately before arriving) and participate in a program of substance. At a probable loss of attendees to the south, we did not use that space this program year, and have no plans to return in future years.

This program year, our southern-based programs were all at the Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick. Thirty minutes from Portland, this public facility in Brunswick fits our needs ideally. The space is well-suited to an audience of our size, we have access to a kitchen, they don't mind our eating there, the room transitions well from tables and chairs for the potluck to chairs and a screen for the program, we can stay as long as we need, and the rental fee is reasonable. The only downside is that the library is a longer drive for Portland and South Portland residents as well as for those who live further south such as in Cape Neddick, for example. At the same time, we are substantially closer for potential attendees living north of Brunswick such as in Rome, Maine, for example. Short of a controlled experiment, there is little scientific evidence we can collect to determine the relative average attendance in Portland or South Portland versus Brunswick. However, we will look for one or more alternative spaces, in a church perhaps, in the Portland/South Portland area.

An additional issue is the irregular timing of M&E events and its possible effect on attendance. For at least the most recent four years, M&E programs have been scheduled roughly monthly, but with no particular regard to regular scheduling, i.e., the third Tuesday of each month. Currently, we set our event dates based on the convergence of the availability of the desired speaker and that of the desired facility. While this has been the standard for the past four years, it may have at least two negative consequences on attendance. First, the process occasionally may lead to two programs in a single month or two programs within a week or two of each other. Second, while we try to plan events well in advance, the scheduling process described above is not conducive to helping Chapter members forecast dates of future M&E events. Possible consequences to both may limit attendance. Therefore, the Committee will consider alternative scheduling processes, especially establishing a set and consistent meeting day (and perhaps place) each month.

○ Do we need to offer more of them? Less of them?

As shown in Table 2, the M&E Committee went from 10 events in a year to 13 events, primarily by adding another location (Bangor). We think that having indoor M&E events available to any given population base, such as the Portland-Brunswick area, on a monthly frequency is both successful and sustainable, given the audience base, potential speakers, and committee workload. It may be desirable, and with additional M&E committee members it may be possible, to establish that monthly frequency in more than one population base. The M&E Committee will explore that during the 2011-12 program year.

During the 2010-11 program year, we had to postpone our scheduled January event because of a storm. Rescheduling mistakes in fitting that program into an already packed schedule resulted in three programs in three weeks, way too concentrated for the committee and perhaps for the members. Next year, if a program must be canceled for weather-related reasons and programs are already scheduled for the upcoming months, we will consider postponing that one program until the following program year.

○ Any feedback from the general membership to share?

We continue to get positive feedback from our audience and the general AMC Maine membership. Comments include appreciation for a regular schedule of programs, for the potlucks in the south, and for the range of topics presented. We also interpret the attendance numbers as positive feedback for the monthly meetings in general and for the specific programs.

The only "negative" comments arise when we (a) create confusion about the date of an event or (b) are unable to provide a recording of a particular session to those who are unable to attend and want to view or listen to it later.

Partnerships.

- What other Maine Chapter or AMC committees did you co-host activities with?

The M&E Committee continues to receive tremendous help and guidance from other Maine Chapter ExCom members, but we have yet to co-host activities with any other Maine Chapter Committees.

- What other organizations did you co-host with?

M&E had one very successful partnership with the Maine Audubon center in Holden in which we co-hosted a panel discussion on wind power in Maine. While this was similar to our previous year's collaboration with Maine Audubon Society's Gilsland Farm facility where we featured Carey Kish in 2009-10, there were several important differences.

In both cases, the M&E Committee approached Maine Audubon, but with the Holden center this year we were interested in modeling a relationship that could be more long-term. We approached them with a list of four possible topics that we thought would interest both memberships, jointly decided with their staff to start with wind power, and worked together at some length to organize the event. Because the forum had four panelists and a moderator, it required more facilitating than a typical one-person program; because it was dealing with a controversial topic, it required more sensitivity to organizational culture; and because it was our first collaboration it required a heightened awareness of the individuals with whom we were working.

In retrospect, it was a smashing success on all fronts. We got a good turnout (67), the forum and discussion was enlightening on a topic a major environmental importance in the state, and I'm confident our working relationships with the two Audubon folks will carry over into our next program year. We expect to partner with Maine Audubon again this coming year.

Goals.

- Please list the goals you had developed for the current program year (2010-2011).

The overall goal of the Meetings and Education committee for this program year was to support the mission of the Maine Chapter of the AMC through educational activities intended to provide members with opportunities to learn about the natural world, healthy outdoor recreational opportunities, and our responsibilities to help protect our natural environment.

M&E programs follow a "program year" calendar, generally running from fall to early summer, this year from October 2010 through May 2011. We established the following specific activity objectives to accomplish this overall goal during this time period:

1. To develop and implement 3 education-oriented meetings from October to December 2010 and 5 meetings during January to May 2011 in high-density population centers (South Portland, Portland, Brunswick, for example), with an average 40 attendees each, costing \$100/each (room fee, publicity printing, speaker honoraria, potluck supplies).
2. To develop and implement 4 education-oriented meetings during January to May 2011 in lower-density population centers (Bangor area and Farmington, for example) with an average of 20 attendees each, costing \$50 each (room fee, publicity printing, speaker honoraria).
3. To work together with other organizations with compatible goals (Audubon Center, MOAC, for example) to co-sponsor joint programs anywhere in the state but most likely in the southern seacoast and the Bangor areas, seeking to expand our influence to already-established communities of other like-minded individuals who might not otherwise participate in our activities

4. Provide logistical help to any other AMC Maine committee that wants to sponsor a meeting.

5. To purchase a projector and portable screen so the Chapter will be self-sufficient in presenting video productions/presentations at any location. We hope to use grant funds to purchase a projector and hope to purchase a portable screen to become fully independent. This would be necessary to hold AMC presentations in more local venues such as Farmington (where we've been asked to sponsor some programs) or any of the Maine Wilderness Lodges.

○ Were your goals for this year met, or do you anticipate that they will be met? Why?

1. This goal was met. We held nine events in Brunswick that averaged 50 attendees at each program, costing somewhat less than \$100 each. This was a slight improvement from the prior year (2009-10) when we organized eight programs in the south that drew an average of 47 attendees each.

2. This goal was met. We held three meetings in Bangor and one meeting in Holden that together averaged 37 attendees each and cost less than \$50 per program. This was an improvement from the prior year (2009-10) when we organized two programs that drew an average of 25 attendees each. Our average number of attendees in the north this year (37) was definitely improved by the final program on wind power that drew 67 people. Had we not been able to organize that program, we would have done three programs that would have averaged 28 attendees each.

Our northern programs, even though now in their second year, continue to seem more tenuous than the southern series. Partly this comes from a feeling that there is less of a "core" audience in the north, such as we seem to have in the south, which will turn out for any scheduled AMC program. We understand that such a faithful audience group may take years to develop and is likely to be furthered along by a series of interesting programs and presenters.

3. This goal was partially met. As noted, Maine AMC co-sponsored one highly successful event with Maine Audubon. This was a beginning, a successful one, that we hope to build on and expand in the coming year.

4. This goal was not realized. The Chair needs to do more active outreach to other ExCom committee chairs, offering help in planning public events. This year, the Outings committee hosted two workshops during the year, both organized by experienced presenters and event organizers who need no advice. There was no Conservation Chair to work with, but hopefully we will have a new Conservation Chair next year who will want to organize workshops or public events. The M&E Committee will offer our assistance.

5. This goal was partially met. The committee did purchase a digital projector, but we have not yet purchased a portable screen or tri-fold display, both of which would be useful in the work of this committee and others. We will explore this in the coming year.

○ Please list your goals you for the coming program year (2011-2012).

The overall goal of the Meetings and Education committee for this coming program year is to support the mission of the Maine Chapter of the AMC through educational activities intended to provide members with opportunities to learn about the natural world, healthy outdoor recreational opportunities, and our responsibilities to help protect our natural environment.

M&E programs follow a “program year” calendar, generally running from fall to early summer, this year from September 2011 through May 2012. We established the following specific activity objectives to accomplish this overall goal during this time period:

1. To develop and implement 3 education-oriented meetings from October to December 2011 and 5 meetings during January to May 2012 close to southern high-density population centers (Freeport and Brunswick, for example), with an average of 40 attendees each, costing no more than \$100/each (room fee, publicity printing, speaker honoraria, potluck supplies).
2. To develop and implement 2 education-oriented meetings from October to December 2011 and 3 meetings during January to May 2012 in more-northern high-density population centers (Bangor and Holden) with an average of 25 attendees each, costing no more than \$50 each (room fee, publicity printing, speaker honoraria).
3. To work together with other organizations with compatible goals (Maine Audubon or MOAC, for example) to co-sponsor joint programs anywhere in the state but most likely in the southern seacoast and the Bangor areas, seeking to expand our influence to already-established communities of other like-minded individuals who might not otherwise participate in our activities.
4. To increase the proportion of our evening events that might be classified as educational/informative events relative to events that are more adventure/inspirational. Past M&E events have been a mixture, but the majority have been more adventure travel oriented rather than educational. Without intending to denigrate inspirational stories, we hope to change the proportion slightly to increase the number of informative events in our lineup. This may have the unintended effect of decreasing attendance at such events, but we are willing to take that chance to be able to present topics that can both inform and entertain.
5. To plan at least two events with a field-trip follow-up. We think many members would appreciate a “double-whammy” approach to learning about the natural world, such that we would have a speaker (on bird identification, for example) on a Tuesday evening followed by a Saturday field trip led by the same expert. The field trip would put into practice the tools and learnings presented by the expert during the indoor session.
6. To plan a possible series of events featuring naturalists who would focus members’ attention on issues within Maine’s natural world. This goal supports goal number 4 above and could overlap with goal 5. On the other hand, we might achieve this goal by featuring speakers who teach about natural issues wholly appropriate to indoor learning and less suitable for an outdoor fieldtrip.


■ **Lessons Learned.** Any valuable information learned that would benefit other committees?

- Things that worked well.
 1. Working with a committee, rather than alone. The collaborative enthusiasm generated between two people is significantly greater than that which emanates from a solo operator. That enthusiasm manifests itself in a wider variety of good ideas, more work done faster, a friendly nudging that keeps us on task and on schedule, and quite simply, more enjoyment in the process.
 2. Continuing to use a privately generated mailing list for monthly M&E reminders. Developing and expanding separate M&E e-mail lists for the south and the north continues to work well along with articles in Wilderness Matters and notices in newspapers and online calendars.

3. Collaborating with Maine Audubon in Holden. We have only one event collaboration under our combined belts from last year, but this collaboration bodes well for the future. Both Matt and Holly at Fields Pond are terrific to work with, have been open to suggestions, and share responsibility for developing joint programs. The facility is terrific (if a distance from downtown Bangor) and we will continue to assess whether this location and collaboration works better than our other Bangor option in the public library.

○ Things that didn't work as well.


1. Obtaining an alternate southern venue. Since the South Portland Library new rules (everyone must be gone by 8pm) have essentially removed their facility from our location list, the Committee has been searching for a new facility that will serve the southern residents. All of our southern programs were held at the Curtis Memorial Library, which works marvelously, but is often booked far in advance. Finding a new location will be our focus in between program years.

 **Thank you's.** A huge special thanks to past M&E Chair (and current Outings Chair) Jeff Aceto for his second year of support for M&E efforts. And an equally huge thanks to Past Chair Laura Flight for her website work, her pdf-ing expertise, and her loyal efforts in getting M&E event information before the members on the opening page of the Chapter website. Karen Herald, M&E Committee member, was a good idea generator and sounding board for much of this program year, especially on conservation-related issues and I'm happy that she is moving from the M&E Committee to directing her own committee where she can continue to develop her good ideas. Kathy Claerr, our new M&E committee member, took over for Karen partway through the year. Kathy excels in her outside-the-box thinking, her broad approach to education, and her enthusiasm for all things AMC and M&E. Further thanks go to many other Chapter members who pitch in at the events to set up and take down tables and chairs, welcome newcomers, and respond appropriately to my opening remarks.

Respectfully submitted,

John Mullens, Chair
 Kathy Claerr, Member
 2010-2011 Meetings & Education Committee

Outings Committee – Jeff Aceto, Chair

 **Activity Period.** The activity period is from Oct.1, 2010 through Oct. 23, 2011.

 **Numbers Reached.**

Activity	Number Held
Hiking	25
Winter Hiking	15
Backpacking	9
Walks	5
Sea Kayaking	2
Flat Water Paddling	6

Naturalist	6
Biking	30
Young Members (outside events co-sponsored)	3
Weekends	3
Nordic and Downhill Skiing	5
Workshops	7

TOTAL: 116 trips, with an approximate attendance of 900.

The workshops included leadership training, winter hiking, advanced wilderness first aid, map and compass, lost person scenario, sea kayak rescue, and backpacking.

Quality Assessment.

Based on volume only, Outings Committee trips and events continue to be one of the most visible services to our members. The number of trips per year is generally related to the availability of Chapter leaders, although the organization of trips into series by season and activity appears to improve the ability to plan and track trips. Hiking and walks are habitually the most common trip and remain the most common and popular. Road biking is also very active due to a small group of dedicated leaders. Other successful activities include backpacking, flat water paddling, ocean kayaking, naturalist, and skills-based outings such as photography and land navigation. Workshops continue to also be a popular activity and well-attended. The Outings Committee re-committed to four season services about 5 years ago by formalizing a Winter Series and this effort has been very successful.

Partnerships.

- What other Maine Chapter or AMC committees did you co-host activities with?
Individual trips were co-led by leaders of the Maine Chapter and other Chapters including Boston and New Hampshire.
- What other organizations did you co-host with?
A paddling series was organized in cooperation with the Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust through their lands.

• Thank yous.

The service of the Outings Committee members is essential to its function and our activities speak for themselves. There are approximately 62 active leaders and co-leaders in the Maine Chapter and it is solely through their volunteer efforts that trips can be offered. As Chair, I'd like to thank all our leaders for their service.

A special thank you is also offered to John Mullens, Meetings and Education Chair, for his cooperation and assistance with organizing and publicizing Outings events.

Goals and Needs.

- What are your *goals* for the coming year?
The primary goals of the Outings Committee are:
 1. Provide outings trips and events in a broad variety, in four seasons, to serve our members.
 2. Recruit and train new leaders.
 3. Maintain and improve existing leaders.
- What are your *needs* to accomplish these goals?
The needs of the Outings Committee are:

1. Maintain present budget of approximately \$5,000 per year for leader training, support, recognition, and publicity.

Past Chair Report- Laura Flight

The Past Chair is not a formal “committee” of the Maine Chapter Executive Committee, but rather more of a courtesy position and a means to ensure succession management. In addition, the position serves as a sounding board and can provide an historical context for other Executive Committee members. However, this person is a voting member of the Executive Committee. Despite the lack of a formal “committee” and distinct role for this position, as I did last year I have compiled this report to summarize my activities in the past year. Many are the same activities as in 2010, but some are new.

As in the past, throughout the year I actively posted material to the Chapter’s website (www.amcmaine.org). This included content changes to pages as well as posting a short article (“post”) at the top of the home page on average every 3-5 days to ensure fresh content and a dynamic site. For the reporting period I made approximately 102 posts to the website compared with 92 in 2010. Thank you to Jeff Aceto (Outings Chair) for also making several posts and to Tim Flight (Webmaster) for his technical support.

Other website-related activities included enhancing the “internal resources” page for Executive Committee members. This included posting Executive Committee meeting minutes back to December 2005 to serve as a repository for historical documents important to the chapter. An additional website related project was the development of a template page for use by the active committees of the Maine Chapter. To date, only the Meetings and Education Committee has taken advantage of this template. The Conservation, Outings, Trails, Young Members, and Newsletter committees also have pages, but these have not utilized the new template yet.

As started in 2010, I continued to manage the delivery of the electronic version of the Maine Chapter newsletter *Wilderness Matters*. I have also aided several members in signing up for this service. We are up to 488 subscribers as of this report, compared with 449 subscribers at this time last year. Despite some targeted information campaigns to our membership offering the electronic version, our numbers seem to have plateaued suggesting the format preference of the majority of the membership is still paper.

New for 2011 is the ability to send a monthly e-mail to all Maine Chapter members. This system is ultimately authorized by AMC-Boston, but the content is managed locally by the Maine Chapter. These “e-mail blasts” are designed to highlight a Chapter event or suite of related events. The Executive Committee as a collective group chooses the topics for the upcoming monthly blasts and the specific committee responsible for the event provides the content. I currently manage this system which includes formatting the content for the monthly e-mail blast and gaining necessary approval from AMC-Boston. Part of this process included developing an html template with a Maine Chapter look-and-feel for use in these messages.

As in 2010, I also served on the Maine Chapter Awards Committee, which is a subcommittee of the Executive Committee and is active during the late summer when our reporting year comes to a close. This committee solicits nominations for the annual Maine Chapter “Appie of the Year” award as well as possible “Lifetime Achievement” awards if one is deemed suitable. This/These award/s are presented at the annual meeting. This year the awards committee worked to establish more meaningful and perhaps useful awards for the recipients.

Other activities that rounded out my 2011 include assisting at Meetings and Education events and serving on a subcommittee to examine the possibility of reformatting the structure of the chapter’s annual meeting.

And lastly, I participated in a Maine Activist training led by AMC Maine staff Bryan Wentzell and Lindsay Bourgoine to learn skills related to advocacy on state-related conservation issues. I utilized these skills in writing letters to my local legislators and testifying at a legislative hearing.

In addition to some of the administrative and consultation tasks I have provided during this past year, I have also spent more time outdoors leading winter hikes as well as co-lead two workshops sponsored by the Outings Committee; the Introduction to Winter Hiking in December of 2010 and the Introduction to Backpacking in June of 2011. These have been enjoyable duties to share knowledge and engage more directly with our members.

My two-year Past Chair position will come to a close at the Annual Meeting, as will my six years of service on the Executive Committee. Many thanks to all for the enjoyable times.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Flight
Past Chair, Maine Chapter AMC
October 16, 2011

Trails Committee- Douglas Ofiara and Keith Chapman, Co-Chair and Peter Roderick, Co-Chair Emeritus

A few work trips remain before the snows and winter settle in. The Trail Committee had a very active year completing projects in southwest Maine, Maine Woods-Little Lyford area, and western Maine near the Bigelows. As time marches on some new blood has come into the Trail Committee with Douglas Ofiara becoming a new Co-Chair this summer and Richard York this fall as Keith Chapman transitions to Co-Chair Emeritus. Both have been involved with trail work, Ofiara since mid-1960's, and have joined Keith Chapman on numerous trips. Ofiara and York also have had trail maintenance training from the US Forest Service as part of Ofiara's role as a trail adopter of the Imp Trail.

Work trips were led to Pleasant Mt., Burnt Meadow Mountains (3), Rumford-Whitecap, Bald and Speckled Mts., and Black Mt. in southwest ME, Little Lyford and Maine Woods area (3), and on the AT near the Bigelows in northwestern ME.

The number of volunteers participating on these trail work trips has been fairly steady over time with some ups and downs (6-8). Weather has been a factor, if there is a slight rain and hot temps are usual reasons for low turnouts. Good turnouts seem to coincide with days with good weather (sunny, overcast, warm and cool). Trips to Lyford Pond Camps continue to be popular events with increases in numbers and returning volunteers. We thank all trail volunteers for their support.

Southwest Maine has seen successful work led by Keith. Together with Douglas and Richard Twin Brook Trail has been opened for 2-years giving a loop hike on Burnt Meadow Mountains, and Stone Mt. Trail was opened July of 2010 climbing to the highest summit of the Burnt Meadow Mt. range. Douglas and Keith will continue to work with landowners (4 new landowners this past year) to reopen and expand the trail system on this mountain and surrounding peaks. They have forged new relationships with the town selectmen and other locals to continue this work. A new effort this past year was the layout and cutting of a new trail on "Hastings Hill" west of Burnt Meadow Mts. in Porter. A switchback trail is being designed with the hopes of being built before this winter to form a loop trail on Hastings Hill and connecting to the local snowmobile

trail which they received permission to do. Much of this work is done on non-scheduled work and reconnaissance trips by Ofiara and Chapman. Those that have volunteered have been very excited with the new trail additions.

Keith's trips to mountains in southwest ME has seen steady volunteer numbers and they have good feedback from the work. On some of these trips Keith has partnered with Loon-Echo Land Trust (Pleasant Mt.) and Mahoosic Land Trust (Rumford-Whitecap).

Peter's trips to Little Lyford and Gorman-Chairback Lodge continue to expand trails in these areas and help with camp work requiring many hands. Very popular with very positive feedback the volunteers no doubt enjoy staying at these camps while they work. Peter also has partnered with Peter Boderick and the ME Appalachian Trail Committee with work on the AT near the Bigelows.

Both Peter and Keith will lead fewer trips in the future as both have stepped down as Co-Chairs and as Douglas and Rick take over the reigns.

Future plans involve building an inventory of trails, trail maintainers and adopters, and organizations with contacts to help in future planning and trail maintenance scheduling. There are probably trails in Maine that have not received trail maintenance for many years and there are trails that work is scheduled for every year. We hope to attract new interest in trail work, and new regular volunteers, but if the past is indicative of the future there are few new young volunteers stepping forward. Once we have a better idea of which trails have not received work, work infrequently, and trails that receive regular work we can begin to rotate work trips so we may be able to address trail work on a more systematic basis. And trails that lie outside of our driving range still need periodic maintenance. For this we plan to identify schools (boarding schools) and small colleges that might become interested in partnering up on trail work and/or becoming regular trail maintainers-adopters. Besides reaching out to schools we will also try to approach individuals to adopt trails to assist with trail work. Within our driving range, we also plan on meeting with individuals at boarding schools and colleges to determine interest and if so, develop partnerships. Few active volunteer trail workers are not possible to work on every trail in a state, especially one as large as Maine. Aside from routine maintenance (removing minor blowdowns and debris, minor brushcutting) we may be able to schedule trail work so many trails receive attention every 2-5 years.

All of us can help the trails by picking up and removing debris and minor blowdowns and generally leaving the trail in better shape than they found it, trail stewardship is something we can all practice. Doug Mayer of the Randolph Mountain Club writing in the RMC Newsletter also encourages this "call to arms" (RMC Newsletter, Summer 2009), "As you hike, there is trail work you can accomplish, if you keep your eyes peeled." He stresses that the major work be left to the trail crews as well as the blazing. Quoting the "Father" of the Connecticut Blue-Blazed Hiking System, Edgar L. Heermance (1876-1953):

"A Good Trailsman Always Leaves a Trail
a Little Better Than He Finds it."

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Chapman
Co-chair Trail Committee

Douglas Ofiara
Co-chair Trail Committee

Nominating Committee- Paul Hahn, Chair

The Nominating Committee's goal was to fill all the chair slots which we accomplished by the September meeting. I think we have, as of now, two goals for the next year: one would be to fill the Outings Chair Position and two would be to try and get members to join committees in order to help the chair(s) and to develop individuals for future chair positions.

Having a Nominating Committee has helped to elicit interest from members and to give individuals interested in helping a more defined Chair to contact. Committee members Joleen Rice and Evelyn Sawyer have been great help particularly given their long history with the Chapter.