

Wilderness Matters



Maine Chapter
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Opinion

Let's have a feasibility study of a Maine Woods National Park before it's too late

By Bob Goldman
Conservation Committee Chairperson
AMC – Maine Chapter

"Nature must be left undisturbed in ever-widening circles, so that she can heal the wounds of civilization and re-create the wonders of God's wilderness."

—Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas

The people of Maine have what may be one final chance to save and protect our magical North Woods, while helping ourselves move forward both

economically and spiritually. The Moosehead Lake, Katahdin and Allagash region are the heart and soul of inland Maine. Massive development by the out-of-state Plum Creek corporation and other wealthy interests from away will forever fragment and ruin what is Maine's Yellowstone of the East.

The time is now for the people of Maine and our elected officials to seriously explore the proposal for a Maine Woods National Park. This magnificent 3.2 million acre national park and preserve will generate thousands of desperately needed, permanent jobs for Mainers, especially in those communities nearby to the new park. As hundreds of thou-

sands of visitors from around the US and the world come to celebrate and experience the Maine Woods National Park every year, alongside us who live here, the entire state of Maine will benefit.

"Without national parks, there would be mansions of the rich lining the Grand Canyon. The Everglades would be drained and filled with tract housing. Yosemite, one of the most beautiful places on earth, would be a gated community."

— Ken Burns, quoted by the Associated Press,
September 27, 2009

And yet there is strong opposition to the idea of creating a national park here in the Maine Woods. Such opposition is nothing new. As Ken Burns' recently aired National Parks documentary revealed, every new national park established in this country has had to overcome powerful opposition, many times over a long period of time.

The arguments against are always the same: the locals do not want national ownership of 'their' land, while others insist on their right to utilize or develop the land in whatever way they desire.

And each time when the new national park is finally established, the opposition somehow melts away and is soon forgotten and the park is embraced as a most wonderful thing. The same process will unfold when the Maine Woods National Park is finally born.

Recently, there has been activity around the idea of what is called the Great Maine Forest Initiative, a plan to conserve hundreds of thousands of acres through conservation easements, while

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Left: Katahdin Lake, © Jym St. Pierre



National Park

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promoting sustainable forestry on these same lands.

Many proponents of this new forest initiative

have been eager to emphasize their opposition to the national park proposal. Yet the national park idea for the Maine Woods will not go away because it is the best idea. It is simply not true that the only way to ‘save’ the North Woods and create needed jobs is to allow either massive development or to cut down

trees.

The best option is to create both the Maine Woods National Park and a sustainable, smart forestry initiative. We can have the best of all worlds, as 80% of commercial forest lands in Maine would remain outside the borders of the proposed new national park. And we certainly do not need Plum Creek’s massive schemes or payoffs. They need to go home to Seattle. We here in Maine already have what we need to create a better future, the Maine Woods itself.

The grassroots membership of the various conservation organizations together with the everyday citizens of Maine, a majority of whom do support some form of permanent protection of our Maine Woods, must come forward and let our voices be heard at last. Until now, it is the powerful opponents of the national park idea for the Maine Woods who have had their way. It’s time for the supporters of the park proposal to be heard. If not now, when?

The people of Maine can create a better future for ourselves and our children, while truly protecting for all time the nature of Maine that we all treasure. The people, the land, mountains, rivers, forests and wildlife of Maine need and deserve the Maine Woods National Park. Restoring and preserving the wholeness and integrity of the Maine Woods builds on our strength and from that will come both economic reward and spiritual renewal for the State of Maine and her people.

The first step is to urge our elected officials to authorize without delay a feasibility study by the US Congress, which will explore and report on the benefits to Maine of establishing a Maine Woods National Park. The time to protect the heart and soul of inland Maine is now. It’s time to realize Thoreau’s dream of a national preserve for the magnificence he observed and experienced 150 years ago. It will be our generation’s gift to the land we love forever.

“We still need places to be designated as parks, like Big Sur, the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge, the North Woods of Maine. We just have to preserve what we have. We have got to realize that it is America’s best idea – the parks, monuments and wildlife refuges – and think about what Roosevelt called the generations unborn. These lands are great heirlooms to future generations.”

— Douglas Brinkley, author, *Teddy Roosevelt: Wilderness Warrior*, on *Face the Nation*, August 16, 2009

“The trees and their lovers will sing your praises and generations yet unborn will rise up and call you blessed.”

— John Muir

***Left: Doubletop Mountain by Bob Goldman
and Screw Augur Falls, Gulf Hagas
by Dave Field.***



Join chapter leaders on many winter events

MEETINGS

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 selling quickly, so register today! Overnight accommodations are also available. L Carrie Walia (928-2277, chair@amcmaine.org)

Thu., Mar. 11: Maine Chapter Executive Committee Meeting. The Maine Chapter Executive Committee meets every odd month (January, March, May, July, September, and November) on the second Thursday. Come voice your opinion on the direction of the Maine Chapter on important conservation topics, outdoor outing activities, & more. Open to all Maine Chapter members. The meetings are held in the upstairs meeting room of the Freeport McDonald's from 6:30pm-8:30pm. L Carrie Walia (928-2277, chair@amcmaine.org)

EDUCATION

Wed., Jan. 27: Ice Climbing in Maine, Bangor Public Library. Potluck presentation by Jon Tierney, Owner and Head Guide of Acadia Mountain Guides Climbing School, about ice climbing, equipment, safety, local routes, and the joy of spending winter on snow and ice in a safe and invigorating environment. Bangor Public Library, 145 Harlow Street, Bangor, ME. Potluck dinner at 5:30 pm, followed by the presentation at 6:30. L John Mullens (361-1210, education@amcmaine.org)

Wed., Feb. 10: AMC's Strategy: 66,000 Acres in Maine's 100-Mile Wilderness, Bryan Wentzell, AMC's Maine Policy Manager, will talk about AMC's Maine Woods Initiative and plans for 66,000 acres of conservation lands in the heart of the 100-Mile Wilderness region. Morrell Room of the Curtis Memorial Library, 23 Pleasant Street, in Brunswick, ME. Potluck dinner will begin at 6 pm followed by the presentation at 7 pm. L John Mullens (361-1210, education@amcmaine.org)

Tue., Mar. 30: Hiking Canada's Sentiers Frontaliers, Carey Kish will present on a week-long hike on the the Sentiers Frontaliers, or Border Trail, which meanders along the international border between Canada and the United States. Gilsland Farm, Maine Audubon headquarters in Falmouth, ME, five minutes north of Portland. Potluck dinner will begin at 6 pm, followed by the presentation at 7 pm. L John Mullens (361-1210, education@amcmaine.org)

Wed., Apr. 21: 25 Years and Counting: Section Hiking the Appalachian Trail, Maine hiker Jeff Ryan will present on his approach to "section hiking" the Appalachian Trail (AT). South Portland Library, 482 Broadway, South Portland, ME. Potluck dinner at 6 pm followed by the presentation at 7 pm. L John Mullens (361-1210, education@amcmaine.org)

CONSERVATION

Thu., Feb. 25: The Return of the Wolf, Come view the video "Lords of Nature: Life in a Land of Great Predators," followed by a discussion and update on the wolf and its status in Maine and the Northeast. Curtis Library, 23 Pleasant St., Brunswick, Maine. Event starts at 7:00pm. L Bob Goldman (831-5929, conservation@amcmaine.org)

Wed., Mar. 31: Nature and Renewal: The Wild River Valley and Beyond, Dean Bennett, UMaine profes-

sor will present a tour of the Wild River Valley, along the Maine/New Hampshire border. Curtis Library, 23 Pleasant St., Brunswick, Maine. Event starts at 7:00pm. L Bob Goldman (831-5929, conservation@amcmaine.org)

OUTINGS

Sat., Jan. 23: Beginner Winter Series - Little Bigelow.

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)

Fri., Jan. 29-31: Cross-Country Skiing/Snowshoeing in Acadia National Park. Join us for a weekend of outdoor activities in Acadia National Park, a gorgeous setting with no summer crowds. We will stay in a downtown Bar Harbor motel for two nights. \$105.95/pp for a single occupancy and \$175.50/pp for a double occupancy. Register with Ginette Beaudoin before January 7th by emailing ginette4000@yahoo.com. This trip fills quickly! Plan on trail lunches, but we will eat at local restaurants for breakfast and dinner (restaurants not included in the trip cost). L Ginette Beaudoin (294-6302 Before 8:00pm, ginette4000@yahoo.com), L Don Parker, R Ginette Beaudoin (294-6302 Before 8:00pm, ginette4000@yahoo.com)

Sat., Jan. 30: Lafayette and Franconia Ridge. We will take Old Bridle Path up to Lafayette across the Ridge and down Falling Waters. For experienced winter hikers only. 8.5 miles. L Chris Martin (207.890.6111 Anytime, chrismtn@megalink.net), CL Bill Brooke, R Chris Martin (107 Western Ave, So. Paris, ME 04281, 890-6111 Anytime)

Sat., Jan. 30: Beginner Winter Series - 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 9PM)

Sat., Feb. 6: Advanced Winter Series - Carter Dome. This is one of several Advanced Winter Series Hikes. Join us for this hike up Carter Dome (4,832 ft.) via Nineteen Mile Brook and Carter Moriah trails, 8.8 miles with 3,019 feet of elevation gain. Weather permitting, we will also cross Mt. Height to get views of the Carter-Moriah range. Full winter gear and winter experience required. Please call for more information. L Joleen Rice (207-892-2685 Before 9 p.m., jrice@verrilldana.com), L Michael D'Orio (892-2685)

Sat., Feb. 6: Beginner Winter Series - Bald Mt. in Weld. There are great rewards for this 3 mile round trip winter hike to Bald Mt., elev. 2370 feet. This 1.5 mile climb has 1,300 feet of vertical gain to open ledges



Winter hikers in snowshoes at Bradbury Mt. State Park in December 2009. Jeff Aceto photo.

Continued on page 4

Explore the winter wonders of Maine and New Hampshire

Continued from page 3

and summit with great views. Full winter gear required; this trip may have ice and snow conditions similar to much higher mountains. L Larry Dyer (725-6962, dldyer1@suscom-maine.net), CL Wayne Newton (897-3072, hikerfig@myfairpoint.net)

Sat., Feb. 6: Middle Carter Mountain. Winter hike up Middle Carter Mountain, 4,610' elevation and about nine miles round trip. Full winter gear required. North Carter Mountain is also an option. L Sonny Martineau (490-1305, sonnymart27@yahoo.com), L Dennis Crispo (978-858-0394, highpt@cliffhanger.com)

Sun., Feb. 7: Ski Mt. Abram. We'll meet in the Mt. Abram lodge at 9:00; contact Carolyn to sign up and for carpooling info. Bring your AMC membership card for \$39 corporate rate. Plenty of time after skiing to get to a Super Bowl party! L Carolyn Welch (725-8178, cwelch6789@gmail.com)

Sat., Feb. 20: Beginner Winter Series - Caribou Mtn. in Evans Notch. For beginner and all others. 6.2 mi. RT hike over moderate grades to open summit of Caribou Mtn. with excellent views in all directions. L Peter Broderick (778-0801, coolbrod@ghi.net), L George Brown (585-2259, gwbrown@tds.net)

Sat., Feb. 20: Advanced Winter Series - Mt. Jefferson. Better late than never, let's try for this 5,716-foot Presi peak the weekend after President's Day. We will ascend 2,900 vertical feet over 3.7 miles via the Jewell Trail ("the cog" will be just over our right shoulders to the south). We will intersect the Gulfside Trail (AT) and proceed north 1.4 miles to the summit, gaining another ~250 vertical feet. The

last 2.5 miles to the summit has full exposure to prevailing winds, so weather will be a factor in our progress. We will descent via the same route. Snowshoes with cleats and full crampons required; self-arrest ice-axe recommended. Intended for experienced winter hikers. L Laura Flight (215-5306 before 9PM, flyrodflight@systemfolder.com), CL Bille Brooke (bill@mesoft.org)

Sat., Feb. 27: Beginner Winter Series Beginner - Cranberry Peak. Intermediate winter hike over Cranberry Peak near Bigelow Range. Competent and fit snowshoe hikers will find this trip has something for them to love - Great views, lovely woods and Cranberry Pond right beside the trail. We finish by hiking for 3 miles on the Appalachian Trail near Stratton. L Peter Roderick (293-2704 Before 9PM, roderick1027@myfairpoint.net), CL David Littig (dlittig@msn.com)

Sat., Feb. 27: Advanced Winter Series - Mount Monroe. Mt Monroe 5372'. About 7 miles, roughly 2800' elevation gain, moderate pace. Full winter gear required. L Lew Dow (890-8512 Before 9PM, lwsdow@yahoo.com)

Sat., Mar. 6-7: Advanced Winter Series - Saddleback Mtn. Backpack. One of ME most best summit with far-flung views in all directions. Will BP in, drop gear then summit Saddleback and the Horn. RT 15 mile, long days, some steep section with unusually long exposure. Participants should have winter backpacking experience & physically fit. L Peter Broderick (778-0801, coolbrod@ghi.net), CL Brian Strothmann

Sat., Mar. 6: Advanced Winter Series - Katahdin. Few hikers get the chance to touch the Katahdin summit sign in winter! Join us for a single day 16 mile round trip to Baxter Peak via the Abol Slide Trail. This trip

includes a 4 mile ski/snowshoe to Abol Slide Campground, a 1.5 mile snowshoe to the base of Abol Slide, 2.5 miles in crampons or snowshoes to the summit, and returning by the same route. Full winter gear is necessary and required equipment includes snowshoes with cleats, full crampons, self-arrest ice-axe, and climbing helmet. This hike is very challenging due to terrain, weather, snow conditions, and duration: a day trip to the Katahdin summit may last between 12 and 15 hours. It is intended for very experienced winter hikers with a high level of fitness who can demonstrate proficiency for Baxter State Park permitting requirements. Hikers should be prepared to have flexible schedules: this trip will have a primary weekend of March 6 and 7, 2010 with a summit attempt on either day as weather permits. If weather does not cooperate on the primary weekend, a secondary weekend of March 13 and 14, 2010 will also be planned, with a summit attempt on either day as weather permits. Night before Millinocket accommodations will be arranged. L Jeff Aceto (650-5674 Before 9 pm, acetojt@suscom-maine.net), CL Guy Merrill (240-4014 Before 9 pm, guy@electricalsystemsofmaine.com)

Sat., Mar. 13: Advanced Winter Series - Mount Washington. Mt. Washington 6288'. 8.6 miles, 4270 elevation gain. A stren. hike at a moderate pace. Full winter gear required. L Lew Dow (890-8512 Before 9PM, lwsdow@yahoo.com), CL Guy Merrill

Sat., Mar. 20-21: Beginner Winter Series - Sabbathday Pond Backpack. Spend a night on the Appalachian Trail near Sabbathday Pond and welcome spring under the stars. This trip is offered with the new winter hiker who is looking to step up to a backpack after success with day hiking in mind. Lots of tips and information about winter backpacking will be offered before and during the trip. Participants should have 3-season backpacking experience. L Peter Roderick (207-293-2704 Before 9PM, roderick1027@myfairpoint.net), CL Jason Toner (jandstoner@roadrunner.com), CL Sarah Toner (jandstoner@roadrunner.com).



Members Stephen and Mary Ellen Decato enjoy the sunshine on the summit of Bradbury Mt. during a Winter Series hike on December 12, 2009. Jeff Aceto photo.

Winter

A season of wonder and white,
anticipation and crispness.
A season of darkness and stillness,
and cold and silence.
A season of wind and ice,
and drifts and flakes.
A season of sleep and torpor,
and survival and endurance.
A season to heed and respect,
and be humbled and marvel.
A season to watch and join,
and listen and feel.
A season to learn and value,
and discover and long.
A season to smile and remember,
And love and embrace.

~Laura Flight

Chapter T-Shirts in New Colors!

Do you have an AMC Maine Chapter t-shirt? If not, join the hundreds of folks who do! The chapter placed an order this fall to replenish its t-shirt inventory. To spice things up a bit, we ordered a couple of new colors, but stayed with the same great design.

These made their debut at the Maine Chapter Annual Meeting at the end of September. There are now poly shirts (both long and short sleeve) available in “Forest Green” and cotton shirts (short sleeve only) available in “Serene Green.”

Check out our webpage (<http://www.amcmaine.org/t-shirts/>) to see these colors for yourself! Many sizes are still available in the old colors (Sky Blue for poly, and Eggplant for cotton) as well. They would make great gifts and proceeds help support the Maine Chapter!



Left: Maine Chapter leader George Brown steps out near the summit of Rumford Whitecap in windy conditions.

Below: Happy hikers reach the summit of Rumford Whitecap during a winter series hike on December 20. photos by Dave Littig



Hiking the Sentiers Frontaliers Trail along NH-ME-QC border

Adventurer, journalist, photographer, and Maine AMC member, Carey Kish will present a March 30 slide show on an international hike on the Sentiers Frontaliers, or Border Trail, which meanders along the international border between Canada and the United States. He was the lone American on the 30 member French Canadian Expedition de Randonneurs Braves (Brave Hiker Expedition). The group started from the customs station at Chartierville, Quebec, just north of Pittsburg, New Hampshire, where the route connects with the 162-mile long Cohos Trail. Hikers were alternately in Quebec, New Hampshire, and Maine.

Hikers passed over a series of 3,000-foot peaks, including Mont d’Urban, Mont Marble, Mont Saddle and Mont Gosford during the 55-mile trek. During the trip Carey learned that although his high school French left much to be desired, plenty of big smiles, hugs and handshakes made communication and camaraderie easy, and lifelong friendships were cemented. Carey will also briefly show some images of a week-long October hike on the Freezeout Trail through the far northern reaches of Baxter Park.

The program, sponsored jointly by Maine Audubon and the Maine Chapter, is free and open to the public. It will be at Gilsland Farm, Maine Audubon headquarters in Falmouth, five minutes north of Portland. Parking is plentiful and free. A potluck dinner will begin at 6 pm followed by Carey’s presentation at 7 pm. Attendees are encouraged to bring a potluck item and their own dinnerware (plate, utensils etc.). Drinks will be provided and plasticware will be available. Details at amcmaine.org/calendar/ or email education@amcmaine.org.

Seeking story tellers

Have you been on a “journey of a lifetime” and been itching to tell the tale? Do you have photos? Has Outside magazine missed their opportunity to publicize your grand story? The Meetings and Education Committee is organizing an “Epic Journeys” story-telling session for AMC members to share the stories of their most memorable excursions. We envision a Saturday program where people can both share their epic adventure stories and pick up some ideas for their next one. If we get a core group of story tellers, we’ll plan a date, advertise it in *Wilderness Matters* and the AMC Maine online calendar, and invite listeners as well as tellers.

Pick a story that stands out from the rest as a one-in-million experience? It may be your rafting trip on another continent, a backpack along a wilderness trail, a canoe paddle in the far north, a coast-to-coast bike-packing adventure, or a winter you spent hiking north. What is your epic journey? If you have an adventure you’d like to share with the Maine chapter, email John Mullens, Chair of the Meetings and Education Committee, at Education@amcmaine.org. And watch for our upcoming Epic Journeys session!

Numerous opportunities await chapter members this winter

February 25: The Return of the Wolf

Wolves are as native to Maine as Katahdin, the Kennebec, moose and lobstah. Not long ago, they lived and roamed free throughout the forests and mountains of Maine, the Northeast and much of North America.

Many believe the land and nature of our region will not be healed and complete until they return once again, while others are opposed to their restoration or are not so sure. What do you think and feel about the wolf?

Come join us as we together watch the beautifully done, science-based and enlightening one hour video *Lords of Nature: Life in a Land of Great Predators* followed by a discussion and update on the wolf and its status in Maine and the Northeast. Sponsored by the AMC Maine chapter conservation committee.

Location: Curtis Library, 23 Pleasant St., Brunswick. Event starts at 7PM. Open to the public. Contact event leader Bob Goldman (conservation@amcmaine.org) or 831-5929 with any questions.

Plan a great canoe adventure on May 6

Looking for a memorable canoe or kayak trip in New England? Here is a marvelous opportunity to hear about the Northern Forest Canoe Trail. Called the “magnificent obsession” by the New York Times, the NFCT traverses the roof of the Adirondacks and Northern Forest. This inland water trail traces traditional Native American travel routes across 740-miles in New York, Vermont, Québec, New Hampshire, and Maine.

On Thursday, May 6, join Kate Williams, NFCT Executive Director, for a virtual journey along this diverse and enchanting route. She will show slides of special places along the trail and share her favorite ideas for day-tripping and week-long adventures as well as thru-paddling the entire route.

Guests will be Mainers Donnie Mullen and Gil Whitney. In 2000, Donnie was the first to through paddle the route in a canoe; in 2009, Gil was the first to do so in a kayak. Together, they will share stories and perspectives. The new (March 2010) Official Guidebook will be available for sale and signature.

This program will be in the Morrell Room of the Curtis Memorial Library, 23 Pleasant Street, in Brunswick, Maine. A potluck dinner begins at 6 pm followed by Bryan’s presentation at 7 pm. Bring a potluck item and your own dinnerware (plate, utensils etc.). Drinks will be provided. This talk is free and open to the public. Details at amcmaine.org/calendar/ or email education@amcmaine.org.

Maine Woods Initiative to be explained Feb. 10

Have you heard about the recent AMC purchase of land in central Maine? Do you wonder about the club plans for all that land? Wonder how it will affect recreation, trail creation, logging, the Moosehead region economy?

On Wednesday, February 10, AMC’s Maine Policy Manager, Bryan Wentzell, will talk about the Maine Woods Initiative and AMC plans for 66,000 acres of conservation lands in the heart of the 100-Mile Wilderness region.

With the purchase of the 29,500-acre Roach Ponds Tract in late 2009, AMC has permanently protected 66,000 acres in central Maine—a 63-mile-long corridor of conservation land stretching from AMC’s Katahdin Iron Works property near Greenville north to Baxter State Park. These 66,000 acres of forests, mountains and trails are a part of the AMC’s Maine Woods Initiative—the organization’s largest investment in its 134-year history. Bryan Wentzell will explain the opportunities and challenges of balancing new backcountry recreation, timber harvesting, wilderness lodges, and traditional recreation activities. Wentzell will also touch upon the Plum Creek Timber Company’s concept plan and what it means for development and conservation in the Moosehead region; and the status of legal issues still surrounding the recent LURC decision.

This program will be in the Morrell Room of the Curtis Memorial Library, 23 Pleasant Street, in Brunswick, Maine. A potluck dinner begins at 6 pm followed by Bryan’s presentation at 7 pm. Bring a potluck item and your own dinnerware (plate, utensils etc.). Drinks will be provided. This talk is free and open to the public. Details at amcmaine.org/calendar/ or email education@amcmaine.org.

Teens to Trails Conference April 3

Teens To Trails invites you to share your passion for the outdoors with Maine teens at their biennial “Life Happens Outside!” Conference event. This Conference brings Maine’s outdoor “experts” together with teens for a day full of interactive workshops & exhibits designed to engage them in the out-of-doors. At the last statewide Conference, there were over 350 participants, 50 workshop offerings and 50 exhibitors. The volunteer workshop presenters & exhibitors truly set the tone for the day. T3 welcomes your ideas & your involvement. A simple online registration process makes it easy for you to propose a workshop topic & communicate your needs. For more information, go to www.TeensToTrails.org.

Theme: Life Happens Outside!
Saturday April 3rd ~ 7:30am to 4pm
Windham High School ~ Windham ME

Section hiking Appalachian Trail: 25 years and counting on April 21

Have you ever wanted to hike the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine but couldn’t find a four month stretch to do it? There is another way!

On Wednesday, April 21, the Maine chapter presents long-time Maine hiker Jeff Ryan for a talk and slideshow about his approach to “section hiking” the Appalachian Trail (AT).

For many years, Jeff’s work prevented a non-stop start to finish hike. So he found another way to follow his dream. In the footsteps of other time-strapped hikers, he started hiking the trail in smaller, manageable chunks. Now, 25 years later, Jeff and his hiking partner are on track to finish the entire trail. Jeff will talk about the special logistics, and planning needed to section hike the AT and narrate a slide show featuring 25 years of trail highlights.

This Maine Chapter event is free and open to the public at the South Portland Library, 482 Broadway, Parking is available off Highland Avenue. Come early for the potluck dinner at 6 pm followed by the presentation at 7 pm. Bring a potluck item to share and your own dinnerware (plate, utensils etc.). Drinks will be provided and plastic-ware will be available. Details at amcmaine.org/calendar/ or email education@amcmaine.org.

March 31: Nature and Renewal in the Wild River Valley and beyond

Dean Bennett, UMaine professor, life-long conservationist and author, will take us on a century’s tour of the Wild River Valley, along the Maine/New Hampshire border.

This magical and magnificent valley was heavily logged in the 1890’s and suffered all manner of environmental calamity, as did the people who once inhabited the area.

Professor Bennett’s presentation takes us from wilderness to destruction and back to wilderness again. This is a story full of woe, heedless exploitation, desolation, followed by gradual, miraculous healing and inspiration.

If you want to be inspired by the resilience of our natural world and witness the enlightened humanity that helps to make such restoration possible, than please join us for this special event.

Sponsored by the AMC Maine chapter conservation committee. Event starts at 7 PM. Location: Curtis Library, 23 Pleasant St., Brunswick. Event starts at 7PM. Open to the public.

Contact event leader Bob Goldman (conservation@amcmaine.org) or 207-831-5929 with any questions.

Greetings from your New England director

New director provides links to Pinkham Notch and Joy Sreet!

My name is Ruth Jamke (but I'm better known to all as "Sam") and as of AMC's annual meeting on January 30th, I have the pleasure of representing the interests of the Maine and New Hampshire Chapters on the Club's Board of Directors. I am following in the footsteps of John Dolloff, whom I thank for his years of service in the

role of Northern Regional Director. Since John will be remaining on the Board for a while in an at-large capacity, you may be sure of a smooth transition. I am looking forward to working closely with the Executive Committees of both chapters to ensure that there is good information flow between the chapter and the Board members and Club staff.

By way of introduction, I have been an AMC member for about 26 years and have served as Vice Chair and Chair of the NH Chapter. I am also a hike leader and workshop instructor for the Chapter, lead hikes for AMC August Camp (I am also a member of the August Camp

Committee) and I am a Major Excursions leader. When I first joined the Club and lived in the Boston area, I was into whitewater paddling, too, so I have had my fingers in many AMC "pies." I led a trip to Scotland in August of 2009 and have trips planned to New Zealand (backpacking) and the Minnesota Boundary Waters (canoeing and camping) for 2010. I am an avid hiker and completed what I have said is my last "list" in 2002—the Winter New England Hundred Highest.

In mid-2007 I decided to retire a few years early and am having a blast volunteering for AMC, the ATC, the GMC and Animal Rescue League of NH. I'm single and live in Bedford, NH with my three cats—Possum, Abby and Fox.

I am hoping to meet many of you at Club events or perhaps during one of my stints as an AMC information volunteer. Feel free to direct any questions or concerns to me via your Chapter's Executive Committee. My contact information will be available on your chapter web site and in your newsletter.

Below: Photographer Laura Flight's photo shows chapter members climbing Table Rock in Grafton Notch. In the forefront is Roger David, carefully crossing a narrow foot-bridge over a stream.



Maine Chapter AMC Order Form					
Poly Shirts					
<u>Long Sleeve</u>	<u>Small</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Large</u>	<u>X-Large</u>	
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=	
<u>Short Sleeve</u>	<u>Small</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Large</u>	<u>X-Large</u>	
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					
<u>Short sleeve</u>	<u>Small</u>	<u>Medium</u>	<u>Large</u>	<u>X- Large</u>	
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 AMC, or its MAINE Chapter.

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5 Joy Street
Boston, MA 02108

Send newsletter submissions to:

Bob Cummings
616 Main Road
Phippsburg, ME
443-2925
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Vice-Chair: Larry Dyer, 15 Royal Oak Circle, Topsham, 04086, 725-6962, vice@amcmaine.org.

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Secretary: Diane Edwards, 273 State St, Portland, 04101, 775-0224, secretary@amcmaine.org

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Past Chair: Laura Flight, 27 Adell Lane, Readfield, 04355, 215-5306, past_chair@amcmaine.org

Interested in serving on one of these committees?

Please contact us!

Maine Chapter Website:

www.amcmaine.org

Notes from our new Maine Chapter chair, Carrie Walia

It's been two months since I graduated from the vice-chair position to become the chair, and I must say I don't feel different, yet. I've only chaired one Executive Committee meeting back in November, which was a pivotal one, seeing how we were preparing for a new year with many opportunities and challenges.

Before the meeting, the Executive Committee members and program chairs each wrote down their goals and budget expense requests for 2010. After compiling everyone's submissions, I sat back on my recliner and marveled at the three plus pages of attainable goals that had been documented. I thought, "Together we have a lot to offer our 3,700 or so members in Maine!"

For instance:

Outings has a host of skill-based training lined up, such as map and compass, kayak safety, leadership, wilderness first aid, backpacking, and all season hiking.

Trails is looking to implement a new adopt-a-trail program, furthering the chapter's efforts in maintaining the many trails under our management.

Meetings and Education will offer ten presentations, while adding two events in lower-population areas so more members can attend.

Conservation is already off and running, with two events under its belt, and at least five more meaningful conservation topics to be explored.

In an effort to involve the younger generations, the Chapter Youth Program will be hosting a springtime training for new leaders in an effort to get more children and teens out in the Maine woods.

The Young Members (20-30s) will be recruiting more leaders and may fill a program chair position shortly. Public Relations and Membership are teaming up to develop new media displays to showcase the chapter's work at the many expo tables planned for the coming year.

The Newsletter Committee (whose valuable work can be seen on this very piece of paper) plans to offer the same number (5) of issues in 2010, despite the always increasing cost of mailing, bucking the trend of cutting newsletter issues as done by the other AMC chapters.

As you can see, when volunteers put their minds to work, a whole host of meaningful programs can be offered to you, our members! But we can't do it alone.

We depend on members to step up and get involved to lead outdoor activities, serve on committees and much more (visit our new volunteer webpage at www.amcmaine.org/volunteer/ or contact me to learn more).

When I got involved in the AMC over five years ago I had nearly no hiking or trail maintenance experience.

I have never regretted the decision to become an Executive Committee member and outings leader because it has built my own confidence and outdoor and organizational leadership skills.

I hope my good faith plunge into AMC's volunteer programs will persuade you to offer your own time and skills to the Maine Chapter in the future.

Workshops set on map, compass, navigation aids

The Outings Committee will be offering two land navigation workshops in 2010. Land navigation workshops will be organized for all abilities from rookies to experienced hikers. Each workshop will offer an indoor session and an outdoor session. The indoor session will be held on a weeknight and offer classroom-style instruction on land navigation principals including use of map and compass. The outdoor session be held on the following Saturday to put those new land navigation skills to use in a practical setting.

These sessions will be held in April and October to prepare for the summer and winter seasons. For more information and to attend the April event, contact Outings Chair Jeff Aceto at outings@amcmaine.org or 650-5674.