



BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE

**ALL ARE WELCOME:
old friends • new friends
new members • prospective members!**

Big Berkshire Bash

**Saturday, November 1, 2008
5:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.**

A fantastic evening of dining and entertainment.
Special guest will be Craig Brandon, author of
Monadnock: More than a Mountain.

**Social Hour • Cash Bar • Dinner • Annual Meeting
Volunteer Recognition • Author Craig Brandon**

Summit View Banquet House

555 Northampton Street (Route 5), Holyoke, MA
413-538-7431

Advance Reservations Required

The postmark deadline is October 25. (Sorry, no walk-ins.)

For Directions and More Information

please see amcberkshire.org or
call Deb Levine at 413-584-6065

**Please use the reservation form
on page 6.**

Outdoor activities during the day;
please visit trips.outdoors.org or see *AMC Outdoors*

Craig Brandon: Biography

Craig Brandon is the author of five books on popular history and a frequent radio and television contributor. For 20 years he was a reporter and editor for several newspapers in upstate New York, including the *Observer-Dispatch* and *Daily Press* in Utica and the *Times Union* in Albany.

Among his most recent books is *Monadnock: More than a Mountain*, (Surry Cottage Books, 2007) the first history in 70 years of Mount Monadnock, the most hiked mountain in North America. The book is the biography of a mountain that has been celebrated by writers, poets, artists, and musicians for nearly 200 years.

He is also the author of *Murder in the Adirondacks* (North Country Books, 1986), the story of the Chester Gillette-Grace Brown murder case that Theodore Dreiser used as the basis for his novel *An American Tragedy* and also inspired the 1951 movie "A Place in the Sun." The murder took place on Big Moose Lake in the Adirondacks on July 11, 1906.

Brandon later edited a sequel to that book, *Grace Brown's Love Letters* (Surry Cottage Books, 2006), that contains the exact words of the Grace Brown-Chester Gillette correspondence in 1905 and 1906 along with an introduction and footnotes explaining the letters' significance. He also edited *The Prison Diary of Chester Gillette*, (Couper Press, 2007), the murderer's last words, from a document that was hidden from the public for nearly a century.

Another book, *The Electric Chair: An Unnatural American History* (McFarland and Co., 1999), traces the history of the electric chair as it evolved from the idea of a Buffalo dentist in 1881 through the heyday of its use in the 1920s and the 1930s to the present day when only three states employ it as the sole means of capital punishment.

Brandon's writing has won awards sponsored by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Education Writers Association, New York State United Teachers, Gannett and the Associated Press. He has served as a consultant for PBS, *Unsolved Mysteries*, and the History Channel, and has been interviewed by *The New York Times*, the NPR radio show, "All Things Considered," and various other radio and television stations. He is a frequent lecturer at libraries, museums, historical societies, and colleges on the topics of the Gillette case, Mount Monadnock, and the electric chair.

He maintains a web site that includes links and information about his books at <http://www.craigbrandon.com>.

Highlights of Upcoming Chapter Events

For complete listings of all Chapter events, please see *AMC Outdoors* or visit trips.outdoors.org

Sat., Oct. 4. Appalachian Trail Day

Please see page 3.

Sun., Oct. 12. Family Hike to Rattlesnake Knob

Meet at 10 AM and hike 2.5 miles. Optional lunch afterward. Rattlesnake Knob, part of the Holyoke Range, is a smaller peak just east of Mount Norwottuck. Open to families with children of all ages. Steady rain cancels. Leader: Nancy Weld (familyprograms@amcberkshire.org; 413-256-8728). Co-Leader: Jon Hanauer.

Fri.–Sun., Oct. 17–19. Day Hikes from the Highland Center, NH

Hikes flexible depending on weather and participants, but likely to be lower Crawford Path Saturday (4–6 miles) and Mt. Willard Sunday (3 miles). Both hikes are fairly easy and afford great views of Crawford Notch and Whites. Cost of \$145 includes two nights at Highland Center, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners. Great views from the rooms. Cozy ambiance of the common room with fireplace! Don't miss this great fall trip to the Whites! Payment due in advance. Leader: Sabine Prather (413-949-3914).

Sat., Nov. 1. Long Mountain and Mt. Norwottuck

Join us for a pre-Big Berkshire Bash challenge! This approx. 5 mi, slow/mod. pace, intermediate difficulty hike has many steep ups and downs with spectacular views. We will spot cars and have an early start to finish hiking in time for folks to get ready for the Big Berkshire Bash in Holyoke. Sturdy boots, warm layers, rain gear, and liquids a must. Rain cancels. To register, contact Leader prior to Oct. 30. Leader: Christine Fogarty (978-857-7078 before 9 PM) Co-Leader: Mike Milewski.

Sat., Nov. 1. Big Berkshire Bash

Please see page 1.

Wed., Nov. 5. Potluck and Open House

We want you to come check us out. This is the perfect opportunity to see what our organization offers. Pack demo and Q&A time available. Hadley Senior Community Center, 46 Middle Street, Hadley, MA. Dinner: 6–7, Program: 7–8:30. Bring a potluck dish, and also your reusable plate and cutlery. Members and non-members always welcome. Diane Furtek (413-589-5530 after 6 PM; membership@amcberkshire.org).

Sat.–Tues., Nov. 8–11. Long Trail Backpack, Vermont (A3B)

Brandon Gap to Lincoln Gap Road. Approximately 27 total miles. Day 1: Brandon Gap to Sucker Brook Shelter, 5.4 miles; Day 2: Sucker Brook Shelter to Skyline Lodge (possible fee), 9.6 miles; Day 3: Skyline Lodge to Cooley Glen Shelter, 7.5 miles; Day 4: Cooley Glen Shelter to Lincoln Gap Road, 4.7 miles. For details and to register, call Leaders before Wed., Nov. 5. Leaders: Bob Napolitano (413-534-8955 before 8 PM; nappyofma@comcast.net), Dave Koerber (413-568-4650 before 9 PM; dkoerber@earthlink.net).

Sat.–Sun., Nov. 29–30. Mount Marcy (AA4AB)

Overnight for strong hikers on New York's highest mountain. Approximately 15 miles round trip. Plan on winter conditions. Hike on the mountain and out the next morning. Crampons and snowshoes suggested. Winter weather may cancel summit, but not the hike. Climb the mountain that Theodore Roosevelt climbed the day he became President (hey, you never know!). Must interview and register with Leader before Nov. 6. Limited to 8 participants. Harold C. Petzold (862-377-9814; hpetzoldjr@yahoo.com).

Wed., Dec. 3. Potluck and Yankee Swap – Carpe Giftum!

This evening is built for fun; each participant brings a wrapped, unmarked gift with an outdoor gear theme. Dig deep for new or used treasures to exchange. Hadley Senior Community Center, 46 Middle Street, Hadley, MA. Dinner: 6–7, Program: 7–8:30. Bring a potluck dish, and also your reusable plate and cutlery. Members and non-members always welcome. Diane Furtek (413-589-5530 after 6 PM; membership@amcberkshire.org).

Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee – 2009 Nominees –

Chapter Chair: Deborah Levine; **Vice Chair:** *vacant*; **Treasurer:** Kelly Druzisky; **Secretary:** Pat Stevenson

Appalachian Trail: Jim Pelletier; **Berkshire County Representative:** Jim Wells;

Berkshire Exchange: Jon Hanauer; **Canoe & Kayak:** Charlie Camp, Connie Peterson;

Conservation: Patricia Lukas; **Family Programs:** Nancy Weld; **Membership:** Diane Furtek;

Mountaineering: Bill Fogel, Jim Van Natta; **Noble View:** Rob Robertson; **Nominating:** Rob Robertson;

Outings: Bob Napolitano; **Past Chair:** Jon Hanauer; **Public Relations:** (TBA); **Trails:** Patrick Fletcher;

Training & Education: Christine Fogarty; **Website:** Bob Bergstrom;

Young Members: Wendy Barbour, Paxton Berardy

Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee

– 2008 –

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chair: Jon Hanauer

(chapterchair@amcberkshire.org; 413-568-0990)

Vice Chair: Deborah Levine

(vicechair@amcberkshire.org; 413-584-6065)

Treasurer: Kelly Druzisky (treasurer@amcberkshire.org)

Secretary: Pat Stevenson (secretary@amcberkshire.org)

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Jim Van Natta (mountaineering@amcberkshire.org)

Noble View Committee: Rob Robertson

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Nominating Committee: Rob Robertson

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Nancy Weld, Editor (nancy@gonter.com)

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Other Helpful Contacts

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Tuesday Hiking: Dave Conley

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BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE

– September 2008 –

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Title image:

Craters of the Moon National Monument, Idaho

Need a phone number?

If the person you want to contact by phone has no number listed, please call the Chapter Secretary, Pat Stevenson, at 413-625-2709.

Celebrate Appalachian Trail Day on Saturday, October 4!

The AMC Berkshire Chapter's Appalachian Trail Management Committee is sponsoring 14 hikes on all sections of the AT in Massachusetts.

Hikes vary in difficulty and length. Please contact the appropriate trip leader for more info and any changes in rendezvous time/location. For general information about AT Day, contact Jim Pelletier at 413-454-4773 or at@amcberkshire.org.

For all hikes, wear suitable clothing, bring plenty of water, as well as lunch or snacks for longer hikes. Hikes will go rain or shine.

After the hikes, the AT Committee will be sponsoring a cookout at the Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, off Rte. 7 near the border of Lenox and Pittsfield. Follow the signs off Rte. 7 onto W. Dugway Rd., 1.6 miles to the Sanctuary. Stop by for a bite to eat, meet other hikers, and report about trail conditions and what you saw on your hike.

Hike #1: Sages Ravine to Race Brook Falls Trail. Ten miles with beautiful views from open cliffs, waterfalls, hemlock groves. Including part of the Undermountain Trail, Paradise Lane, and Race Brook Falls Trail, as well as a section of the AT. This is a strenuous but rewarding hike for those in good condition. Meet 8:30 AM at Race Brook Falls Trail parking area on Rte. 41, South Egremont, 3 miles south of Jug End Road. Leader: Jon Greene (413-528-3106; greenemc.com). A3AB

Hike #2: Race Brook Falls Trail to the AT and north to Jug End Rd. Beautiful waterfalls, views of Mt. Greylock, the Catskills, other mountains, and the Housatonic valley. A strenuous hike of 7 miles using Race Brook Falls Trail as an access. Meet 9 AM at Race Brook Falls Trail parking area on Rte. 41, South Egremont, 3 miles south of Jug End Road. Leader: Dave Campbell (413-442-4248). B3AB

Hike #3: Jug End Rd., Sheffield, to Boardman St. A moderate hike of 5.5 miles with no major ascent. See a variety of habitats from open fields to woodlands. Contact the hike leader for meeting location and start time. Leader: Bob Parker (413-229-0472). B3D

Hike #4: Home Rd. to Benedict Pond. Moderately strenuous, 7.5 miles, over East Mountain and along ledges with nice views. Meet 9:30 AM at Guido's parking lot across from the Great Barrington Fair Grounds. Leader: Ann Wood (413-256-6094; awood@library.umass.edu). B3BC

Hike #5: Benedict Pond to Tyringham Cobble. Moderately strenuous, 9 miles, with views, a beaver pond, shelters (including the new shelter at South Wilcox), spruce grove, and interesting rock formations. Meet at the Trustees of Reservations Tyringham Cobble Parking lot on Jerusalem Rd., Tyringham, 8:30 AM. Leader: Debra Weisenstein (508-358-4169; weisenstein@aer.com). A3C

Hike #6: Fernside Rd. to Goose Pond Rd., Tyringham. This is a moderate and enjoyable 7.5-mile hike with varied scenery including old stone walls and overgrown pasture. Meet 9 AM at the Tyringham Fire Station on Main Rd. Leader: Pete Rentz (413-442-6732; marypete@hughes.net). B3C

Hike #7: Rte. 20 to Goose Pond Rd. Explore the Upper Goose Pond area and two recently built sections of trail. Cross the Mass Pike on the footbridge. Also a side trip to Upper Goose Pond Cabin. Approximately 5.5 miles of moderate, scenic walking. Meet 10 AM at the AT parking lot on Rte. 20 in Lee/Becket. Leader: Steve Smith (978-692-8219; stevensmith@verizon.net). B3C

Hike #8: Rte. 20, Lee, to Pittsfield Rd., Washington. Moderately paced, moderately strenuous, 9.5-mile hike through October Mountain State Forest, over Becket Mountain, and along scenic Finerty Pond. Meet 9 AM at the AT parking lot on Rte. 20 in Lee/Becket. Leader: Chuck Brown (617-876-4798; midniteramblr@hotmail.com). A3B

Hike #9: Pittsfield Rd., Washington, to Grange Hall Rd., Dalton. A pleasant, moderate hike of 7 miles with good views from Warner Hill summit and a visit to Kay Wood Shelter. Meet 10 AM at the Burgner's Market parking lot, 777 Dalton Division Rd. at Williams Street, Pittsfield. Leader: Elvery Veal (413-665-3010; v.elvery@comcast.net). B3C

Hike #10: Housatonic St. to Grange Hall

Rd. Round trip total of 4 miles. This will be a short, interesting hike for those who are not free to walk in the morning. Possible 0.5-mile extension to Kay Wood Shelter. Meet 1 PM at AT crossing near the train tracks on Housatonic St., Dalton. Leader: Becky Barnes (413-499-7003; Rebecca.Barnes@state.ma.us). C4BC

Hike #11: Cheshire to Gulf Rd., Dalton. About 8 miles of mostly moderate hiking. Nice views of Hoosac Lake, the valley and mountains from Cheshire Cobble, and Gore Pond (one of the highest ponds in the state). Meet 9 AM at the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail parking lot, Depot St., Cheshire. Leader: Dave Koerber, (413-568-4650; dkoerber@earthlink.com). B3BC

Hike #12: Rte. 8, Cheshire to Mount Greylock summit. This is a strenuous hike of approximately 7 miles. You will hike through meadows and open woods. Then climb—sometimes steeply—through balsam forest and mixed woodlands. If the roads on Mt. Greylock are closed, this hike will be rerouted. Call the leader for final arrangements and to register. Meet 9 AM at the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail parking lot, Rte. 8, Cheshire. Leader: Jim Montgomery (413-585-2921; jmontgom@email.smith.edu). B3B

Hike #13: Pattison Rd., North Adams, to Mt. Greylock summit. This is a 5.5-mile, strenuous hike involving some steep climbing on Prospect, Williams, and Greylock, rewarded with great views. If the roads on Mt. Greylock are closed, this will be a 13-mile, very strenuous hike over Mt. Greylock and on to Cheshire. Call Bob to get the final details and register. Leader: Bob Napolitano (413-534-8955; outings@amcberkshire.org). B3B

Hike #14: Massachusetts Ave. to the Vermont border. North on the AT and return using the Pine Cobble Trail. This is 8 miles of fairly strenuous but pleasant hiking with good views from Pine Cobble. Meet 9 AM at intersection of Cole Ave. and North Hoosac Rd., Williamstown. Leader: Helga Ragle (413-253-3041; hrgale@crocker.com). Co-Leader: Mike Milewski (mmilewski@library.umass.edu). B3B

AMC Hike Ratings

Hikes are rated according to their distance, pace, and ruggedness. A typical rating might be "B3C". The first letter indicates the hike's distance:

- AA = over 13 miles
- A = 9 - 13 miles
- B = 5 - 8 miles
- C = under 5 miles

The number in the middle indicates the pace the leader expects to set (on average terrain):

- 1 = very fast (2.5 mph or faster)
- 2 = fast (2 - 2.5 mph)
- 3 = moderate (1.5 - 2 mph)
- 4 = leisurely (less than 1.5 mph)

The final letter indicates the kind of terrain:

- A = very strenuous
- B = strenuous
- C = average
- D = easy

If there are two letters at the end (for example, "B3BC"), it indicates the terrain is somewhere between the levels indicated by either of the letters alone. As always, if you have any questions about what the hike will be like, call the trip leader or hike contact person.



Noble View –

Setbacks and Challenges and Delays – Oh My!

We have some deeply disappointing news to report concerning the bathhouse project.

We were not able to complete and obtain certificates of occupancy for the bathhouse potable water supply and septic systems prior to the May 1, 2008 change in regulations governing these systems. That means our existing well is too close to the buildings under the new regulations, and must be abandoned and decommissioned. We can no longer use the design for the proposed septic field for which we blasted in May, 2007.

We are now in the process of evaluating the percolation rate of the soils in the facility zone (that portion of the property on which development is not prohibited by the conservation restriction) so that a new septic field can be designed and permitted. Once we've resolved the septic system issue, we'll drill another well that we hope will yield enough water for the proposed level of occupancy and use at Noble View. We'll then be in a position to move forward with the other aspects of the bathhouse project.

Given these challenges, it's likely that we will not be able to complete the bathhouse in 2009. We'll keep you posted as events unfold.

On a more positive note, Gary Forish has done a tremendous job of landscaping this summer. We've removed the stumps and debris from the fire buffer zone areas, and graded and prepared the soil for seeding with

a native grass mix that will provide food and habitat for wildlife. We've installed tons of gravel in the parking area to the southwest of the barn.

Our fabulous volunteers have worked hard to rebuild the stone walls to the north of the buildings. There's lots more stone wall work to do, so look for work days to be posted online.

Dave Conley and Ed Watson are moving forward with trail work and GPS mapping. Dave emails his trail work information to the Tuesday Hikers listserv, and will gladly welcome your company and assistance. Also, we're ready to work on trail blazing and signs over the fall and winter. If you're interested in helping out, please contact Dave, Ed or me. Soon it should be impossible to get lost on the trails, unless you really make an effort!

Finally, we hope to have a new website up this fall. If you have great Noble View photos, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Robertson
Noble View Chair
cerobertson@comcast.net
413-549-4963

Volunteer Opportunities at Noble View

Guest Greeter Needed

We're looking for someone local who is available to welcome Noble View's overnight guests. You'd drive up to Noble View (gas stipend available), meet our guests, provide them with information about the facility and the area, and answer any questions. These visits shouldn't take very long, and typically would occur on Friday evenings or Saturday mornings. For more information, please call Gary at 413-519-3251.

Woodcutting Days

Sat. & Sun., Nov. 15–16

Many hardy, handy, and helpful folks are needed to get in a supply of firewood for the coming year. Bring gloves, a sense of humor, and clothes suitable for the weather. A large supply of wood will be available for splitting and piling into the wood shed. Water and lunch will be provided. Please call Gary at 413-562-6792 to RSVP for lunch.

Get the very latest event listings!

<http://trips.outdoors.org>

Just select **BERKSHIRE** in the Chapter field (the other fields can be left blank).

Then click the **SUBMIT** button.

Don't forget to check in at home!

<http://amcberkshire.org>

LATE-BREAKING NEWS & IMPORTANT CHAPTER INFORMATION

Educational Workshops at Noble View

Berkshire Chapter Leadership Training

Sat. & Sun., Oct. 25–26, 2008

Whether you'd like to become a Chapter leader or just want to improve your outdoor skills, you're invited to attend. Training emphasizes group dynamics, leaders' responsibilities, trip planning/management, weather emergencies, incident/accident scene management, leader awareness, and decision-making. The \$25 fee covers day training and materials. Fee is refundable to Berkshire Chapter leaders once you've completed your three co-leads and have led your first event for the Berkshire Chapter. Overnight lodging available for \$15. Advance payment requested. Please contact Christine Fogarty at 978-857-7078 or learning@amcberkshire.org.

SOLO Wilderness First Aid

Sat. & Sun., Nov. 22–23, 2008

WFA addresses the medical and logistical issues that arise where there is no ambulance, no roof or walls for shelter from the elements, supplies are few, and the length of the wait for help is unknown. Lectures and discussions are supplemented by hands-on scenarios. An emphasis on long-term care and evacuation complications in the backcountry makes this course unique. Fee of \$135 with optional lodging available for \$15/night. For info or to register, contact Gary Forish at 413-519-3251 or forgary@comcast.net.

SOLO Advanced Wilderness First Aid

Sat. & Sun., Dec. 6–7, 2008

Current Wilderness First Aid certification is a prerequisite for this course. Advanced Wilderness First Aid (AWFA) builds on the skills taught in WFA, providing more in-depth information on topics already covered such as medical and environmental emergencies, and presents new skills such as litter improvisation and litter-carrying techniques. More hands-on practice with greater emphasis on leadership is a key element. Practical simulations and scenarios provide practice in backcountry leadership and rescue skills. Fee: \$145 with optional lodging available at \$15/night. For info or to register, contact Gary Forish at 413-519-3251 or forgary@comcast.net.



Cormorants on the Cape Cod Canal during the AMC 2008 Spring Gathering. *photo by Mike Furtek*

BIG BERKSHIRE BASH

- RESERVATION FORM -

Event is Saturday, November 1, 2008

Members and non-members welcome!

ANNUAL MEETING • CASH BAR • DINNER • SPEAKER

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR REGISTRATION
POSTMARKED BY OCTOBER 25!**

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Number of persons attending:

_____ At \$25 each

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Please make check payable to **Berkshire Chapter AMC.**

Mail completed Reservation Form and your check to:

Diane Furtek, 152 Wedgewood Drive, Ludlow, MA 01056

Questions? Need directions? Call Deborah Levine (413-584-6065).



MEMBERSHIP IN A BOTTLE

For the cost of your annual membership, you will receive:

A Nalgene® water bottle • A \$10 gift certificate good for AMC books, lodging, and workshops • An AMC window decal • A subscription to *AMC Outdoors* • Our quarterly newsletter, the *Berkshire Exchange* • A new member packet with a welcome letter, information brochure, and member ID card.

- AMC Berkshire Membership Form -

I wish to purchase:

- _____ Individual "Membership in a Bottle" kits (\$50 each).
- _____ Family "Membership in a Bottle" kits (\$75 each).
- _____ Senior "Membership in a Bottle" kits (\$25 each, age 69 and over). Age: _____.
- _____ Young Member "Membership in a Bottle" kits (\$25 each, up to age 30). Age: _____.

I have enclosed a check for the total amount of \$ _____ made payable to **Berkshire Chapter AMC.**

Please mail the kits to:

Name: _____

Street: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Is this a gift membership? Yes No

(Bottles will be sent to the address above, and the membership recorded in that name, unless you indicate otherwise.)

Note: This offer is for new members only. Not for renewals, please. Thanks.

Please mail completed form with check to:

Chris Ryan, PO Box 9369, North Amherst, MA 01059

Questions? Contact Chris Ryan at 413-549-4124 or bottles@amcberkshire.org

Berkshire Exchange
Fall 2008



**Berkshire Chapter
Appalachian Mountain Club**
5 Joy Street
Boston, MA 02108

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