

BERKSHIRE Exchange

FROM *the* CHAIR

A Great Chapter Needs Your Support

Hi there folks! Well it's been a bit of a whirlwind tour from interim-Vice Chair to Chair, but here I am now. Thanks to all those who attended and helped prepare for the Berkshire Bash annual meeting dinner. It was well-enjoyed by the many guests. Now as I get more deeply involved in the Chapter, let me take a minute or three to say thanks to those around me. We have a fantastic Executive Committee, second to none that I have worked with in prior organizations. These people volunteer many hours of sweat and concentration and sometimes tears to keep this organization strong. They are the people who provide valuable training to both AMC members and other outdoors enthusiasts alike; schedule interesting, scenic, sometimes challenging and always rewarding outdoors trips and experiences; and head the conservation and education efforts that make this organization great. Please take the time to read their names on page 2 and perhaps drop them a note of thanks.

I would also like to specifically thank Deborah Levine, the newest member of our Past Chairs Club. Deb has truly poured herself into the organization in increasingly greater roles over the last few years to finally take on the challenging role of Chair. During her tenure, Deb attracted some talented people into the organization and maintained a strong and vibrant Chapter. The pinnacle of her achievements, however, must be noted, as she presided over the most successful AMC Fall

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LEADER TRAINING
Sat.–Sun., April 9–10
see page 4

Tuesday Hikers Complete the AT in Massachusetts *by Jan Alicia Nettler*

In April, 2010, the Tuesday Hikers began at the Mass./Conn. border for the first of a series of hikes on the Appalachian Trail, completing 11 miles over Mt. Everett and Mt. Race. Every two weeks they hiked another section. Finally, six months later in October they finished the final section, crossing the Mass./Vermont border.

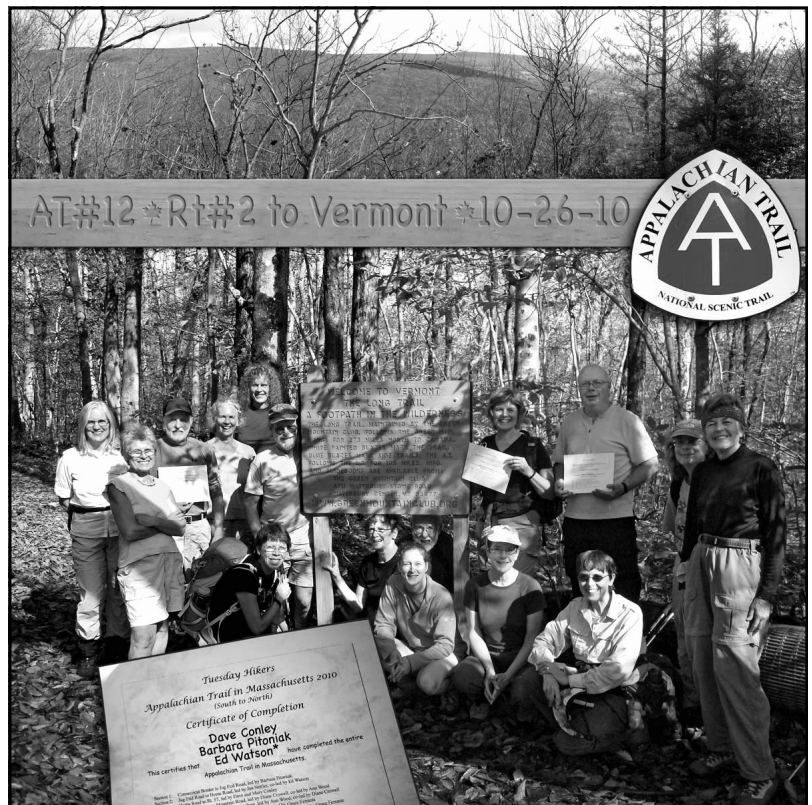
It was an exciting milestone, as refreshments were served and speeches were made. Barb Pitozniak and Dave Conley, the only ones who finished all 12 hikes, received Certificates of Completion. Ed Watson was given a Certificate of "Almost" Completion—he missed one of them.

Some 15 to 20 hikers participated in most of the hikes. Many hikers came out for more than half of the treks, which ranged from 6 to 11 miles each. A few years ago, the Tuesday Hikers completed the AT in Mass. from north to south. In 2010 they did it from south to north.

Anyone is welcome on the Tuesday hikes, which take place all over western Mass. and occasionally cross into neighboring states. They are show-and-go hikes (no registration required). Information can be found on the AMC Schedule of Events (<http://amcberkshire.org/schedule>). For more details about the hikes, subscribe to the Tuesday Hiking email list by sending your name to Irene Lamson at ilamson@comcast.net.

The Tuesday Hikers on the Appalachian Trail at the Mass./Vermont border.

photo by
Jan Alicia Nettler



Hiking the M-M Trail (New England National Scenic Trail), Part I by David Sauriol

Winter has a type of quiet beauty and solitude different from the rest of the year. The air is crisp and clear and you can see forever. Last winter/spring I set my sights on the M-M. It's a great local trail, close to the city of Springfield in parts, and offering some really different sights and sounds.

The M-M (a.k.a. Metacomet-Monadnock Trail, a.k.a. New England Scenic Trail) is one of three N-S cross-state trails—something I find impressive. The Mid-State Trail from Rhode Island through Worcester to New Hampshire, and the Mass. AT from Western Connecticut to Mt. Greylock and Vermont are the others. The M-M actually starts way down in the bottom third of Conn. and crosses the Mass./Conn. border at Southwick, Mass. Here are a few tales of my five days of wanderings.

Day 1 (Sections 1 & 2): Section 1 (Mass./Conn. border to Rte. 57, 2.3 miles) starts off in a flat, open field near Rising Corner, Conn., enters the woods and an interesting bog system, then ends up passing through the Agawam Bowman's Archery Club to Rte. 57. Section 2 (Rte. 57 to the Westfield River, Rtes. 187/20, 3.4 miles) starts out from Rte. 57 into the scenic Lane Quarry. From here the climb takes you over some ridges past a Westfield/Agawam/Southwick town marker (interesting) to the old WWLP TV Station and observation tower on Provin Mtn. There are great views of downtown Springfield from the ridges (and an observation tower if it weren't closed). A little farther down, I passed an odd sight: a king's throne. (Well, the mountain man version anyway—check it out). Then I continued down to the Westfield River. I got a real chuckle out of the blue blazes going into the river and seeing blue on a tree across the way. You can go north and cross a bridge of course, but I couldn't wait until summer to cross at low-water time of year. I touched the blue blaze and put my foot on the water to end the day.

Day 2 (Section 3, Rte. 20 to Mass Pike, 3.9 quarry miles): Okay, so of course I had to reach out and touch the blue blaze on a tree leaning out over the Westfield River on the other side and put my foot in the water (just to be official). From here I crossed Rte. 20 and went up the road to the Pioneer Valley Sportsman's Club. Here's where Hikin' Dave gets lost...I mean enjoys the natural beauty and challenge of bushwhacking. This trail brought me to a strange-looking covered conveyor belt, which of course led me to the middle of the Grand Canyon. Well, not really, but the center of the Lane Quarry certainly is breathtaking. A beautiful detour with hundred-plus foot drop-offs, granite cliffs, and sparkling blue lakes of water at the base. The hike on the actual trail continues (seemingly forever) along the spacious quarry and ends up at an I-90 underpass and a sight of "urban artistic beauty." The vivid colors and detailed designs are quite a contrast to the bleak gray of the tunnel cement. If you decide to make a loop, just take East Mountain Rd. past the Maple Wood Alpaca Farm and back to the river.

Day 3 (Sections 4 & 5): Section 4 (Mass Pike to Rte. 202, 4.0 miles) follows a beautifully scenic ridgeline with several rusted observation towers (closed) overlooking Westfield. You get a really good feel for the M-M Trail here by looking both south and north to a continuous series of hills in both directions. There are also myriad side trail opportunities with unique names like Yeti, Armageddon, and Salad Gremlin Trails just to mention a few. Section 5 (Rte. 202 to Rte. 141 at Mt. Tom, 5.7 miles) continues with even more towers and better ridge views. Look for the balancing rock, and duck your head while you pass by the Holyoke Revolver Club. (Just kidding, you're out of range on the trail...I think...)

Day 4 (Section 6, Mt. Tom range and the Connecticut River, 6.3 miles): This section wastes no time getting *up*, straight up the side of Mt. Tom to breathtaking views of the valley and a great cliff walk starting down the other side. Look out for those crazy trail runners, though. I felt a little inadequate as several runners passed me running on the trail in sneakers and shorts while I moseyed along in my full-winter gear. The next stop was Goat Peak observation tower, a commanding view of the mountains and valley, and a popular birding locale. After a few more gradual wavy hills, Mt. Nonotuck and Eyrle House ruins are met. This was a real unexpected pleasure and reminded me of some ancient Spanish fort ruins (okay, so use a little imagination). From the great summit the grandeur of the Connecticut River can truly be appreciated, with its partially snow covered twists and turns gradually winding its way southward. From here, there's a pleasant path through the woods and down along some power lines and a couple side roads, and then back to the river and the traditional foot on the water to end the day.

Day 5 (Section 7, the Seven Sisters): This is a very pleasant hike with gentle ups and downs as you meet each of the Seven Sisters in turn. For the adventurous, you can bum a ride across the

continued on page 5

Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee — 2011 —

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chair: David Sauriol
(davesaur@greyst.com; 401-523-4672)

Vice Chair: *vacant*

Treasurer: *TBD*

Secretary: *TBD*

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Appalachian Trail Committee:

Jim Pelletier
(at@amcberkshire.org; 413-454-4773)

Berkshire County Representative: *vacant*

Berkshire Exchange Committee:

Chair/Publisher – Jon Hanauer
(newsletter@amcberkshire.org; 413-568-0990)

E-News Administrator – David Jones
(enews-admin@amcberkshire.org)

Canoe and Kayak Committee:

Charlie Camp and Connie Peterson
(paddling@amcberkshire.org)

Conservation Committee:

Bill Scaife
(conservation@amcberkshire.org)

Family Programs:

Membership Welcoming Committee:
vacant

Mountaineering Committee:

Bill Fogel
(mountaineering@amcberkshire.org; 413-427-1693)

Sarah Long

(mountaineering@amcberkshire.org; 845-235-3127)

Noble View Committee:

Frank Evans
(FEvans6568@aol.com)

Nominating Committee:

Outings Committee:

Jon Hanauer
(outings@amcberkshire.org; 413-568-0990)

Past Chair:

Deborah Levine
(past-chair@amcberkshire.org; 413-322-9416)

Public Relations Committee:

Sabine Prather
(publicity@amcberkshire.org; 413-949-3914)

Trails Committee:

Patrick Fletcher
(hiker6@comcast.net; 413-562-9863)

Training and Education Committee:

Christine Fogarty
(learning@amcberkshire.org; 978-857-7078)

Website Committee:

Chair/Webmaster – Bob Bergstrom
(webmaster@amcberkshire.org)

Content Editor – *vacant*

Young Members Committee:

Wendy Barbour and Paxton Berardy
(ymchair@amcberkshire.org; 860-758-7275)

Other Helpful Contacts

Membership in a Bottle: Chris Ryan
(geolopes@comcast.net; 413-549-4124)

Regional Director: Dale Geslien
(dalegeslien@sbcglobal.net; 203-778-3651)

Regional Trails Coordinator: Matt Moore
AMC Southern New England Trails Office, South Egremont
(mjmoore@outdoors.org; 413-528-8003)

Tuesday Hiking: Irene Lamson
(ilamson@comcast.net; 413-584-6644)



amcberkshire.org
amcberkshire.org/schedule
outdoors.org

CARDIGAN LODGE "WOOSTER-SHIRE" WEEKEND EXTRAVAGANZA!

Friday–Sunday, June 10–12, 2011

It's a joint Worcester/Berkshire ("Wooster-Shire") chapters weekend at **AMC Cardigan Lodge**, Alexandria, NH. We'll have fun as we hike, cycle, paddle, eat, contra dance, socialize, gather around the campfire, and more! Also, there will be an opportunity for our leaders (and other members interested in Chapter leadership) to discuss topics of interest and share their experiences.

Lodging Rates:

Includes 2 nights bunkroom lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 trail lunches, 2 dinners, and Saturday happy hour snacks. Adult, \$134; Youth (age 13–17), \$113; Child (age 3–12), \$58.

Camping Rates:

Sites are available for \$23 per night (maximum 2 tents, 6 people per site). Optional camper meal package available (1 dinner, 1 breakfast, 1 lunch): Adult & Youth, \$31; Child (under age 12), \$20.

For details, contact Dave Sauriol
(401-523-4672; chapterchair@amcberkshire.org)
or Christine Fogarty
(978-857-7078; takeahike31@hotmail.com).

**To reserve your spot, call AMC Reservations
at 603-466-2727 and specify Group #161552.**

BERKSHIRE
CHAPTER



WORCESTER
CHAPTER



BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE

– March 2011 –

Publisher: Jon Hanauer (newsletter@amcberkshire.org; 413-568-0990)

Editor: Maureen Flanagan (berkeditor@amcberkshire.org)

Assistant Editor: Gail Blackhall (proofreader@amcberkshire.org)

E-Newsletter Administrator:

David Jones (enews-admin@amcberkshire.org; 413-320-1617)

Submissions: newsletter@amcberkshire.org;
Berkshire Exchange, 29 Atwater Street, Westfield, MA 01085-1541

Address Changes & Delivery Preferences:

www.outdoors.org/membercenter; 800-372-1758;
Appalachian Mountain Club, 5 Joy Street, Boston, MA 02108

Title Image: photo by Michael Root
Mount Tom and Easthampton



Cairns

Rock mounds carefully placed
They pinnacle mountain tops for traveling hikers
erect as beacons, lighting the way
There in the fleeting cloud cover, tumbling over time,
guardians of old
Cairns beckoning footprints
along the white frost covered rock ledges
A pyramid encrusted with barnacles of snow...
The moment of elation.....a mountain summit
Cairns leading paths along the sand...shining stones
playfully balanced pillars and arches,
protecting footsteps through the marsh
The island of destination,
a lighthouse

— *Janice Doubleday*

- OUTDOOR EDUCATION -

Leader Training, Berkshire/Worcester Chapters

Camp Harrington, Boylston, MA • Saturday–Sunday, April 9–10

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 and management, weather emergencies, incident/accident scene control, leader awareness, and decision-making. Fee of \$25 covers 2-day training and all materials. Attendance both days is required. Overnight lodging is available for \$18/night. Advance payment requested. Existing leaders attend at no charge. Christine Fogarty (978-857-7078 before 9 PM; takeahike31@hotmail.com)

Intro to Backpacking Series

Camp Harrington, Boylston, MA • Saturday, May 14

Berkshire & Worcester Chapters' Intro to Backpacking Series at YMCA Camp Harrington. Join experienced backpackers from both chapters for an educational one-day seminar discussing trip planning, personal and group gear, food/nutrition, first aid, and Leave No Trace principles. Backpacking hikes occurring throughout the summer and fall with preference given to series attendees. AMC Members attend info session for free, \$5 for non-members.

Christine Fogarty (978-857-7078 before 9 PM; takeahike31@hotmail.com)

Gary Fitzgerald (617-504-2436; gfitzz@comcast.net)

SOLO Wilderness First Aid Training

Noble View Outdoor Center, Russell, MA • Saturday–Sunday, May 21–22

Improve your skills and increase your confidence. Learn accident scene management and patient care at western Massachusetts' Noble View Outdoor Center (nobleviewoutdoorcenter.org)! Standard first aid practices are generally based on the assumption that help will arrive soon and the patient will be out of your hands and at the hospital in under an hour. Accidents can and do happen, and all too often members of a group are not capable of dealing with the emergency. Not only does this lead to improper care of the patient, but it also endangers the entire group. WFA addresses the medical and logistical issues that arise where there is no ambulance, no shelter from the elements, your supplies are few, and the length of your 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 make this course unique. Fee of \$140 with optional lodging available. Subsidy available for active Berkshire Chapter leaders. All are welcome: AMC members as well as members of the general public.

Gary Forish (413-519-3251 before 8 PM; forgary@comcast.net)

The Noble View Bathhouse is Now Open!

Our brand new bathhouse features safe, potable water for hot showers, hand sinks, and dishwashing stations, as well as "fragrance-free" Clivus flush toilets. Enjoy all the modern conveniences in lighted and heated comfort!

To welcome past and new guests, we're offering a midweek discount for the Double Cottage and the North Cottage during July, August, and September. If your group reserves 9 or more beds, take 15% off a 3-day stay or 20% off a 5-day stay. The \$2 weekday discount is not available with this discount offer.

For reservations at Noble View Outdoor Center, contact Gary Forish at 413-519-3251.

NobleViewOutdoorCenter.org

– VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES –

VOLUNTEER FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

If you'd like to be part of the top level of Berkshire Chapter leadership and you're interested in one of these exciting positions, or would like to know more, please contact David Sauriol at 401-523-4672 or chapterchair@amcberkshire.org.

Chapter Vice Chair

The Chapter Vice Chair works with the Chapter Chair to develop goals and establish benchmarks to achieve these goals. The Vice Chair attends (and represents our Chapter in the Chair's absence) the AMC-wide Chapters Committee meetings. The Vice Chair would be nominated to become Chapter Chair at the end of the current Chapter Chair's two-year term.

Chapter Secretary

This is a very important Chapter Officer position on our Executive Committee. Primary responsibilities include recording the minutes at our monthly meetings and emailing those minutes to Executive Committee members.

Chapter Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for the financial affairs of the Chapter. Duties include processing revenue, paying expenses, maintaining bank accounts, recommending an annual budget that reflects the priorities determined by the Executive Committee, reporting periodically to the Executive Committee, and submitting an annual report and books to Club auditors.

Family Programs Chair

Do you enjoy getting outside with your family? Would you like to share your love of the outdoors and the excitement of introducing children to new adventures in the natural world? Then consider becoming involved with Family Programs. We are looking for someone with energy and enthusiasm to take on this role and develop family-friendly outings and activities.

Membership Committee Chair

Organizing events is especially helpful in introducing new and prospective members to our chapter and the AMC. Help us welcome new members and encourage them (as well as the general public) to join us in all our activities.

Nominating Committee Chair

We are looking for someone to assist our Chapter's committees in identifying and developing qualified individuals for leadership roles in the Berkshire Chapter. This role is vital to the continuity of Chapter leadership. We are looking for someone who has, or is willing to develop, a broad knowledge of our Chapter and its members, and who would enjoy helping to identify talented members and leaders and encouraging them to become more involved.

Training & Education Committee Chair

The person who takes this exciting position would be responsible for arranging basic level Outdoor Leadership Training twice per year. Encouraging Chapter leaders to attend Wilderness First Aid training is another way the T&E Chair can help. Ideas for other types of workshops would also be welcome. Many trainings are organized and run in partnership with the Worcester Chapter, so the person who takes this position would have additional support.

Website Content Editor

Are you web savvy? Would you like to use your skills to keep Chapter members up-to-date on happenings? We are looking for a website content editor to work with the Website Committee Chair and keep the information on our website current and interesting. We are currently considering redesigning our website and this would be an exciting time for someone with some time, energy, and skills.

Hiking the M-M Trail, Part I, *continued from page 2*

Connecticut River at the public boat launch and get dropped at the edge of a field across the way, or of course take the Jack LaLanne method and swim across in shackles (perhaps when I'm a bit older and can claim senility). From here, cross the field, go down a couple roads and up a path to the Summit House. Great views of the valley and river here and perhaps a chance for a nice picnic. The views continue as you cross the ridges over to Mt. Hitchcock (do you hear birds?), and then over to Bare Mtn. above the notch and Rte. 116. There's a great view straight down to the Notch Visitor Center directly below. It's hard to believe that a lot of people actually "run" up this half-mile, 500-foot gain portion during the annual Spring Seven Sisters Trail Race. I wonder how many they lose in the first mile?

Well, that was it for the M-M for winter 2009/2010 as spring had come again and the White Mountains and my 48 peaks beckoned. You can be sure I'll be back to continue this winter. Until next time...get outdoors!

From the Chair, *continued from page 1*

Gathering ever. I must tell you that in meeting with other AMC chapter leaders, the biggest challenge they all spoke of was planning and hosting this huge club-wide event. It was mentioned as *the* biggest concern of the club's leadership and Deb managed to not only make it happen, but to make it *great*. So please join me in giving thanks to Deb Levine for a job thoroughly and thoughtfully well done.

The Berkshire Chapter needs *you!!!* Without leadership, there is no club. Please give some thought to joining the Executive Committee in some role (Secretary, New Members Welcomer, Family/Youth Programs, Vice Chair, Training, etc.). We really need you now.

Respectfully,
Hikin' Dave Sauriol
Berkshire Chapter Chair
chapterchair@amcberkshire.org
401-523-4672

Highlights of Upcoming Chapter Events

PARTIAL LISTING. For complete and updated listings of all Berkshire Chapter events, please visit amcberkshire.org/schedule.
AT=Appalachian Trail. For details about hike difficulty ratings (e.g. "C3C"), contact the leader.

— SPECIAL NOTICES —

Fri.–Mon., May 27–30.

Paddling and Biking on Cape Cod

Spend Memorial Day weekend at Sweetwater Forest Campground, Brewster, on sites surrounded by native pine and oak forest, next to a small lake. Paddling options are right at Sweetwater, the Herring River, Long Pond, or Salt Pond (all easy paddles). Paddle on Saturday, bike on the Cape Cod Rail Trail Sunday, possible horseback riding Monday. Contact leader for more info and to register.

Call 508-896-3773 to reserve a site.

Sabine Prather (413-949-3914, pioneervplanner1@yahoo.com).

Fri.–Mon., Sep. 2–5. Pemi Hut-to-Hut Adventure, White Mountains

Join us on our hut-to-hut adventure in the mountains of the beautiful Pemigewasset Wilderness! Stay at Shapleigh bunkhouse Friday night, Zealand Hut Saturday night, and Galehead Hut Sunday night. Visit summits of Tom, Zealand, South Twin, and Galehead. Possible side trip to West Bond. Relax near a refreshing waterfall at Zealand Hut. We hope to catch a glimpse of the Zealand Pond moose, and the famous grouse guarding the path near Zealand summit. Approximately \$295 for three nights lodging, three breakfasts, and two dinners. Recent mountain experience required. Bring sleeping bag for huts. Register early, space is limited.

Registration and payment due by August 1.

Rebecca Budaj (413-289-0114 before 7:30pm, rbudaj@comcast.net).

— OUTINGS —

Tuesday Hiking

Every Tuesday. For details, check amcberkshire.org/schedule a few days prior.

Sat., Apr. 16. Mass. AT Series #1:

Connecticut Border to Jug End (A3B)

We will hike the 1st Mass. AT section from Sages Ravine over Mt. Race, Mt. Everett, and Jug End, ending at Jug End Rd. About 11.2 miles (10.4 miles on the AT) with 1,800 feet of elevation gain. Excellent views. This will be an all-day hike; lunch, snacks, and water are needed. We'll spot cars and hike trail in one direction. Contact leader to register and for meeting info.

Cindy Hibert (413-567-8544, cwhibert@comcast.net).

Sun., Apr. 24. Annual Easter Sunday Monument Mountain Hike,

Great Barrington (C3B)

Afternoon hike with nice views of Berkshires and Catskills. Bring sturdy hiking shoes/boots, water, snacks, extra warm layers, and rain shell. Snow or steady rain cancels. Meet at 11:30am in Westfield or 12:45pm in Great Barrington. New and

prospective members especially welcome. Optional social after at Barrington Brewery. Call to register.

Jon Hanauer (413-568-0990).

Sat., Apr. 30. Mass. AT Series #2:

Jug End to Sheffield (B2CD)

We will hike the 2nd Mass. AT section starting at Jug End Rd. About 5 miles over mostly flat or moderately rolling terrain, until the last 1.5 miles where we gain about 300 feet on June Mtn. and end in Sheffield. This will be a half-day hike; snacks, and water are needed. We'll spot cars and hike trail in one direction. Contact leader to register and for meeting info.

Cindy Hibert (413-567-8544, cwhibert@comcast.net).

Sun., May 1, Jun. 5, Jul. 3, Aug. 7, Sep. 4...

Mount Tom State Reservation

First Sunday each month until November. Give back easy-duty trail maintenance. Tools provided. Contact L by 8pm on Thursday prior for meeting place.

Elbert Bowler (413-532-4464, treble13@comcast.net).

Sat., May 7. Shatterack Mtn.

Good morning spring workout hike with great views north and south.

Janice Doubleday (jandoubleday@gmail.com).

Sat., May 7. Hike and Paddle North Quabbin

Hike and Paddle North Quabbin. This is a beautiful region on the other side of the "big lake." In the morning, gentle hour-long hike up Soapstone Mtn. in the Federated Women's Club State Forest in Petersham; big payoff with views of the Quabbin not normally seen. Lunch or snacks on the viewpoint, then hike back to drive to and kayak Pottapaug Pond, next to the Quabbin off Rte. 32A. Kayaks are provided by MDC for \$10/person (fishing license for the day required for a small fee).

Sabine Prather (413-949-3914, pioneervplanner1@yahoo.com).

Sat., May 14. Mass. AT Series #3:

Sheffield to Monterey (B2C)

We will hike the 3rd Mass. AT section from Sheffield to Monterey, over East Mtn. and passing Ice Gulch in the Tom Leonard Shelter area. About 7.1 miles with 1,200 feet in elevation gain. This will be an all-day hike; lunch, snacks, and water are needed. We'll spot cars and hike trail in one direction. Contact leader to register and for meeting info.

Cindy Hibert (413-567-8544, cwhibert@comcast.net).

Sun., May 15. Mount Greylock (A3B)

Enjoy spectacular views from the highest point in Massachusetts (3491 feet). We'll do

a loop (8.5 miles with 2,200 feet of elevation gain). Ascend via Bellows Pipe Trail and AT. Return via AT and Bernard Farm Trail. Call to register.

Jon Hanauer (413-568-0990);
Mike Furtek (413-589-5530).

Sat., May 21. Natural History Stroll

Stroll for 2 hours, Mt. Washington, MA. Contact leader for info and to reg. Group size limited.

Judy Isacoff (413-528-1335, naturesturn@taconic.net).

Sat., Jun. 4. Mass. AT Series #4:

Beartown State Forest to Tyringham Cobble (A3B)

We will hike the 4th Mass. AT section from Beartown State Forest to Tyringham Cobble and over Mt. Wilcox. About 12.1 miles with 1,200 feet in elevation gain. This will be an all-day hike; lunch, snacks, and water are needed. We'll spot cars and hike trail in one direction. Contact leader to register and for meeting info.

Cindy Hibert (413-567-8544, cwhibert@comcast.net).

Sun., Jun. 26. Hike and Tour Holcomb Farm

Holcomb Farm is in Granby, CT. The farm offers programs, events, summer camp for kids, hiking trails, and local community-supported agriculture. We'll tour the buildings and portions of the working farm, then hike on the hill or river trails. Contact leader for meeting info.

Sabine Prather (413-949-3914, pioneervplanner1@yahoo.com).

Sun., Jun. 26. Mass. AT Series #5:

Tyringham Cobble to Becket (A3B)

We will hike the 5th Mass. AT section from Tyringham to Goose Pond to Becket, ending at Rte. 20. Beginning with a difficult ascent, then leveling off and progressing with more moderate ups and downs, the hike will be 8.6 miles with about 800 feet in elevation gain. This will be an all-day hike; lunch, snacks, and water are needed. We'll spot cars and hike trail in one direction. Contact leader to register and for meeting info.

Cindy Hibert (413-567-8544, cwhibert@comcast.net).

Sun., Jul. 24. Mass. AT Series #6:

Becket to Pittsfield Road (A3B)

We will hike the 6th Mass. AT section from Becket to Pittsfield Rd., over Becket Mtn. along Finerty Pond, and through October Mtn. State Forest. Hike will be 9.4 miles with about 850 feet in elevation gain. This will be an all-day hike; lunch, snacks, and water are needed. We'll spot cars and hike trail in one direction. Contact leader to register and for meeting info.

Cindy Hibert (413-567-8544, cwhibert@comcast.net).



Berkshire Chapter members on the summit of Mt. Monadnock, 1940. photo submitted by Gary Forish

***Hey!* Are You Still Receiving the BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE in the U.S. Mail?**

Berkshire Exchange Online!!

If you're a Berkshire Chapter member, you have the unique opportunity to contribute to conservation, and our budget, by signing up to receive the *Berkshire Exchange* electronically! Just go to www.outdoors.org/membercenter, sign in and update your Chapter Newsletter Preferences.

It's that easy. You'll get your *Berkshire Exchange* up to 2 weeks earlier.

What are you waiting for? Do it now!

• *In Memoriam* •

MARION GORHAM – Passed away in December. An active Tuesday Hiker, and the wife of Berkshire Chapter member and hike leader Al Shane.

FRANK HANAUER – Passed away in February. The father of Outings Committee Chair and Berkshire Exchange Publisher Jon Hanauer.

Spring Fling at Mohican Outdoor Center is April 29–May 1

The AMC's third annual Spring Fling club-wide event at the Mohican Outdoor Center will be a fun-filled weekend featuring hikes on the scenic trails in the Delaware Water Gap, biking on the park's roads and rail trails, a visit to the Lakota Wolf Preserve, paddling on Catfish Pond (canoes, kayaks, and all gear provided!), and making s'mores around the campfire. A variety of guided activities to choose from will be provided throughout the weekend, and all meals are included. AMC members and non-members (families, too!) are invited. Bring your favorite musical instrument and join Mohican's own band Saturday night in playing the classics and a few originals. This will be a chance for all twelve chapters to come together just to relax and have fun—no meetings, no business agenda, just a chance to get acquainted with fellow outdoor enthusiasts from all over the Northeast.

Last year's event sold out quickly, so register early by calling AMC Reservations at 603-466-2727. For more information on Mohican, visit www.outdoors.org/lodging/mohican.

Gorman Chairback Lodge and Cabins Now Open

The AMC's newest destination in the Maine Woods, Gorman Chairback Lodge and Cabins, is now open. With a new "green," LEED-registered lodge, refurbished shoreline cabins, and a growing network of trails, Gorman Chairback is a great spot for hiking, fishing, paddling, skiing, and snowshoeing. Gorman Chairback is located near Moosehead Lake, surrounded by 66,000 acres of conservation land.

Use your member discount, or if you are a chapter leader take advantage of our special group discounts and services to plan a trip. Find more information by visiting www.outdoors.org/mainelodges.

Calling all Teen Adventurers: the AMC's 2011 Teen Wilderness Adventures Catalog is Now Available

These four 27-day programs allow teens to build outdoor skills while gaining confidence in the backcountry and meeting new friends. This year, we've expanded our offerings for older teens and added new offerings such as a Maine Wilderness Adventure and an Intermediate Whitewater Kayaking Adventure.

To learn more, visit www.outdoors.org/teenwilderness. Or visit Teen Wilderness Adventures on Facebook at www.facebook.com/teenwildernessadventures.

The AMC Launches New Lower Rates for Children and Teens

As part of its commitment to get more kids and families outdoors, the AMC has lowered its everyday rates for children ages 3–12 and introduced a new rate for teens, who previously paid the full adult rate. Child rates at Cardigan Lodge and Joe Dodge Lodge now start at \$29/night for lodging, meals, and programs, a 25% savings over 2010. Highland Center and Maine Lodge rates are now \$34/night, and Hut rates are \$49/night.

The AMC will also be rolling out a new natural playscape and program options at the Highland Center this summer.

For details, visit www.outdoors.org/kidsguide.



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

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