

**Appalachian Mountain Club  
Western Massachusetts Chapter**



**ANNUAL REPORT  
2022**

## Mission and Vision

The mission of the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) is to foster the protection, enjoyment and understanding of the outdoors. AMC envisions a world where being outdoors is an integral part of people's lives; where our natural resources are healthy, loved and protected. The Western Massachusetts Chapter serves AMC members and the general public residing in Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin Counties of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

## 2022 Executive Committee

### Officers

Brant Cheikes	Chapter Chair
Jim Walton	Vice Chair
Jaclyn Jones	Treasurer
Rosalee Walter	Secretary
Martin Mahoney	Past Chair

### Committee Chairs

Jack Spear	20s/30s
Debra Weisenstein	Appalachian Trail
Janine Papesh	Bicycling
Rick Whitney	Communications (partial year)
Robert Cherdack	Conservation (Co-Chair)
Rosalee Walter	Conservation (Co-Chair)
Laura Stinnette	Family Programs
Dawne Piers-Gamble	Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Chris Neil	Mountaineering (Co-Chair)
Chris Thompson	Mountaineering (Co-Chair)
Ray Girard	New England National Scenic Trail (partial year)
Kathy Martin	Outings
Dee Dice	Paddling (Co-Chair)
Mary Therese Durr	Paddling (Co-Chair)
Bonna Wieler	Paddling (Co-Chair)
Bill Fogel	Training & Education
Alice Flyte	Membership
Jeannette Pierce	Social Media Editor
Kathy Martin	Chapter Trip Approver

## 2023 Executive Committee Slate

Below are the nominees for the 2023 Executive Committee:

### Officers

Diane Jones	Chapter Chair
<b><i>Vacant</i></b>	Vice Chair
Steve Maislin	Treasurer
Janine Papesh	Secretary

### Committee Chairs

<b><i>Vacant</i></b>	20s/30s
Joshua Weeks	Appalachian Trail
Janine Papesh	Bicycling
Jeannette Pierce	Communications
Robert Cherdack	Conservation
Laura Stinnette	Family Programs (Co-Chair)
Dawne Piers-Gamble	Family Programs (Co-Chair)
Dawne Piers-Gamble	Justice, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Alice Flyte	Membership
Chris Neil	Mountaineering (Co-Chair)
Chris Thompson	Mountaineering (Co-Chair)
Kevin Pelosky	New England National Scenic Trail
Kathy Martin	Outings
Deb Weisenstein	Paddling (Co-Chair)
Bonna Wieler	Paddling (Co-Chair)
Jeannette Pierce	Social Media Editor
Bill Fogel	Training & Education
Lisa Taylor	Webmaster

### Other

Kathy Martin	Chapter Trip Approver
Lorie Banks	Member At Large
Ed Buckley	Member At Large
Brant Cheikes	Past Chair
Charlie Arsenault	Regional Director
Liam Cregan	Regional Trails Coordinator
Mary Moriarty	Tuesday Hiking Coordinator

## Chapter Chair's Report

I am pleased to submit my final end-of-year report as Chair of the Western Massachusetts chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. After serving in this volunteer role for three years I am ready to pass the gavel to a new leader. We are truly fortunate to have been able to recruit Diane Jones, a skilled and experienced volunteer hike leader, to lead the chapter as Chair for the next two years. I have been impressed with her persuasive communication skills, attention to detail, ability to organize, good judgment, and results-oriented attitude. I am confident that the chapter will thrive under her leadership.

When I was elected Chair in November 2019, I was nervous and excited about what was to come. I had various hopes and plans, but well understood both the rewards and the limits of coordinating volunteer-driven activities and programs. Three months later, the COVID-19 pandemic changed everything. Thanks to a tremendous amount of patience and persistence from all involved – and a large helping of support from AMC staff, especially from the Volunteer Relations department – this chapter not only survived but managed to rebound and come back stronger than ever. Still, our all-volunteer organization was under stress, with many leaders opting out of leading, some outdoor activities made impractical due to COVID, and challenges attracting participants. The effects varied widely and unpredictably. As the end of my two-year term approached, there was no one able to take over as chair. After some discussions I agreed to extend my term by one more year. And that has made all the difference.

At the end of 2022, I am proud to report that the chapter organized over 230 activities this year, and that these activities were made possible by the collective efforts of approximately 50 volunteer activity leaders. We pulled off our first Spring Festival in May, at AMC's Noble View Outdoor Center in Russell MA. This was our first large-scale multi-activity outdoor event since before the pandemic. This gave us valuable experience so that we could contribute significantly to AMC's Fall Festival in September, again at Noble View. Together these two outdoor festivals enabled us to reach new audiences, build name recognition, and attract new members.

For a third year we held our Annual Meeting in November entirely via Zoom. As one more accomplishment, we approved a small but significant revision to the chapter bylaws, creating two "Member At Large" positions on the Executive Committee. Minutes later, we elected the 2023 slate of officers and committee chairs, including two newly recruited Members At Large. The Member At Large positions come with minimal obligations. They are intended to help diversify the top level of chapter leadership and enable selected chapter members to learn more about the work of the Executive Committee, have influence on voting matters, and potentially identify new ways they can contribute to the life of the chapter.

## Western MA Chapter – Appalachian Mountain Club

As I have said many times before, I am grateful to the entire Executive Committee for their commitment to the mission, their willingness to do the many less-than-thrilling parts of making the chapter's operations run smoothly, their good humor, and for being a warm, friendly, and mutually supportive group of people. Thanks to all of them, the past three years have flown by with surprisingly low levels of stress and struggle. As I transition to "Past Chair," I look forward to having more time to spend outdoors biking, hiking, paddling, snowshoeing and Nordic skiing. See you outdoors!

Brant Cheikes  
Chapter Chair

### Appie of the Year

Each year the chapter recognizes one of its members for outstanding sustained commitment in service and leadership. The 2022 "Appie of the Year" award was given to Brant Cheikes.



**AWARD CITATION.** We would like to extend our sincere congratulations to Brant Cheikes, the 2022 Appie of the Year Award recipient for the western Massachusetts Chapter! Brant is finishing his third year as the Chairperson for the Western Mass Executive Committee, after agreeing to take on a third year when no chair could be found for 2022. Brant has been a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club for over 30 years and has been an active participant in cycling outings. After moving to western Massachusetts from the Boston area, he started the cycling committee in our Chapter with his wife, Janine Papesh.

As Chairperson since 2019, Brant has skillfully led the Chapter with diplomacy and humor, and his commitment to the Chapter has been exceptional. His computer expertise has been immensely helpful as he supported committee members with technology issues. He oversaw the Chapter's website and guided the Committee through several bylaw changes. He is patient and detailed, and his willingness to work closely with committee members and other volunteers provided much needed leadership and support during the past three years. He will be missed immensely. Congratulations Brant!

## Chapter Standing Committee Reports

Below are brief annual reports submitted by the various standing committees of the chapter.

### 20s/30s Committee



The Young Members (YM) Committee hiked avidly during 2022, leading a total of 15 hikes throughout New England. Hikes were well-attended (averaging nine participants per hike) and were frequently waitlisted. We led several interchapter hikes with the Worcester and Connecticut chapters and sampled a variety of terrain, ranging from rolling hikes on the New England Trail to strenuous climbs in the White Mountains of New Hampshire.

The YM Committee plans to continue frequent hiking in 2023; our aim is to continue to offer regular interchapter hikes and hikes of varying levels of difficulty, with the aim of introducing as many people as possible to the joys of being outside. To accomplish this, we plan to continue to collaborate with our counterparts in other chapters, with the specific goal of recruiting and retaining new leaders.

Jack Spear  
Chair, 20s/30s



## Appalachian Trail (AT) Committee



**Our Mission:** Manage and protect the Appalachian Trail and trail corridor lands in Massachusetts.

**Management roles:** chair, vice-chair, past chair, secretary, treasurer, volunteer coordinator, group outreach coordinator, public communication coordinator, coordinators for each volunteer role listed below.

**Volunteer roles:** trail maintainers, shelter adopters, corridor boundary monitors, natural resource volunteers, cultural site adopters, Upper Goose Pond Cabin caretakers, project volunteers.

**Management Committee Members:** 12

**Trail Maintainers:** 57

**Corridor Monitors:** 17

**Natural Heritage Monitors:** 23

**Overnight Site Adopters:** 20

**Cultural Site Adopters:** 5

**Upper Goose Pond Caretakers:** 20

**Project Volunteers:** 66

**Scheduled Projects:** 48 projects including trail and campsite maintenance, boundary maintenance, monitoring rare plants and controlling invasives, wildlife transects, maintaining open areas.

**Total Volunteer Hours:** 5992 hours (1/1/2022-10/23/2022) reported by 98 volunteers.

### **Partner support and coordination**

- The Appalachian Trail is a National Park Service (NPS) unit, and the NPS owns land protecting the AT corridor in Massachusetts including the Upper Goose Pond Natural Area and Upper Goose Pond cabin. NPS performs safety inspections and determines operating guidelines for the cabin.
- The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) oversees state lands through which the AT passes and provides two ridge runners to patrol the trail and manage overnight sites. All but two of the Mass AT overnight sites are on DCR land.
- The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) Western Massachusetts Chapter is our parent organization. AMC provides our volunteers with professional support, and AMC's paid ridge runner program provides visitor education on the southern Berkshire and Connecticut portions of the AT.
- The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) oversees all 31 AT maintaining clubs. ATC's Southern New England Regional Manager, Tracy Lind, works closely with our committee on issues of capital planning, contract mowing for open areas, Special Use Permits, and land acquisition.
- AT Community designation is awarded by ATC to towns that apply and show tangible connections to the AT which benefit both hikers and the town. Cheshire and Dalton have acquired this designation and remain active trail towns. Lee has applied to acquire a similar designation.

### **Volunteer Gathering**

- First in-person Gathering since 2020 took place in May at the Father Tom Campsite in Cheshire with about 60 participants. See photo below. The Town of Cheshire provided a tent and other amenities, and the Cheshire AT Community Committee provided food and support.
- The day included presentations highlighting AT projects and programs, break-out sessions, lunch, volunteer awards, and a swap table and a raffle. An enjoyable day was had by all, and we acquired a number of new volunteers.

### **Major Projects**

- The Hop Brook bridge and boardwalk, which flood regularly, are scheduled for replacement in 2025. Thanks to a generous donor and help from AMC's development and trails offices, an engineering firm is under contract to analyze the soils and hydrology and recommend siting and design for the new bridge. Park Service money will be available for construction in the 2024–2025-time frame. Meanwhile, the current structure was reinforced with steel pipe this season, as show in the second photo below.
- A relocation north of Grange Hall Rd. was completed by a paid GreenAgers crew. This replaces a steep muddy section that relied on a wooden stairway to avoid excess erosion.



## Western MA Chapter – Appalachian Mountain Club

- We continue to replace bog bridges, where possible, with rock step stones as a more durable alternative.
- New kiosk was installed at Shay's Rebellion parking area, and a new roof on the privy at Laurel Ridge.

### **Trail Usage**

- Visitor numbers in 2022 were like 2021. While visitor use was high in July-August, this year's numbers are ~40% below peak visitor numbers in 2015. Statistics collected via caretaker reports, shelter logs and trail cams

### **Upper Goose Pond Cabin**

- Caretakers were in residence from May 29 to Oct 16 but with a few days of closure when caretakers were unavailable. COVID regulations from NPS resulted in early-season visitor restrictions.
- 1464 guest stays (in cabin or camping) recorded this season, with remarkably high use mid-season.
- A QR code provided by AMC has been posted for visitor donations since June 21. These PayPal donations have been less than 10% of total donations.
- Cabin repairs and upgrades this year included 3 new fire extinguishers, shutters on upper floor windows, new water jugs, and dock repairs. Also, the pit privy at the remote campsite was decommissioned.

### **Trainings**

- Sawyer training: four sawyers recertified in May for felling and bucking and limbing.
- CPR/First Aid class scheduled for Oct 30 with Josh Weeks instructing.

Deb Weisenstein  
Chair, AT

## Bicycling Committee



The Bicycling Committee had a successful cycling season thanks to two recently transplanted bike trip leaders from the Boston Chapter. Because of these enthusiastic leaders, we were able to offer a few more trips this year; twenty-one posted trips. New this year, we planned our first multi day bike trip in the Berkshires. Unfortunately, we had to cancel due to our accommodation plan falling through. But we did have sign ups and there is interest in this trip that we hope to plan and execute in 2023.

The photo is a picture of the riders and leaders of the bike ride held as part of the AMC's FallFest held at Noble View September 2022. The photo is taken on the recreational bike path in Southwick, MA.

Janine Papesh  
Chair, Bicycling

### **Communications Committee**

The Communications Committee continues to change and grow in 2022. Rick Whitney stepped down as Chair and Jeannette Pierce took over the position in November. Lisa Taylor has taken on the Webmaster position and is working on developing a whole new website. The Chapter's social media accounts are growing and continue to provide an effective avenue for promoting Chapter business and activities. The Insights report for the year for the Chapter's Facebook account provided the following data:

- Page Reach- 12,633
- Page Visits- 1075
- New Page Likes- 182
- The Instagram account posted 161 posts for the year and currently has 409 followers, up 19% in the past three months. Monthly Eblasts were sent out to all Chapter members every month except November.

Jeannette Pierce  
Chair, Communications

### Conservation Committee



Contacted legislators on several bills calling for better protection of forests on state owned land and locating solar projects on previous disturbed lands.

Attended hearings and provided comments on Department of Conservation and Recreation Landscape Designations. Comments basically called for more of DCR lands to be added to reserves where commercial logging is not permissible except for safety and removal of invasives. Suggested that since DCR lands are only 10% of the state's forests, preservation and allowing their forests to approach old growth status should be DCR's goal.

Provided input to Land and Water Conservation Fund survey for Massachusetts to determine type of projects the LWCF should support. Emphasized preservation of natural lands, trail corridors. Attended Fall Fest to encourage Chapter Members to take survey.

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Provided input to Department of Energy Resources on preferred locations for solar power facilities. Indicated that undeveloped lands were the least favored sites. Attended Fall Fest to encourage Chapter Members to do the same.

## Western MA Chapter – Appalachian Mountain Club

Heather Wyman arranged several zoom meetings and activities related to conservation issues to varying degrees. Recruited some members as a result.

Heather arranged for expert on land acquisition for conservation at Fall Fest.

Attended an online seminar on why Massachusetts state owned forests should be treated as ecological and carbon sequestering reserves.

Attended several webinars about forest carbon.

Assisted in campaign for greater funding for DCR and other conservation related agencies.

Alerted club members to AMC campaign for office of outdoor recreation.

Robert Cherdack  
Chair, Conservation



## Family Programs Committee

The AMC WMA Family Outings and Education Committee has worked hard this year to collaborate with other AMC WMA committees and other organizations to bring interesting and educational Family Outings to our area. We are currently collaborating with the AMC WMA Paddling, Conservation and JDEI Committees as well as the AMC Worcester Chapter, Hilltown Family Center, the DCR Heritage Park in Holyoke, and the WMA Council of the Boys Scouts of America. We envision continued partnerships with these organizations, as well expanded publicity of our events via local school districts and local media connections.

In 2023, we hope to recruit additional members and leaders for the Family Education and Outings Committee throughout the four WMA counties. We continue to advocate that AMC consider allowing Family Leaders (particularly people who have a background with working with children and youth) to go through Educators Outdoors programming, to be adopted by schools, afterschool programming, Girls Inc, Boys and Girls Club etc. to expand our programming reach to children in WMA.



- March, The StoryWalk® at Noble View, with the book, [The Rock](#), was installed in collaboration with Hilltown Family Center. The StoryWalk® was moved from Mac Ross Trail to Dry Trail, Ann's trail, and Link Trail permanently.
- For Earth Day we sponsored a Guided StoryWalk® for preschoolers and a Leave No Trace Hike for elementary through middle school students. We gathered for a picnic at the top of Noble View and shared a dish of *"Dirt for Dessert"*. We had 21 participants and lots of fun!

## Western MA Chapter – Appalachian Mountain Club



- In May, the WMA Paddling and Family Outings Committee co-sponsored a Family paddling event at Russell Pond the morning of SpringFest. Attendees were all adults. It was a gorgeous morning paddle on this pristine pond, and it was our first partnership with WMA Boys Scouts of America Council, using Camp Moses waterfront, canoes, and equipment.

- In June, at Noble View, Russell, MA Guided StoryWalk® for preschoolers: of “Hiking Day, for preschool- Kindergarten and Fill the Pack Scavenger Hunt Hike for 2nd to Middle School age children. Attendance was minimal. We plan to offer Saturday activities next summer, as most kids are in programs during the week.



- In July, at Noble View, Russell, MA Guided StoryWalk® of the “The Camping Trip,” for preschool-Kindergarten and a Packing for a Camping Trip Activity 2nd to Middle School children. Attendance was minimal. We plan to offer Saturday activities next summer, as most kids are in programs during the week.

- In August, Family Camping Overnight and Stargazing during the peak of Perseids Meteor Shower at Noble View. We had collaborated with Worcester/ Boston Gear Shed to provide families with camping gear they might need. We had four families (18 people signed up) This event was canceled due to Thunderstorms and reschedule date only worked for one family.

- In August, Family Yoga at Noble View. 18 adult participants attended this yoga event to enhance physical wellbeing.
- In September, All Day AMC WMA Chapter Fall Fest, Family Friendly performances, activities, and demonstrations included:
  1. WMA Family Outings and Paddling Committees offered intermediate Family paddling at Camp Moses at Russell Pond (there were no participants)

## Western MA Chapter – Appalachian Mountain Club

2. WMA Family Outings Committee in collaboration with Worcester Family Outings Committee led a Family Scavenger Hunt hike at AMC Noble View.
3. Peter Curro played family fun music.
4. Guided StoryWalk® of the “Apple Pie Tree.” followed by making apple sauce on the porch was offered for Preschool-Early elementary age children. (Rained out)
5. Ongoing pumpkin decorating activity offered as well as a Family Outings Table with information on upcoming events.

### Fall 2022 events planned:

- *Forest Bathing* event at Noble View, sponsored in collaboration with WMA Chapter Conservation Committee on October 30, 2022.
- Sat. November 12, *Family Tree identification Hike with Josh Minardi* at Noble View with leaf collecting and follow up activities at the “View.”  
There is also a self-guided StoryWalk® for Fall, ““Keepunumuk Weeâchumun's Thanksgiving Story” by Alexis Bunten, Anthony Perry, and Danielle Greendeer.
- Join us for our second annual, "*Eyes to the Skies*," a family night sky event on Friday, Dec. 16, 2022, from 6:00- 9:00 PM at Noble View Outdoor Center. With the Last Quarter Moon aglow, a cup of hot chocolate cradled in your hands, behold the winter sky on Russell Mountain. Through telescopes, we will examine the moon, planets, and wintertime constellations. Come early to do a self-guided StoryWalk® of “Look Up,” Then enjoy a campfire, yule log, stories and sky watching. This was one of the best attended Family Outings events of 2021.



Dawne Piers-Gamble and Laura Stinnette  
Co-Chairs, Family Programs

## Western MA Chapter – Appalachian Mountain Club

### Membership Committee

The AMC Membership Committee's focus this year was to plan and execute outreach at existing community events.

- May 22, Staffed the Information table for SpringFest at Noble View.
  - Set up and staffed information tables at the following events:
- July 14, Westfield Farmers Market
  - Well attended market, most people who stopped by had never heard of the AMC or Noble View Outdoor Center. I was happy to give them information and had 26 people sign up for our Chapter Tuesday Hiking email list.
- Aug. 3, Chicopee Farmers Market
  - Smaller market but attended by many families who expressed interest in our family events.
- Aug. 6, Deerfield River Fest with David Elliot
  - Well attended event, but not too many people stopped at our table. I was glad to have David join me to represent the Paddling Committee.



Alice Flyte  
Chair, Membership



### Outings Committee



AMC WMA Outings Committee posted seventy-two hiking trips between January 1, 2022, and October 31, 2022.

- 26 different leaders lead the hikes, David Wells and Diane Jones posted six adventures to top the list of most hikes lead.
- Total number of active hike leaders - 40
- Added six new hike leaders this year.
- (Of those seventy-two hiking trips above 17 were posted by 20's and 30's, with Jack Spear leading 15 and Alexandra Molnar, 2)

#### **Hike Leader of the Year: Mary Moriarty**

Although Mary Moriarty is not an actual hike leader, she was chosen as the Hike Leader of the Year because she provides a service that the hike leaders could not live without. She oversees the Tuesday Email List. Every week she compiles and sends a listing of activities to over four hundred subscribers of the email list and has been doing so since 2010.



## Western MA Chapter – Appalachian Mountain Club

Until Covid in 2020 caused us to change the way hikes were submitted, she was also responsible for posting all the weekly Tuesday hikes for the Tuesday Hike Leaders. Mary hikes regularly with the Tuesday Hiking group.



Mary is a retired teacher and guidance counselor. She is a long-time member of the City of Holyoke Conservation Community and its Community Preservation Act Committee. Thank you, Mary, for all the time and energy you put into the Western MA Chapter.

Kathryn Martin  
Chair, Outings

Padding Committee



## Western MA Chapter – Appalachian Mountain Club

**Our Goal:** Get people on the water and teach safe boating skills

### **Committee Members:**

M.T. Durr, Dee Dice, Bonna Wieler, Deb Weisenstein, Jack Gill, David Elliott, Cynthia Boettner, Nancy Mack, Dawne Piers-Gamble

### **Active Paddling Leaders:**

M.T. Durr, Dee Dice, Bonna Wieler, Deb Weisenstein, Jack Gill, David Elliott, Cynthia Boettner

### **Leader Training Events**

- ACA River Kayaking Level 2 instructor development workshop – 5 participants

### **Public Instructional Events**

- Whitewater introductory instruction at Zoar Outdoor – 10 participants
- Beginner kayak or canoe instruction at Barton Cove – 18 participants

### **Conservation/Stewardship Events**

- 1 Online Presentation: Paddling with Healthy Waters and Your Own Health in Mind
- 2 events harvesting invasive water chestnut – 5 participants each

### **Diversity Outreach Events**

- Diversity Whitewater program joint with Zoar Outdoor - 30 participants

### **Paddling Day Trips**

- 7 flatwater trips: on Russell Pond, Connecticut River, Housatonic River, Ware River
- 3 whitewater trips: on Deerfield and Westfield Rivers

### **Paddling Overnight Trips**

- 1 flatwater trip with camping at Munns Ferry on Connecticut River – 5 participants

### **Public Outreach Events**

- Tabling at Deerfield River Festival
- Tabling at AMC's SpringFest and FallFest

### **Donations**

- \$1000 donation to All Out Adventures, approved by Excom and Volunteer Relations
- \$250 to Holyoke Rows community non-profit

Dee Dice, Mary Therese Durr, Bonna Wieler, Paddling (Co-Chairs)

### **New England National Scenic Trail (NET) Committee**

The New England National Scenic Trail (NET) Committee in 2022 with 25 trail adopters and close to 50 volunteers contributed almost 1800 hours of trail maintenance on 18 Sections in Massachusetts.

I assumed the Chair position from Ray Girard in May of 2022 and with the assistance of Jerry Sambrook, Mike Rioual, and Mike Zlogar under the guidance of Liam Cregan (NET Coordinator) the committee met monthly to discuss, plan and coordinate trail maintenance, including the training and mentoring of new adopters.

#### **Trail Maintenance Highlights Include:**

- 167 blowdowns cleared
- 43 miles of trail blazed
- 29 water bars maintained
- 160 miles of brush and vegetation cleared
- 5 new adopters trained
- Section 16 over 50 ft of bog bridging built
- Section 13 water crossing improvement
- Richardson-Zlogar Cabin access road improvement
- Planning for construction of moldering privy at Richardson-Zlogar Cabin (tentative work party mid-November)

#### **ALSO:**

- 2 DCR shelters and the Richardson-Zlogar Cabin were maintained
- Several thru hikers and other section hikers were provided transportation at water crossings by generous adopters

## Western MA Chapter – Appalachian Mountain Club

- A Teen Trail Crew comprised of 8 Holyoke HS students contributed 1500 hours on Sections 1,3 and 4 on various trail improvement projects including construction of 175 ft of bog bridging the students also taught a Leave No Trace class to area school children Plans are for this group to assist again in 2023



- The AMC-NET signed a trail license agreement with MassWildlife for seasonal maintenance guidelines on properties owned by MassWildlife that the NET crosses
- A new North Mt Tom Trailhead for the NET with 9 parking spaces and a 1200 ft Forest Service accessible trail and signage was constructed This project was in cooperation with the Kestrel Trust, the Town of Easthampton and other local conservation organizations
- Looking ahead to 2023 we hope to continue to build off progress made in 2022. We have a goal of up to 6 work party projects for the new year hoping to utilize the greater hiking community using the new AMC Outdoor Connector website We also hope to rebuild our connection to the UMass and Mt Holyoke College Outing Clubs and increase participation from this next generation of environmental stewards

Kevin Pelosky  
NET Chair



## Justice Diversity Equity and Inclusion (JDEI)

As stated to the JDEI Volunteer Representatives, the WMA JDEI Speaker Series goals are to bring forward authentic voices that can raise awareness about the truth of what people are experiencing in the outdoors and with AMC specifically. It is also a forum for JDEI activism in the outdoors to be amplified, so as to encourage action in AMC. The speaker series labeled as JDEI maintains a space for voices that have been marginalized or underrepresented; it is a clear signal of AMC's commitment to JDEI and change. The success of the Speakers Series has been measured in the increasing number of people attending presentations live and requesting the recordings after. As well as the willingness of the other Chapters (Boston \$8000, Worcester \$2,500) to help fund the Speaker Series going forward. This year WMA sponsored the following:

- AT thru hiker, (NoBo '11) Krystal Williams, Esq. presented on Tuesday, April 26th. Her topic, Hiking while Black: The Good, the Bad, & the Weird.
- Marinel M. de Jesus, Esq. founder of Brown Gal Trekker/Equity Global Treks & The Porter Voice Collective spoke on Thursday, September 29th, sharing the topic Worldwide Outdoor Adventure and Equity
- Mary MacDonald co-founder of Rest Stop Ranch, [Rest-Stop-Ranch.org](https://www.rest-stop-ranch.org) and Karen Foster of All Out Adventures, [All Out Adventures](https://www.alloutadventures.com) will come together to speak on making outdoor spaces and recreation accessible for people with disabilities on Thursday, December 8th, from 7:00-8:45

With the assistance of Katherine Brainard, (vol. relations) some potential JDEI speakers for 2023 have been identified. \*Emily Ford, Addie Clayton, \*Miguel Reyda, Izzy Lazarus, \*Elise Rylander, Dorceta Taylor. Your suggestions are welcome.

Another important highlight of the JDEI committee's year has been the willingness of the WMA Excom to participate in JDEI readings and conversation at monthly Excom meetings from January to May in 2022. We look forward to continuing in 2023.

Members of the WMA Chapter, JDEI Committee and the Noble View Stewards Council contributed to the grant that was approved for an ALL Access Trail at AMC Noble View.

On the weekend of June 17-19, JDEI committee members Bill Fogel and Kayla Crowe presented inclusive climbing practices at the Rumney Together climbing festival. Bill also helped to organize the land acknowledgement and blessing ceremony with Elder Dan of the Ko'asek traditional Band of the Abenaki Sovereign Nation.

A big thank you to the ExCom for voting to sponsoring AMC, WMA Women's Weekend Connecting Women, Connecting with Nature. On the weekend of June 4th, 2022, a group of dynamic, outdoor oriented women gathered to learn, collaborate, and recreate together at AMC Noble View in Russell, MA.

## Western MA Chapter – Appalachian Mountain Club

This joyous affinity group participated in workshops such as nature journaling, creative writing, bike repair, drumming, compass reading, and yoga. Outdoor pursuits such as hiking, canoeing rounded out the activities. Delicious food, songs around the fire, kindness and camaraderie completed the weekend. Plans for next year took hold with an eye for expansion and collaboration with Women Outdoors. October 6th-8th has been confirmed for Women's Weekend 2023. This is an invitation for women+ to save the date for yet another wonderful weekend. Please spread the word and stay tuned. We would love to hear from additional presenters and participants!

In conjunction with the Family Education and Outings Committee the WMA JDEI Committee collaborated with the MA, DCR at Holyoke Heritage State Park for 3 Family events.

August 4th, "You Can Camp," activity where children set up tents and learned the essentials for camping and the principles of "Leave No Trace." In addition, there was a guided Storywalk for preschoolers of the "The Camping Trip," with a Spanish translator. (5 children participated)

August 25th "You Can Hike" activity where children went on a scavenger hunt to find the 10 Essentials to have in your pack for a safe hike. In addition, there was a guided Storywalk for preschoolers of the "Hiking Day" with a Spanish translator. (11 children participated)

September 3rd There was a family hike at Mount Tom with AMC leader Nancy Condin and DCR Ranger, (9 people participated). The plan is for this collaboration with DCR to continue again next year. To increase the numbers and diversity of the participants, we plan to time our events with city cultural events in Holyoke next summer. We will have all of our activities be show and go, with a rolling plan so families can participate as they arrive having to participate as a whole group.

Two JDEI committee members volunteered as AMC WMA Chapter reps at All Out Adventures' Kayakathon, September 11, 2022. [Kakayathon](#) It was an inspiring experience. Maybe next year some of our paddling members can create a team and raise money for this valuable outdoor organization.

Dawn Piers-Gamble  
Chair, JDEI

### Training and Education Committee

The AMC Western MA Training and Education committee has been involved in many committee, chapter, and organization-wide initiatives in support of training for our current and prospective leaders.

- Planned and executed a hybrid (online/in person) training jointly with the Worcester Chapter with 26 participants, five were from WMA Chapter
- Planned and executed hybrid model Wilderness First Aid courses
- Planned and executed an in-person Wilderness First Aid course
- Planned and executed for the Outdoor Leadership Development Committee: Diversity Equity and Inclusion training and New leader nomenclature
- Planned and executed Rumney Together Inclusive workshops
- Planned and executed several Mental Health First Aid training workshops including a course at the AMC's Highland Lodge for The CorpsNetwork organization
- Created new Leadership Requirements and Guidelines

Bill Fogel  
Chair, Training and Education

Western MA Chapter – Appalachian Mountain Club

**Treasurer’s Report for Calendar Year 2022**

Appalachian Mountain Club - Western Mass Chapter	
Profit and Loss	
January - December 2022	
	TOTAL
<b>Income</b>	
40400 Memorial Gifts	150.00
41000 Membership	410.00
43100 Program and Workshop Income	2,127.00
81000 Chapter Allocations	9,123.50
82000 Endowment Spending Allowance	5,335.61
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$17,146.11</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
72100 Consultant Fees	710.00
72600 Dues & Subscriptions	210.24
72800 Volunteer & Committee Expense	407.28
73310 Travel - Mileage	273.78
73340 Travel - Accomodations	511.48
73530 Internet Service	155.88
73700 Office Supplies	356.52
73710 Office Equipment Rental	990.00
73810 Software	153.00
74200 Postage & Shipping	57.93
74300 Promotion & Advertising	53.76
74600 Transfers to Chapter Committees	1,257.05
75200 Participant Costs	9,991.90
77010 Supplies & Equipment	3,592.30
78230 Outside Grants/Contributions	1,250.00
78300 Insurance-AMC	381.00
78620 Credit card or PayPal fees	38.10
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$20,390.22</b>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>\$ -3,244.11</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ -3,244.11</b>



## Chapter By-Laws

(Approved by Chapter Membership on November 4, 2022)

### **ARTICLE I -- Name**

This organization shall be called the Western Massachusetts Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club (the "Chapter").

### **ARTICLE II -- Purpose**

The purpose of the Chapter is to promote outdoors and conservation activities for its members that support the mission of the parent organization, the Appalachian Mountain Club (the "Club").

### **ARTICLE III -- Membership**

Any member of the Appalachian Mountain Club in Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire or Franklin Counties of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts shall be a member of the Western Massachusetts Chapter, unless that member notifies the membership office of the parent Club in writing to the contrary. Any member of the Appalachian Mountain Club residing outside those areas may become a member of the Western Massachusetts Chapter by notifying the membership office.

### **ARTICLE IV -- Administration**

*Section 1:* The administration of the Chapter shall be vested in a Chapter Executive Committee (known as the Executive Committee or ExCom) consisting of four officers: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer; two Members At Large; and the Chairpersons of all Standing Committees of the Chapter. Each Executive Committee member shall have one vote in matters set before that committee for discussion. The Regional Director shall be an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee, without voting rights. Five members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of business.

*Section 2:* The members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by plurality vote at each Chapter Annual Meeting and shall hold offices until the next Chapter Annual Meeting or until their successors are chosen. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall not be eligible to hold the same office more than two consecutive years. However, in the event no candidates for Chair or Vice-Chair are available to run for office after the completion of their second, consecutive year of office, the Chapter Executive Committee may vote to extend the terms for one year by placing in nomination the current incumbent(s) for those offices pursuant the membership vote at the annual meeting. All members of the Executive Committee shall be members of the Western Massachusetts Chapter of the AMC.

*Section 3:* A Nominating Committee of five shall be elected at each Chapter Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of Chapter Officers and Standing Committee Chairpersons at the subsequent Annual Meeting.

## Western MA Chapter – Appalachian Mountain Club

They shall also nominate at least three and no more than five chapter members for the succeeding Nominating Committee, the nominees encompassing the widest range of Chapter interests. The nominees for the Nominating Committee shall include a prior Chapter Chairperson, and the Nominating Committee Chair shall be designated. The names submitted by the Nominating Committee shall be made known by the Secretary to all members of the Chapter, by newsletter or other mailing, at least two weeks before the Chapter Annual Meeting. Any five Chapter members desiring to place an additional candidate in nomination may do so by sending to the Chapter Secretary, post-marked not later than five days before the Annual Meeting, a nomination paper stating the office to be filled, the proposed candidate, and written verification of consent from the nominee to serve if elected. No person shall be eligible for elective position on the Executive Committee unless nominated by one of the above methods.

*Section 4:* The Chapter Chairperson shall preside at all Annual and Special meetings of the Chapter and of the Executive Committee, and shall perform such other duties customary to the office.

*Section 5:* The Chapter Vice-Chairperson shall serve as Chapter Chairperson in the absence or disability of the Chapter Chairperson, and shall assume such other responsibilities as may be delegated by the Chapter Chairperson and/or Executive Committee. The Chapter Vice-Chairperson shall automatically succeed to the office of Chapter Chairperson, should that position be vacated before the term of office is completed.

*Section 6:* The Secretary shall keep a list of all members, shall give notice of all Annual, Special and Executive Committee meetings; shall keep the minutes of those meetings and the current records of the Chapter; shall conduct the correspondence of the Chapter; and shall perform other duties as may be designated by the Chapter Chairperson and/or Executive Committee.

*Section 7:* The Chapter Treasurer shall receive all funds paid to the Chapter; shall administer the budget approved by the Executive Committee; shall disburse funds as authorized by the budget and by special votes of the Executive Committee; shall make periodic reports to the Executive Committee of receipts and disbursements; and shall make an annual report to the Chapter and the Club. Note: Standing Committees that collect fees for goods and services, may disburse the funds so collected for payments approved by that Standing Committee.

If approved by the Executive Committee and AMC's Finance Office, individual Standing Committees may establish operating accounts that are managed independently of the Chapter's operating account. Such Standing Committees shall be familiar with and follow all requirements and guidelines as defined in the AMC Volunteer Finance and Administration Manual.

## Western MA Chapter – Appalachian Mountain Club

*Section 8:* The Standing Committees have the responsibility of

1. Planning and conducting programs and activities of interest to members of the Chapter
2. Performing services for the Chapter and the Club
3. Carrying out obligations to the Club and to the public, which have been assumed by the Chapter.

In fulfilling its particular responsibilities, each Standing Committee shall cooperate with other standing Committees of the Chapter and with corresponding committees of other chapters and the Club. The Chairperson of each Standing Committee shall, within 30 days of the Annual Meeting, appoint chapter members to the Committee and notify the Chapter Chairperson of committee membership and committee meeting schedules.

*Section 9:* Should any vacancy occur in the Executive Committee or the Nominating Committee, the Executive Committee may appoint a member of the Chapter to fill such vacancy until the next Annual Meeting. The appointed member will have full voting rights on matters set before the above-mentioned committees.

*Section 10:* Any member of the Chapter elected to membership in the Appalachian Mountain Club Board of Directors shall thereby become a non-voting member, ex-officio, of the Executive Committee of this Chapter during such term of office.

*Section 11:* Any Chapter member may recommend the appropriation of a sum of money for a worthy purpose at any meeting of the Chapter, and said recommendation shall be referred to the Executive Committee for approval or rejection. Chapter funds may be appropriated only by approval of the Executive Committee, or by procedures as set forth in Article IV, Section 7 of these By-Laws.

*Section 12:* No expenditure shall be made or financial obligation incurred by any officer, committee, or member of the Chapter for which the parent Club will be exclusively responsible without previous authorization by the Club Board of Directors.

*Section 13:* No official pronouncement in the name of the Appalachian Mountain Club, involving opinion or policy in matters of public interest, shall be made by the Chapter or any member thereof, without the expressed and written consent of the Club's Board of Directors or their duly authorized representatives which is obtained by following AMC's Communications Policy.

### **ARTICLE V -- Meetings**

*Section 1:* The Chapter Annual Meeting should be held within the first two weeks of November of each year. Should the need arise, the Executive Committee may choose an alternate date for Annual Meeting. Notice of such Annual Meeting shall be given to all members of the Chapter at least two weeks prior to the date thereof.

## Western MA Chapter – Appalachian Mountain Club

*Section 2:* Special meetings of the Chapter may be called at any time by the Executive Committee or upon written request of Chapter members addressed to such committee. The Executive Committee shall notify the Chapter membership of the time, location, and purpose of special Chapter meetings at least two weeks in advance of said meeting.

*Section 3:* Thirty-five members of the Chapter present at any Chapter Annual or Special meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

*Section 4:* The Chapter Executive Committee shall meet at least bi-monthly.

### **ARTICLE VI -- Committees**

*Section 1:* The Executive Committee will establish or dissolve such Standing Committees as are necessary and proper for the work of the Chapter. The Chairpersons of such committees shall be elected by Chapter membership at the Annual Meeting.

*Section 2:* The Executive Committee may establish and dissolve such temporary or ad hoc committees as deemed necessary and proper for the work of the Chapter. The Chairpersons of such committees shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. Such appointment does not entail voting privileges on matters set before the Executive Committee.

*Section 3:* Job descriptions for all Standing Committees shall be updated every five years or sooner if necessary, by the Chapter Executive Committee or by the members of that Standing Committee.

### **ARTICLE VII By-Laws**

*Section 1:* These by-laws may be amended at any annual or special meeting by a two-thirds vote of those members present and voting, provided notice of such amendment shall have been sent to all members of the Chapter at least two weeks previously, and provided a quorum is present pursuant to Article V, Section 3 of these By-Laws. If the Executive Committee deems that a mail-in vote is necessary, the same quorum as for a Chapter Annual or special meeting would apply.

*Section 2:* A review of these By-Laws shall occur every five years, or sooner if necessary, as determined by the Executive Committee. Changes to the By-Laws shall become effective immediately upon approval by the membership.



**ARTICLE VIII – Discrimination**

Discrimination, harassment, or hostility toward others of any kind (based on identities including, but not limited to race, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, physical ability, physical characteristic, socioeconomic background, nationality, age, religion, or beliefs) shall be prohibited in all aspects of the Chapter’s activities and programs. All Chapter members shall be expected to comply with the Club’s Code of Conduct.

## Past Chairs of the Western Massachusetts\* Chapter

1929–30 Edward K Allen	1969–70 Norman E Aubrey
1931 Joseph F Partenheimer	1971–72 Forrest E House
1932 Edwin W Gantt	1973–74 Margaret Rose
1933 Donald E Temple	1975–76 William T Cushwa
1934 Howard M Buffinton	1977–78 Walter L Haynes
1935 Malcolm B Ross	1979–80 John D Shuttleworth
1936 Donald McClench	1981–82 Kathryn E Burnett
1936–37 John Dickson	1983–84 S Alberta Stutsman
1938 Horace E Allen	1985 John Pritchard
1939 William K Buxton	1986 Florence Mertz
1940 Eugene E Durst	1986–87 Edward N Lewis
1941 Maynard O Saunders	1988–89 Paul Evans
1942–43 Parke W Farrar	1990–91 Sue Lewis
1944–45 Warner B Sturtevant	1992 Jean Armitage
1946–47 Carl O Chauncy	1993 William Kopel
1948–49 Harold T Daugherty	1994–95 Thomas J Leary
1950 Heinz J Sherbow	1996–97 Christopher J Ryan
1951–52 Ellis H Pritchard	1998–99 Kathryn B Leary
1953–54 Byron Chauncy	2000–01 Thomas Senuta
1955–56 George W Alderman	2002–04 Gary L Forish
1957–58 John A Saunders	2005–06 Rob Robertson
1959–60 Sidney F Law	2007–08 Jon M Hanauer
1961–62 Phyllis M Sears	2008-10 Deborah Levine
1963–64 Edith M Libby	2010-12 Dave Sauriol
1965–66 Garrison Householder	2012-14 Sabine Prather
1967–68 Charles L Kirkpatrick	

2014-15 shared by 4 members of the Executive Committee: Roger Beer, Wayne Rodrigues, Grace Ferrante, Patrick Fletcher

2015 – 17 Jan Alicia Nettler

2017 – 19 Martin Mahoney

2019 – 22 Brant Cheikes

*\* The Berkshire Chapter was renamed the Western Massachusetts Chapter in late 2020.*