

The Berkshire Exchange



Your Connection to the Outdoors

August 2017

There's So Much Going On!

By Jan Alicia Nettler, Chapter Chair
AMC Berkshire Chapter

It has been an exciting summer for the Berkshire Chapter. I have led 6 hikes this past month where I have gotten a chance to meet so many AMC members. What a great group you are.

We have been having so many activities of in our beautiful neck of the woods af of all kinds. The Berkshire Chapter's new bicycling committee offered two rides recently. There are tons of hikes. If you can hike during the day on Tuesdays, you don't want to miss out on the weekly hikes or our growing weekend hikes! Did any of you go on the River Hike series? Or the easy to moderate hike series through Northampton and throughout the Berkshires? It's not too late to join in some of these, including our Appalachian Trail series which hikes sections of the AT Massachusetts every 2 weeks.

Looking for an alternate route? If you would rather climb, paddle or cycle through Western Massachusetts there are many opportunities this summer. You can view these upcoming events on our [activities page here](#). We've been offering events geared to families and our Young Members (20s/30s). Be sure to check the activities page on our website regularly OR log in and set up a weekly digest of the activities specific to your interests!

When I hike, I like to carry a trash bag, especially when I am using a pack. On my last hike to Huntington State Forest, our group took out lots of trash, which is in line with AMC's mission of conservation. If each of us takes out a few pieces of trash we all can do a little bit to clean wherever our hikes take us.

Looking to the future, there are several events you don't want to miss. Our second annual Outdoor Festival will be at Noble View Outdoor Center in Russell, MA on Saturday, August 26! We are fortunate to have such a great resource in our area. The Outdoor Festival will have hikes, workshops, speakers, free barbecue and is geared to people of all ages and abilities. For more details on the outdoor please visit the Evenbrite page and [Register Now!](#)



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Chapter Officers

- **Chair:** Jan Alicia Nettler
(chair.amc.berkshire@gmail.com)
- **Vice Chair:** Martin Mahoney
(vicechair@amcberkshire.org)
- **Treasurer:** Jane Glushik
(treasurer@amcberkshire.org)
- **Secretary:** Roger Beer
(rbeer4@comcast.net)

Committee Chairs

- **Appalachian Trail Committee:**
Jim Pelletier (at@amcberkshire.org, 413.454.4773)
 - **Berkshire Exchange Committee:**
Nate Szymanski (berkexeditor@amcberkshire.org)
 - **Biking Committee:**
Brant Cheikes & Janine Papesh
(bicycling@amcberkshire.org)
 - **Conservation Committee:** vacant
 - **Family Programs:** Margo Chapski
(familyprograms@amcberkshire.org)
 - **Membership/Social Committee:**
Bess Dillman (membership@amcberkshire.org)
 - **Mountaineering Committee:**
Jim Van Natta & Ingrid Nelson
(mountaineering@amcberkshire.org)
 - **Noble View Committee:** Frank Evans
(fevans6568@aol.com)
 - **Nominating Committee:** vacant
 - **Outings Committee:**
Kathy Martin (hiking@amcberkshire.org)
 - **Paddling Committee:**
Charles Murray (paddling@amcberkshire.org)
 - **Communications Committee:** vacant
 - **NE National Scenic Trails Committee:**
Heather Wyman (squareroot123@gmail.com) &
Dana Gronbeck (dgronbeck1@gmail.com)
 - **Training and Education Committee:** vacant
 - **Website Committee:**
Evan Yeadon (webmaster@amcberkshire.org)
 - **Young Members Committee:**
Nicole Dewberry (youngmembers@amcberkshire.org)
- ## **Other**
- **Chapter Trips Approver:**
Jon Hanauer (approver@amcberkshire.org)
 - **Noble View Outdoor Center:**
Frank Evans (fevans6568@aol.com)
 - **Regional Director:** Sharon Foster
(regionaldirector@amcberkshire.org)
 - **New England Trail Coordinator:**
Bridget Likely (blikely@outdoors.org)
 - **Tuesday Hiking:** Mary Moriarty
(mmoriarty@crocker.com)

Join Appalachian Trail hikers, outdoor enthusiasts, members of the community and government officials to celebrate Dalton's Designation as an Appalachian Trail Community with morning hikes -- including a family friendly hike, an Appalachian Trail work project, followed by music, activities and a potluck lunch. Bring a dish to share.

The event, part of the 413 Heart/Music & Arts Festival, which will be simultaneously occurring, is sponsored by the Grow Dalton Initiative, Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the Appalachian Mountain Club Berkshire Chapter.

Dalton's Designation will be on Saturday, August 19. Meet at 8:30 am for hikes and work project, followed by midday pot luck lunch. at Pinegrove Park Pavilion, 290 High Street, Dalton, MA 01226

Are You Familiar with AMC's Chainsaw Policy?

Last fall, the Inter-Chapter Trails Committee (ITC) and Conservation Programs Committee (CPC) approved a new AMC Chainsaw Policy. This is the official chainsaw policy for all staff and volunteers using chainsaws while on an AMC project. It was created to help ensure that all chainsaw users are trained and certified in both saw operation and in the hazards associated with them.

You can view the new policy below to ensure safety when operating a chainsaw on or off the trail.

[AMC Chainsaw Policy](#)

The Outdoor Festival Returns!

Registration is now open for the Second Annual Outdoor Festival at Noble View Outdoor Center, 635 S. Quarter Rd., Russell, Mass. 01071.

Saturday, August 26, 10am to 4pm. Click to our Eventbrite page to register below.

The event is FREE—Sponsored by The Appalachian Mountain Club Berkshire Chapter and Noble View Outdoor Center. But—Please register to help us plan the right amount of food.

The festival is a celebration of all things outdoors: guided hikes, nature walks and camping skills workshops.

Music will be played throughout the day with kids activities including a scavenger hunt. It is a memorable event and a great opportunity to explore this amazing and popular 358-acre facility that has been connected to our chapter since 1930.

Presentation on Snakes:

At 2pm there will be a snake presentation by Tom Tynning, professor of Environmental Science at Berkshire Community College and author of Snakes in Western Massachusetts. The show is suitable for children and adults and will include live snakes. Please bring a blanket or folding chair.

All Day:

- Live music at various times throughout the day outside at the North Cabin.
- Silent Auction of hiking and outdoor items, new and used.
- Learn about the history of Noble View, explore the facilities and learn how you can volunteer to help with their plans for the future.
- Learn about the Appalachian Mountain Club Berkshire Chapter and meet our members.



[Get Ahead of the Pack
and Register Here!](#)

Still have questions or having trouble registering?

Please contact Bess Dillman at:

elizabeth.dillman@gmail.com or 413-528-4130

Young Members Leadership Training Weekend

If you like hiking and other outdoor activities, we would like to invite you to the upcoming Young Members (20s/30s) Leadership Training Weekend at Cardigan Lodge in New Hampshire.

Hosted by AMC staff and experienced volunteers, you will spend the weekend with other Young Members across AMC from Maine to Virginia. Together you will learn a lot about leadership and group dynamics, and you'll laugh a lot too.

Everyone is friendly and welcoming. Attendees are there because they love the outdoors and want to share their interests with others. "Classroom" time is at the hall and on the trail, and during evening socials you can sit by the fire with your guitar or find an Adirondack chair with a view. Your stay at Cardigan Lodge includes towels, linens, excellent food and you can borrow any gear that they have available for free.

As with all AMC leaders, you don't need to be an expert—just learn how to plan activities at a skill level that suits you. While AMC is best known for hikes, we are always looking for leaders who will offer activities such as cross-country skiing, bicycling, paddling, mountaineering, group volunteering, and more.

Training is scheduled for September 15-17 (Friday evening – Sunday mid day). Registration will be open until August 31st, but be sure to book early since the available spots may fill up.

If interested, please contact YoungMembers@AMCBerkshire.org. If you are an AMC member or plan to become a member, then we can talk more about how AMC and the Berkshire Chapter will cover the full cost of your training.



To learn about the first (now annual) training that was held last year, read on here: <http://www.outdoors.org/articles/amc-outdoors/lead-generation-amc-leadership-training-millennials/>

More about the upcoming Young Members (20s/30s) Leadership Training Weekend and RSVP: <http://activities.outdoors.org/search/index.cfm/action/details/id/97002&act=12>

About Cardigan Lodge, where the upcoming training will take place: <http://www.outdoors.org/lodging-camping/Lodges/cardigan/index.cfm>

Be A Part of the Executive Committee!

The Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee is the top level of chapter leadership, representing all the committees that keep our chapter moving. We are currently seeking talented AMC members to help in improving the Berkshire Chapter.

Vice Chair

The Vice-Chair works with the Chair to develop chapter-wide goals and establish benchmarks to achieve these goals. The Vice-Chair assists the Chapter Chair when the Chair is not available to attend functions, meetings and activities where chapter leadership representation is needed. The VC might attend and represent the chapter at AMC Club wide gatherings. In conjunction with the Chair, works with Committee Chairs to assist in meeting stated goals and objectives. Hopefully the Vice Chair will become the Chair after serving for 1-2 years as Vice Chair.

Treasurer

The Treasurer is responsible for the financial affairs of the Chapter: receiving income, maintaining bank accounts, paying bills, reporting to the Executive Committee and submitting an annual report for audit by Club the Treasurer works with the Executive Committee to make and implement goals for the Chapter and to make decisions on all matters that affect the Chapter.

Communications Chair

The Communications Coordinator manages all communications of the Berkshire Chapter. Currently the chapter has people responsible for our website, newsletter, Facebook page and monthly emails. The Communications Coordinator will coordinate the work of these people.

Joining the Executive Committee is an excellent opportunity to lead an area you're passionate about and help guide the chapter's activities. If you would like to nominate someone, please email vicechair@amcberkshire.org.

Check Online Before Heading Outdoors!

Members of the Berkshire Chapter can follow our social media accounts to find outdoor activities all year long!

Find us on 

meetup

Engage with the Berkshire Exchange

Send us an e-mail with your
comments and questions at:
berkexeditor@amcberkshire.org

Archived and current editions of
The Berkshire Exchange can be found at:
www.amcberkshire.org/berkex/



BERKSHIRE CHAPTER

YOUR CONNECTION TO THE OUTDOORS