



BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE



Winter 2006/07

FROM *the* CHAIR

A Tough Act to Follow: Thoughts from Your New Chapter Chair

In the last issue of the *Berkshire Exchange* Rob Robertson, Chapter Chair, called upon members to get involved in the Chapter's leadership. He asked the blunt question, "If you don't step forward, who will?" Well, I heard his call. And as Rob finishes his tenure as Chapter Chair, I have decided to take that step beyond the work I already do for the Outings, Noble View, and Berkshire Exchange Committees. I think the rewards and the chance to learn a few dozen things will make the hard work of serving as Chapter Chair fun and worthwhile.

Filling Rob's shoes won't be easy. As he steps down (while remaining with us as he takes on the role of Noble View Committee Chair), he leaves a very pleasant taste with so many Chapter volunteers and other members. His way of thinking positively in any situation is unparalleled, and his sense of humor is one that has made laughter commonplace. Whether it's intentional or not, that ability to make people laugh becomes a tool—helping to motivate folks to volunteer or

continued on page 6

Childhood Memories of Noble View

by Jan Kirkpatrick Galloway

Noble View is woven into the fabric of my childhood. I can't even remember my first trip there, I was so young. But there are countless little things that pop into my mind each time I come back. I remember how big the stepping stones that lead up to the farmhouse used to be when I was small. I remember that it was a long, hot walk for my short legs to get from the farmhouse to the cottages in the summertime. The front porches of the cottages were almost always breezy and the old chairs were creaky and uncomfortable. The cottages smelled like summer, hot and dry, and their stairs creaked in mysterious ways. The screen doors had a most satisfying bang that used to drive our parents nuts.

We played king of the mountain with the tractor seat and got poison ivy itchies. I remember being scared silly one night while walking down to the "Little House" by the barn. A porcupine in the apple tree rattled its quills at me. Was I brave enough to keep walking? What could I do if I ran back?

The wagon wheel that hung in the farmhouse kitchen became a marker for me. When I could reach up and hang a towel to dry on one of the spokes it meant I'd finally gotten to (almost) adult stature. And as I grew, I learned new skills—road building and maintenance because the road always needed care, fire-tending and safety so I could cook on the wood stoves. I also learned how to manage a woodlot so the wood stoves and fireplaces could be filled, and how to use wood-working tools to do basic repairs. Best of all, I learned how to work with all the wonderful volunteers who cared for Noble View.

Then I went to college, married, and moved away to Michigan. I didn't see Noble View for about twenty years. On my return in 1984, my adult eyes saw the problems that age and weather had brought to the hill farm.

So now Noble View is changing. It will never be quite as I remember. Yet I believe the virtues of Noble View will shine through. The trails will offer pleasant hikes; the buildings will be filled with AMC families and their friends. Volunteers will share the pleasures of seeing their dreams come true. And the view from the cottage porches will always attract a crowd to sit and enjoy our Noble View.

Is Noble View Part of Your Personal History?

We'd like to celebrate the renovation of the Double Cottage and educate and entertain our future guests with a notebook of reminiscences about Noble View. Photos with captions, bits and pieces of Noble View history, your best (or worst) Noble View experiences, and anything else you'd like to share with the Berkshire Chapter and our guests are all welcome.

Please email your submissions to victoria@victoriastrauss.com. You may mail hard copy submissions to Victoria Strauss, PO Box 1216, Amherst, MA 01004.

Volunteer Opportunities

page 3

Leadership Training

page 4

New Books

page 7

Thoughts from Your Departing Chapter Chair

I want to express my gratitude to you all for the wonderful opportunity you've given me to serve you as Chapter Chair for the past two years. I've experienced significant personal and professional growth as a direct result of this work, and I've received tremendous satisfaction and enjoyment as well. I've certainly received more than I've given, a sentiment that seems to be true for other volunteers as well.

I've had the pleasure of working with the talented and dedicated volunteers on our Executive Committee for the past year. These people are fantastic. They're positive and motivated, and they work hard to support their Committees and the Chapter.

Our Officers were:

Pat Stevenson – Secretary
Kelly Druzisky – Treasurer

Our Committee Chairs were:

Cosmo Catalano – Appalachian Trail
Jon Hanauer – Berkshire Exchange
Charlie Camp & Connie Peterson – Canoe & Kayak
Alicia Wendolowski – Chapter Youth Programs
Patricia Lukas – Conservation
Elizabeth Gordon – Conservation (up to early 2006)
Deborah Levine & Chris Mangano – Membership
Alice Hodgdon & Jim VanNatta – Mountaineering
Gary Forish – Noble View
Dave Koerber & Bob Napolitano – Outings
Bess Dillman – Public Relations
Patrick Fletcher – Trails
Donna Walters – Training & Education
Ian Beatty – Website
Kelly Druzisky & Stephen Beauregard – Young Members

Others who deserve thanks include:

Chris Ryan – who handles our “Membership in a Bottle” program.
Norm Sims – who is finishing his term as Regional Director.
Maureen Flanagan and Gail Blackhall – who assist in editing and proofreading the *Berkshire Exchange* and other publications.
Gloria LaFlamme, Dave Conley, and Rosmarie O'Connor – who have served the Tuesday Hikers faithfully.

Roger Scholl, the AMC's Director of Volunteer Relations, and Faith Salter, the AMC's Assistant Director of Volunteer Relations, have been incredibly helpful to and supportive of our Chapter and our sister chapters. Other AMC staff who deserve thanks include Heather Clish, Julie Wormser, Joe Carper, and Andy Falender.

I'm very grateful, too, for the opportunity to meet so many great people, and to have made some very good friends. I'm especially grateful to Jon Hanauer, who has been a good friend and an excellent sounding board, for stepping forward to serve the Chapter for the next two years.

Finally, I want to recognize and thank Gary Forish, our former Chapter Chair and the outgoing Noble View Chair, who has done (and continues to do) an incredible job mobilizing volunteers, material, and labor at Noble View. A group of about 75 AMC members, staff, and members of the local community recently enjoyed a festive day at Noble View celebrating the rededication of the Double Cottage. The finishing touches are underway now, but the building is in use as a destination for lodging, programs, and training. I'm really excited about Noble View's potential for the Chapter, the general public, and the AMC as a whole.

I'll be serving now as Chair of the Noble View Committee, and I'll continue to enjoy working with Jon and the new Executive Committee, as well as with our members, our sister chapters, and our responsive and effective AMC staff.

Again, many thanks, and keep up the good work.

Yours in service,
Rob Robertson
Berkshire Chapter Chair, 2005–2006

AMC Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee – 2007 –

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chair: Jon Hanauer
(chapterchair@amcberkshire.org; 413-568-0990)
Vice Chair: *vacant*
Treasurer: Kelly Druzisky (treasurer@amcberkshire.org)
Secretary: Pat Stevenson (secretary@amcberkshire.org)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Appalachian Trail Committee:
Cosmo Catalano (at@amcberkshire.org; 413-458-5349)
Berkshire County Representative: *vacant*
Berkshire Exchange Publisher: Jon Hanauer
(newsletter@amcberkshire.org; 413-568-0990)
Canoe and Kayak Committee:
Charlie Camp and Connie Peterson
(paddling@amcberkshire.org)
Chapter Youth Programs: *vacant*
Conservation Committee: Patricia Lukas
(conservation@amcberkshire.org; 413-253-5711)
Entertainment Committee: Diane Furtek
(entertainment@amcberkshire.org; 413-589-5530)
Family Programs: Alicia Wendolowski
(familyprograms@amcberkshire.org; 413-626-3902)
Membership Committee:
Deborah Levine (membership@amcberkshire.org; 413-584-6065)
Mountaineering Committee:
Jim VanNatta and Alice Hodgdon
(mountaineering@amcberkshire.org)
Noble View Committee: Rob Robertson
(nobleview@amcberkshire.org; 413-549-4963)
Nominating Committee: *vacant*
Outings Committee:
Dave Koerber (outings@amcberkshire.org; 413-568-4650)
Bob Napolitano (outings@amcberkshire.org; 413-534-8955)
Public Relations Committee: Bess Dillman
(publicity@amcberkshire.org; 413-667-5178)
Trails Committee: Patrick Fletcher
(trails@amcberkshire.org; 413-562-9863)
Training and Education Committee:
Donna Walters
(training@amcberkshire.org; 413-367-3025)
Website Committee:
Ian Beatty (ian@amcberkshire.org)
Young Members Committee:
Steve Beauregard (ymchair@amcberkshire.org)

BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE

– December 2006 –

Editor: Maureen Flanagan
(berkeditor@amcberkshire.org)
Assistant Editor: Gail Blackhall
(proofreader@amcberkshire.org)
Submissions (to the Publisher):
newsletter@amcberkshire.org; 413-568-0990
Berkshire Exchange, 29 Atwater St., Westfield, MA 01085-1541
Address Changes:
AMC, 5 Joy St., Boston, MA 02108; information@outdoors.org
Title photo: *Member Leslie Pray and hike leader Judy Isacoff on Alander Mtn., by Rob Robertson*

Other Helpful Contacts

Appalachian Trail Committee Vice Chair:
Jim Pelletier (wanderer0131@yahoo.com; 413-454-4773)
Membership in a Bottle: Chris Ryan
(bottles@amcberkshire.org; 413-549-4124)
Regional Director: Dale Geslien
(dalegeslien@sbcglobal.net; 203-778-3651)
Regional Trails Coordinator: Sara Sheehy
(ssheehy@outdoors.org; 413-229-9147)
Tuesday Hiking: Gloria LaFlamme (413-664-9648)

Need a phone number?

If the person you want to contact by phone has no number listed, please call the Chapter Chair, Jon Hanauer, at 413-568-0990.

• VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES •

Committee Chair

Berkshire County Representative

Some of our Chapter members who live in Berkshire County would like to see more outings and other get-togethers in their area. The person who takes this position will coordinate with our Entertainment, Membership, and Outings Committees to organize activities in the Berkshires. If you're interested in working with some really nice people and taking this post on our Executive Committee, please contact Jon Hanauer at chapterchair@amcberkshire.org or 413-568-0990.

General Volunteer Opportunities

Membership Committee

We're looking for volunteers to staff our booth at the 2007 Springfield RV and Camping Show, February 16–19, 2007.

The Berkshire Chapter has an opportunity to be present at this large camping show in our area. We need volunteers to staff the booth, in four-hour shifts, for the entire time the show is open. We'll get a certain number of free tickets for our volunteers.

If you're interested in helping out, please contact Membership Committee Chair Deborah Levine at membership@amcberkshire.org or 413-584-6065.

Exciting Times at Noble View – Your Help is Needed!

We're delighted to report that the Noble View Committee is developing as an enthusiastic and effective working group. We've already filled these officer positions: Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Volunteers have also stepped forward to chair our Marketing and Programs Committees, and Gary Forish will now chair the Physical Plant Committee.

It probably won't surprise you to hear that we still have a few openings:

Vice Chair – will help coordinate and facilitate the work of the Committee.

Development Chair – will work with AMC staff to research locally available grants and will write grant applications for submission.

Trails Chair – will organize volunteers to maintain the network of trails on, and adjacent to, the Noble View property.

Our **Marketing Committee** can use your creativity and initiative, too. We want to encourage AMC members, and members of the general

public, to visit the property for programs and events or just to take a walk in the woods.

Our **Programs Committee** needs volunteers to plan programs and events, similar to the Mohican Outdoor Center model. At MOC, volunteers lead weekend events for participants. We need help identifying people who will present great programs at Noble View.

Our motivated volunteers have performed great feats thus far. Let's build on their efforts and accomplishments and make Noble View a fantastic AMC success story. To find out more about these and other exciting volunteer opportunities at Noble View, please contact Rob Robertson at 413-549-4963 or cerobertson@comcast.net.

Outings Committee

We are looking for monthly coordinators to work with the Outings Committee to plan outings and find leaders for those outings. Coordinators must solicit leaders and assemble a list of activities two months prior to the month they're responsible for (April 1 for June, May 1 for July, etc.). For 2007, monthly coordinators are needed for June, July, September, November, and December.

We are also interested in finding activity leaders for day hikes, dog-friendly hikes, family hikes, educational hikes, activities with other clubs, car camping or base camping with day hikes, backpacking, cross-country skiing—any outdoor activities. We would also like input from Berkshire Chapter members with ideas on outings that are of interest and may not have been offered recently.

Please contact Bob Napolitano at 413-534-8955 (before 8 p.m.), or Dave Koerber at 413-568-4650 (home, before 9 p.m.) or 617-480-8225 (work). Or, send an email to outings@amcberkshire.org.

Conservation Committee

Endangered species? Recycling? Sustainable energy? Invasive, exotic plants? Do any of these topics get you excited? Give some thought to joining the Conservation Committee.

Sample activities include joining forces with other organizations to aid their conservation efforts, arranging for conservation experts to address interested AMCers, and advocating for local conservation initiatives.

Folks from the western reaches of the Berkshire Chapter are most welcome. No experience is necessary, just a desire to make a difference.

For more information, contact Conservation Committee Chair Patricia Lukas at conservation@amcberkshire.org or 413-253-5711.

Entertainment Committee

We're looking for a few volunteers interested in helping to organize and manage events for members, such as monthly or bimonthly potlucks (at Pioneer Valley or Berkshire County venues) or summer barbecues (at Noble View). Assisting with our Chapter's Big Berkshire Bash (Annual Meeting), held on the first Saturday of each November, might also be a responsibility. Occasionally, our Entertainment and Membership Committees may work together. If you'd like to pitch in, contact Entertainment Committee Chair Diane Furtek at entertainment@amcberkshire.org or 413-589-5530.

Have a Passion?

Share it at Noble View! Do you love digital photography? Sketching? Birding? Tree and plant identification? Tai Chi? Would you like to share your knowledge with others? Can we interest you in doing that at Noble View? Or, do you know anyone else who has knowledge or a skill to share? We're looking for volunteers to conduct half-day, full-day, and weekend programs at Noble View. Please contact Rob.

Can You Convert Celluloid and Old Photos to DVD?

We're soliciting photos and movies of events and work at Noble View and we need someone to convert them to DVD. Can you help? Please contact Rob.

• Passages •

FREDERIC A. STOTT – Fred competed in the Iditarod and was to speak about it at the Berkshire Chapter's Annual Meeting in November, but had to send us regrets due to his illness. The author of *On and Off the Trail: Seventy Years with the Appalachian Mountain Club*, he had a major impact on many of us. Fred Stott passed away on December 1.

BRIAN AHEARN – A member of the Berkshire Chapter since 2005, died August 2006.

LEONARD T. FORISH – A past member of the Berkshire Chapter, died October 24 at the age of 86. Father of Noble View Physical Plant Chair, and former Noble View Chair and Chapter Chair, Gary Forish. In the past, he lived at Noble View for a period of time.

Can you say “OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP?”

Leadership Training Weekend at Noble View

March 10–11. Multi-chapter annual training with professional staff. New leaders, group leaders, and family unit leaders are encouraged to participate. There will be an emphasis on group-led activities, leaders’ responsibilities, trip planning/management, special needs requirements, weather emergencies, principles of emergency first aid in the backcountry, and leader awareness/decision making. Program fee: \$65 for two-day workshop; includes meals (Sat. lunch & dinner, Sun. breakfast & lunch) and Sat. night lodging. Optional Fri. night lodging (\$15), Fri. dinner (\$8), and Sat. breakfast (\$4) are also available. The Berkshire Chapter will subsidize the program fee for Berkshire Chapter members. For members of other chapters, please inquire about possible fee subsidy with your appropriate committee or Chapter Chair. For further information, or to register, contact Donna Walters at 413-367-3025 or training@amcberkshire.org.

We Need Your Help!

Make a Difference in a New Leader’s Education and Experience!

An Invitation from Training and Education Chair Donna Walters

Last year we initiated a new leader mentoring program with our Hike from Hell Mentoring Series.

The AMC Berkshire Chapter’s mentoring program will continue this year. It is designed to afford prospective, new, and experienced leaders an opportunity to take a nice walk in the woods, participate in role playing and incident/accident scene management scenarios, practice a trailhead talk, make new friends, and have a boatload of fun! We’ll practice techniques offered in Wilderness First Aid and in Leadership Training to learn how to better manage difficult situations and handle emergencies calmly and effectively. We’ll have a chance to receive reinforcement and support, and to exchange ideas and suggestions on how to improve our skills.

We are looking for experienced leaders (mentors), new or less experienced leaders in need of support for managing their AMC group activities, and folks who are interested in becoming Chapter leaders.

The Role of a Berkshire Chapter Mentor

Mentors help new leaders develop leadership skills and gain confidence in their leadership abilities and activity-oriented technical skills. They guide and support new leaders who are in the process of becoming experienced leaders. They provide guidance and advice, encourage and support, and offer hands-on teaching and co-leading opportunities.

A mentor might work together with a new leader to:

- Select, research, and scout a potential activity.
- Locate nearby emergency resources.
- Prepare the activity listing for amcberkshire.org and *AMC Outdoors* (specifics include providing the monthly coordinator list and the timelines for submission to the coordinators, deciding who the activity is designed to attract, and learning how to write a friendly and welcoming activity listing).
- Screen potential participants for ability and appropriate gear (by phone, email, or at the trailhead).
- Lead the activity (including giving a thorough trailhead talk, interacting with participants and encouraging their interaction with each other, moving around among the members of the group and monitoring their condition during the activity, and incident/accident scene management and reporting).

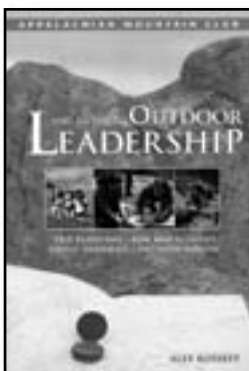
Hike from Hell Mentoring Series

Date: Third Sunday of the month: March 18, April 15, May 20.

Place: Montague Bookmill, Montague, MA, 10:00 a.m.

We will meet for an hour or so of discussion and refreshments at the Montague Bookmill’s Lady Killigrew Café. Then we will head out for a group hike at nearby Mt. Toby or Wendell State Forest until about 3:00 p.m.

For more information, or directions to the Montague Bookmill, contact Donna Walters at 413-367-3025 or training@amcberkshire.org. Directions can also be found at www.montaguebookmill.com.



AMC Guide to Outdoor Leadership

by Alex Kosseff

280 pages • paperback • ISBN 1-929173-21-0 • \$15.95

- Techniques for new and experienced leaders.
- Comprehensive coverage of leadership concepts.
- Advice and anecdotes from experts.
- For any trip leader who plans family outings or organized group activities.

AMC Books

800-262-4455 • www.outdoors.org

Outings Committee Reminder: Sign-up and Release Form

The Outings Committee would like to remind trip leaders that the AMC requires leaders to complete the AMC Release Agreement for each activity and return it within a week to Bob Napolitano, PO Box 650, Granby, MA 01033. The form is required for legal/insurance liability reasons. It will be mailed to each leader at least two weeks prior to a trip and also can be downloaded at <http://amcberkshire.org/get-involved/lead/forms>. In addition to being a requirement, the form also provides useful information to the Outings Committee for future planning. We appreciate your help in complying with these Club and Chapter requirements.

Potluck Venues Needed

We'd like to start regular monthly potlucks, and have presentations after we enjoy a meal together. These potlucks could help us catch up with old friends, make new ones, and introduce new members to the Berkshire Chapter's wonderful people and activities.

We're considering having the potlucks in the Pioneer Valley on odd-numbered months, and in Berkshire County on even-numbered months. If you know of a pleasant and inexpensive venue that might welcome us as a regular guest, or people who might be willing to contribute interesting presentations, contact Deborah Levine (membership@amcberkshire.org; 413-584-6065) or Diane Furtek (entertainment@amcberkshire.org; 413-589-5530). Thanks for your help!

Conservation Starts in the Home

Every time I do my laundry, I turn on the fluorescent light above the washing machine and leave it on the whole time until the wash is done. Sure, I wonder sometimes, is it better to leave it on or turn it off? I've never known. But usually, by the time I've walked out of the basement, I've already forgotten about it.

As the incoming Chair of your Conservation Committee, I figure it's high time that I address this question and adjust my behavior accordingly. After all, we're talking conservation here!

A quick Internet search led me to www.consumerenergycenter.org,

We Need Your Best Digital Photos

We're creating a new digital slide show for member events and public meetings. Please email your best high-resolution photos of Berkshire Chapter activities, with enough information for us to write great captions, to cerobertson@comcast.net. Keep 'em coming!

A Good Home for Your Unused Gear

Is your closet, mudroom, or attic cluttered with winter gear you don't use any more? Starting in January, we'll be running an "Intro to Winter Hiking" program at Noble View (see below for details). We expect that many of our participants may not own all the gear they'll need to hike outside in cold weather, and we'd like to build a store of gear that participants can borrow. We'll offer a nice, new home for your men's and women's shells, wind pants, gaiters, fleece tops and bottoms, snowshoes, poles, crampons, and other gear in good, usable condition. Please contact Rob Robertson at 413-549-4963 or cerobertson@comcast.net.

Tractor with Brush Hog Needed

Admittedly this one's a stretch, but you never know! If you've got a tractor with a brush hog attachment you're not using any more, or you know someone who does, we'll give it a good home at Noble View. Please contact Rob Robertson at 413-549-4963 or cerobertson@comcast.net.

by Patricia Lukas, Conservation Committee Chair

the website of the California Energy Commission. Its recommendation: "As a simple rule of thumb, you should always turn off lights if they will not be used for more than five minutes. While most lighting systems have a brief power surge when starting, the amount of energy consumed is very small. Frequent switching of lights, especially fluorescent lamps, will shorten lamp operating hours, but the lamp will probably last as long in years, and the energy savings will be important."

That's good enough for me. Next time I do my laundry, I'm turning off that light!

Introduction to Winter Hiking

Jan. 27–28; Feb. 10 & 24; Mar. 10 & 24



Noble View. photo by Rob Robertson

This series will introduce the beginner or three-season hiker to the joys of day hiking during the winter months. New members are especially welcome! We'll begin with a weekend workshop (Jan. 27 & 28) at Noble View's Double Cottage for presentations and discussions, gear assessment, and short hikes. We'll follow up with day hikes on Feb. 10, Feb. 24, Mar. 10, and Mar. 24. Limited to 16 participants. Attendance at the weekend workshop is

mandatory, and preference will be given to those who can commit to the entire series: The \$75 fee includes all classroom materials, and food and lodging for the weekend workshop at Noble View. Submit application (found at amcberkshire.org), preferably by Jan. 15, 2007. Contact leaders (before 9 p.m.) Christine Fogarty (978-372-8448; takeahike31@hotmail.com) or Rob Robertson (413-549-4963; cerobertson@comcast.net).

Cape Cod Camping Weekend

Fri.–Sun., May 4–6

An outstanding weekend of day hiking and biking on the Cape before the crowds arrive. Highlights include the Cape Cod National Seashore, Great Island, tidal flats (world's largest) of Cape Cod Bay, Wing's Island and surrounding salt marshes, Cape Cod Rail Trail. Tent camping at Nickerson State Park, Brewster, MA. Community meals. All are welcome, especially new members. Advance registration and deposit required. For details, contact leader Jon Hanauer (413-568-0990 or chapterchair@amcberkshire.org).



Tidal flats. photo by Jon Hanauer

From the Chair, continued from page 1

otherwise participate by placing a big, fat smile on their faces. I feel proud to know him, and I'm fortunate to have him as a great friend.

Of course, all the members of our Chapter's Executive Committee have had a very favorable two years with Rob. I'd like to share some of the feedback I've received:

I think Rob's greatest accomplishment as Chapter Chair is his ability to inspire people. Great leaders get people to follow through inspiration rather than intimidation. Rob excels at this. He listens to all points of view and has the ability to be tactful in the most difficult circumstances. That, coupled with an engaging sense of humor, makes him one of the best leaders I've ever worked with.

—Pat Stevenson, Berkshire Chapter Secretary

About two years ago I decided it was time to rejoin the AMC and try to get more active. I went to a Noble View hike led by Rob. His enthusiasm and excitement about the AMC and Noble View were infectious, and before I knew it I was attending an Executive Committee meeting and signing on. Rob is an extraordinary individual and strong leader, and all of us in the Berkshire Chapter have benefited from his commitment, energy, and organizational abilities. He shares his enthusiasm openly and finds ways to engage others in sharing his vision of what the Chapter can be. And Rob's vision usually includes fun. There is rarely a time when his humor and irreverence aren't part of the mix. But along with humor, Rob also possesses a sensitivity and kindness that allow him to really listen and offer help and support when needed. Rob's creativity and sense of possibility for the Chapter are inspiring and have laid the foundation for many new opportunities for members. We will miss him in his role as Chapter Chair, but we will continue to have the benefit of his energy and vision as he assumes other leadership roles.

—Deborah Levine, Membership Committee Chair

The first time I met Rob was on a hike which he led. His irreverence and self-effacing humor made me wonder: who is this guy? Since then I have had the privilege of getting to know him better. As a mock accident victim lying on a fallen tree during a November Wilderness First Aid course, he was patient and long-suffering while we took what must have seemed like an eternity to rescue him from the painful situation. His hard work and good cheer as co-leader of last

spring's Cape Cod camping weekend helped make for a memorable, fun event. Rob's dedication to the Berkshire Chapter is truly inspiring. Thank you, Rob, for your service to this honorable organization.

—Patricia Lukas, Conservation Committee Chair

And now it's my turn for the challenge. What can I do for my Chapter? While I've got a few ideas of my own, input from you, our members, is very important to me. I welcome any and all of your suggestions.

For starters, it has come to my attention that people in Berkshire County would like to see more outings in their area, and perhaps find ways to get more involved by participating or volunteering without having to travel so often to the Pioneer Valley region. The first step I'd like to take is to fill the now long-vacant spot of Berkshire County Representative. This is an Executive Committee position that carries voting rights. Anyone interested?

Another long-vacant Executive Committee position has just been filled. Thanks to Diane Furtak for stepping forward to be the Chair of our Entertainment Committee (formerly called the Programs Committee). Rob, Deborah, and I have discussed the idea of having a monthly or bimonthly potluck get-together for members. Diane will be looking for a few volunteers to join her on this Committee and to help organize and manage potluck events as well as our Chapter's Big Berkshire Bash (Annual Meeting) held on the first Saturday of each November.

For details on these and other rewarding volunteer opportunities, please see page 3.

I look forward to meeting you all on the trail, at Chapter gatherings, or even at a monthly Executive Committee meeting. Please feel free to contact me with your fresh ideas. Let's have a great time!

Very best wishes,
Jon Hanauer
Berkshire Chapter Chair
chapterchair@amcberkshire.org
413-568-0990

NOBLE VIEW DOUBLE COTTAGE REDEDICATION

• Oct 21, 2006 •

The Appalachian Mountain Club and the Noble View Camp Committee gratefully acknowledge the volunteers and supporters who have contributed to the renovation of the Double Cottage.

Merritt Andrews
Scott Andrews
Appalachian Mountain Club Small Facilities
Grant Fund
Rosemary Arnold, Conklin Office Services,
Inc.
AMC Berkshire Chapter
AMC Boston Chapter
Ed Caldon, Caldon Construction, Inc.
Joe Carper
Gerard Charette
Tammis Coffin
Community Foundation of Western
Massachusetts
Construction Fasteners Supply
Paul Cunha
Dave Schenna, DAS Alarm Systems
Mark Damon
Matt Dickinson
Andy Falender
Gary Forish
Lucky Gabriel

Iris Gingras
Rick Gumaer
David and Margaret Hale in memory of
Betty Sapp and in honor of
Roland Butler
Jon Hanauer
Robert Henchey, Mestek, Inc.
David Smith, HFP Corp
Jack Viola, HFP Corp
Fred Hoekstra
Ed Iserman
Steve Jablonski, Stephen Jablonski
Architects
Peter Kane in memory of Ellen Carvalho
Kellogg Brothers Concrete
Charlie Kirkpatrick in memory of
Donald A. Kirkpatrick
Alan Kulberg
Kurtz, Inc.
Hank Lane, John H. Lane & Sons
Lane Construction, Inc.
Ed Laroche

Mike Philbrook
Steve Prew
John Pubrick
Toby Sanborn, RPS Inc.
Ed Orazine, Rolf Jensen & Associates, Inc.
Roger Scholl
Paul Seery
Linda Sharron
Norm Sims
Sally Smith
Murray Solomon
Greg Jerome, Taylor Rental of Westfield
Jim VanNatta
Barbara and Elvery Veal
Ann Marie and Leah Visconti
David Wallis
Western Massachusetts Joint Carpenters
Apprenticeship & Training Fund,
Local 108
Westfield Concrete, Inc.

Katahdin: An Historic Journey

by John W. Neff

354 pages • paperback • ISBN 1-929173-62-8 • \$19.95

Maine historian John W. Neff takes readers on a journey through the mountain's history, legend, and legacy. Neff collects widely scattered sources and assembles the first comprehensive history of this massive peak. He shares Native American traditions and stories, recounts colonial settlers' first glimpses, traces the histories of trails and campsites, conveys the impact of the lumbering era, tells about sporting camps that sprang up, and follows the footsteps of Thoreau and other artists.

AMC River Guide: Massachusetts/Connecticut/Rhode Island, 4th Edition

262 pages • paperback • ISBN 1-929173-87-3 • \$16.95

This new edition is completely updated and revised, providing paddlers of all ability levels with the in-depth, straightforward information they need. This up-to-date guide covers more than 2,000 miles of rivers and their tributaries, including the Housatonic, Connecticut, Deerfield, Merrimack, Concord, and many more. Detailed descriptions, a reader-friendly format, easy-to-skim tables, and new watershed maps make trip planning easy. It's a great companion for a novice canoeist, experienced kayaker, or seasoned angler.

AMC's Best Day Hikes in the White Mountains

by Robert S. Buchsbaum

290 pages • paperback • ISBN 1-929173-88-4 • \$16.95

This guide leads hikers to the best views, as well as the most dramatic waterfalls and nature-rich trails in the region. Explore the three notches (Franconia, Crawford, and Pinkham) and hike trails off the Kancamagus Highway and in the Sandwich Range. The guide's 50 hikes are keyed to the AMC's *White Mountain National Forest Map and Guide* (1-929173-64-6, \$9.95). A must-have for hikers looking to sample the best of the White Mountains in all four seasons.

AMC's Best Day Hikes Near Boston

by Michael Tougas

210 pages • paperback • ISBN 1-929173-66-2 • \$16.95

Discover 50 pockets of wilderness on scenic trails bursting with flora and fauna. This guide leads explorers to the area's abundant woodlands, reservations, and nature preserves. It includes the North Shore, Lincoln Woods, the Blue Hills, and Cape Cod. Notes for each trip provide additional details on natural and human history, scenery, and special activities. Discover new places for hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, birding, swimming, and more.

additional suggestions:

Catskill Mountain Guide by Peter W. Kick

272 pages • GPS-rendered pull-out trail maps • paperback • ISBN 1-929173-16-4 • \$19.95

Massachusetts Trail Guide, 8th Edition edited by Charles W. G. Smith

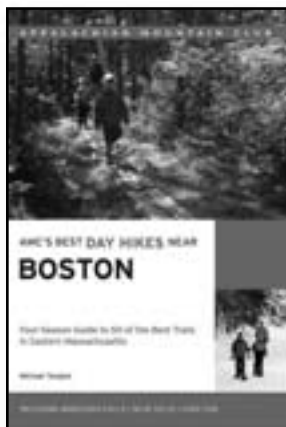
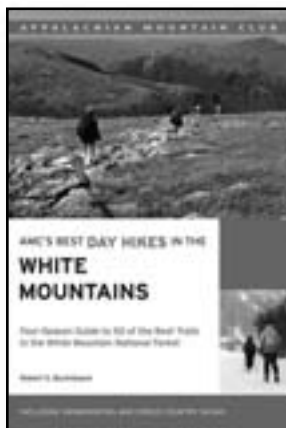
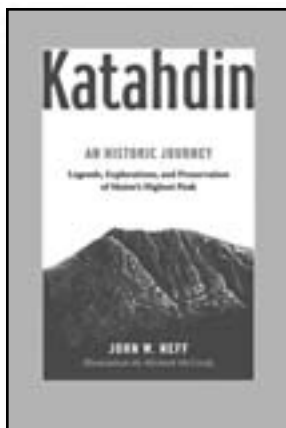
352 pages • GPS-rendered pull-out trail maps of popular areas • paperback
ISBN 1-929173-44-X • \$19.95

Discover the Berkshires of Massachusetts by Charles W. G. Smith and Susan A. Smith

284 pages • paperback • ISBN 1-929173-35-0 • \$16.95

AMC Books

5 Joy Street, Boston, MA 02108
800-262-4455 • www.outdoors.org





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* • A new member packet with your Club ID, a copy of current Chapter activities, and our quarterly newsletter, the *Berkshire Exchange*.

Congratulations to these Berkshire Chapter members, celebrating their Silver and Golden anniversaries with the AMC!

- **50-year member** •
Kathryn Burnett
- **25-year members** •
Matthew Donachie
Katharine Reichert
Patricia Rollman
Lynne Shapiro
Mona Sprecker
Thomas Stevens
Gary Winsor

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

– 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.



BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE
Winter 2006/07

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

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 1035
SPFLD MA 011