

BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB
BERKSHIRE CHAPTER NEWS & EVENTS

amcberkshire.org
outdoors.org



Winter 2007/08

FROM *the* CHAIR

2007: Here's to a Great Year and to Those Who Made it Happen

What a wonderful AMC chapter we have here, with a fantastic community of volunteers and members! As we roll over from 2007 to 2008, it's important to recognize many of our recent successes and look forward to upcoming events.

The year 2007 was a great one for the Berkshire Chapter. We maintained a count of 3,000

members. Deborah Levine got our monthly potluck series rolling. We also got our Family Programs Committee started with Bob Wallner. Our many activity leaders regularly brought folks together,

both outdoors and indoors, for hiking, paddling, climbing, bicycling, and social events in the woods, on the mountains and rivers, and at Noble View Camp.

Deborah Levine, early in 2007, also accepted the position of Chapter Vice Chair. This is terrific news for the Chapter and the AMC. Her devotion and creative ideas are fantastic. Also, as Vice Chair, she will become Chapter Chair for 2009–2010; succession of leadership is very important.

In 2007 we held two Leadership Training weekends, with about 40 participants attending. For organizing, thanks to Christine Fogarty, Donna Walters, and Rob Robertson. Thanks also to the Berkshire and Worcester Chapter volunteers who contributed as trainers or by otherwise helping out, and to many of our own Chapter leaders who showed up to offer support to the newly trained folks.

Our Big Berkshire Bash and Annual Meeting

continued on page 7

Have You Hiked the Mahican-Mohawk Trail? Want To Do More?

by Polly Bartlett

The Mahican-Mohawk Trail extends from Hoosac Road in Deerfield to Route 2 in Shelburne just east of the State Police Barracks. This eight-mile stretch follows woodland trails and the abandoned New Haven Railroad railbed along the south side of the Deerfield River in Deerfield and Conway. It then crosses the river and winds its way along the Shelburne side of the river. The trail is unique in its east-west direction in the state, and gets a lot of use by local people, as well as groups from the lower Connecticut River Valley hiking on organized trips.

The Deerfield River Watershed Association (DRWA), which has assumed stewardship of the trail, is looking for people interested in its upkeep and expansion. The finished section of the Mahican-Mohawk Trail in fact is part of a larger concept for a trail from the Connecticut River to the Hudson River—a route used by the indigenous people for thousands of years. One desirable extension would run from Old Deerfield to the Pocumtuck Ridge Trail. The extended trail already exists in some places but needs a local person to be the leader to connect the pieces. Another proposed extension would run from its present terminus in Shelburne along the river to the Potholes in the center of Shelburne Falls.

Work is also planned on the present crossing of the South River in Conway where the railroad once crossed on a 550-foot long bridge 175 feet above the stream. TransCanada Hydro Northeast, which owns the land with a Conservation and Recreational Restriction given to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), is committed to building a pedestrian bridge using the stone bridge piers on the bottom of the river. At this point, it is rarely crossable without getting your feet wet. The South River is approachable from both sides, and the massive stone piers from the railroad bridge (which stand 20 feet above the river) are very impressive and beautiful.

The DCR has taken a strong interest in the Mahican-Mohawk Trail and is helping the DRWA to pull people and agencies together to increase the use and enjoyment of this trail. For a full description of the trail click on www.deerfieldriver.org and scroll to the last item on "Hike and Bike Your Watershed."

Wouldn't you like to help? If so, please notify Polly Bartlett, 44 Ashfield Road, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370; dbartlet@crocker.com or 413-625-6628.

For More Information About Helping with Trails in Massachusetts:

Paul Jahnige
Director, Greenways and Trails Program
Mass. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation
36 Damon Road
Northampton, MA 01060
413-586-8706, ext. 20
paul.jahnige@state.ma.us

2008 TUESDAY POTLUCK SERIES BEGINS FEBRUARY 12!

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BERKSHIRE CHAPTER LEADERSHIP TRAINING, APRIL 5–6

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Climate Change the Focus of a Recent New Member Potluck

by Patricia Lukas, Conservation Committee Chair

Summer in South Carolina. How does that sound? Uncomfortably hot and sticky? Well, if climate scientists' projections are correct, by the year 2050 the climate of Massachusetts will resemble the humid subtropical conditions of that southern state.

This was part of the message Hawk Metheny presented to a group of about 20 engaged listeners at the Berkshire Chapter New Member Potluck in Northampton on November 13. As the AMC's Backcountry Management Specialist at Pinkham Notch in the White Mountain National Forest, Hawk is particularly interested in climate change education and in how current and projected changes will affect the environment of the Appalachian Mountains, particularly in the Northeast. He was trained earlier this year to present a version of the slide show on which Al Gore's Academy Award winning film, "An Inconvenient Truth," is based.

Discussion of climate change is not all bad news, however. Hawk left us with resources to help us do our part to mitigate the conditions which are contributing to global climate change. First of all, we must be aware of our personal impact on the earth's climate. There are many sources of information to get us going, and Hawk suggested a few websites to visit. At www.cleanair-coolplanet.org we can read articles about alternative energy including wind turbines and biomass power plants. The Union of Concerned Scientists, at www.climatechoices.org, informs us "...how the choices we make today will determine the climate our children will inherit." Log on to www.realclimate.org to read about "climate science from climate scientists." At www.cartalk.com, the website of NPR's Car Talk, Tom and Ray take the mystery out of carbon offsets and tell us which ones come through on their promises.

Hawk also brought some books for us to consider. One that deserves a second look is David Gershon's workbook, *Low Carbon Diet: A 30 Day Program to Lose 5,000 Pounds*. He also reminded us to be sure to join the AMC's Conservation Action Network (CAN) to get regular updates on conservation and policy issues in the Northeast.

Now, back to South Carolina. The story doesn't have to end this way. Snow may still fall in Massachusetts in 2050 if we act now to make even small changes in our lives.

Be sure to join us in the New Year as we continue to bring you timely and interesting speakers at our 2008 New Member Potlucks.

Get the very latest event listings!

<http://trips.outdoors.org>

Just select BERKSHIRE in the Chapter field (leave the other fields blank). Then click the SUBMIT button.

Don't forget to check in at home!

<http://amcberkshire.org>

LATE-BREAKING NEWS &
IMPORTANT CHAPTER INFORMATION

• In Memoriam •

DEANE LEE – A member of the Berkshire Chapter since 1986, recently passed away.

KAREN USDAN – A member of the Berkshire Chapter since 2005, passed away on January 11. Contributions may be made in Karen's memory to the Austen Riggs Center in Stockbridge, MA, or to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.

We had the privilege of becoming her friends a couple years ago. Karen always took us to the amazing places around the Berkshires: Tanglewood, Lenox Mountain, Sedgwick Circle, Club Helsinki, 22 Railroad Street Café, and Soco Creamery. She also invited us to her art exhibit. She shared her excitement of her newly discovered talent and her love of art. We enjoyed her company tremendously. —John Tu

Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee

– 2008 –

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chair: Jon Hanauer
(chapterchair@amcberkshire.org; 413-568-0990)
Vice Chair: Deborah Levine
(vicechair@amcberkshire.org; 413-584-6065)
Treasurer: Kelly Druzisky (treasurer@amcberkshire.org)
Secretary: Pat Stevenson (intrepid47@comcast.net)

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Appalachian Trail Committee:
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Website Committee:
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Young Members Committee: *vacant*

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– January 2008 –

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Northern Berkshires map from the Massachusetts Trail Guide

Need a phone number?

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

The Berkshire Chapter's 2008 Monthly Tuesday Potluck Series Begins February 12, 6 PM to 8 PM

The highlight will be a presentation on the history and maintenance of the Appalachian Trail and the Berkshire Chapter's role in caring for the Trail in Massachusetts. Join us as our Appalachian Trail Committee Vice Chair, Jim Pelletier, shares the fascinating story of the development of the Trail and the contribution the AMC makes to maintaining it as a rich, recreational resource for all. There will be plenty of time for questions. The potluck series continues at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Northampton, 220 Main St. Northampton MA. Potluck dinner from 6:00-7:00 pm. Program 7:00-8:00. Bring a dish to share. New and Prospective Members always welcome to attend. Please call Deborah Levine at 413-584-6065 with any questions.

Save the Date! Berkshire Chapter Annual Members' Potluck, Saturday, March 29, 5:30 PM to 9 PM

Help us welcome new members! New Location: American Legion Hall, Rte. 9, Hadley, MA. Our guest speaker, Naturalist Laurie Sanders of WFCR's Field Notes, will present "Special Natural Places in Western Massachusetts" Plenty of free parking! For questions, please call Deborah Levine at 413-584-6065. Watch for more info at amcberkshire.org, in the *Berkshire Exchange*, and in the *March AMC Outdoors*.



Tuesday Potluck in September, 2007. photo by Steve Fratoni



At AMC August Camp, 2007, members of the Berkshire and Boston Chapters relax atop Lamberts Dome in Yosemite National Park. Pictured are Len Cohen, Bea Robinson, Dona Burdick, John Dunlea, Brad Butman, Farley Lewis, and Jim Fearnside. photo by Len Cohen

Progress at Noble View: Something to Be Proud Of

Self-Help Grant Awarded to Town of Russell

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs recently announced awards of nearly \$8 million in local grants to purchase and protect 1,405 acres of open space throughout Massachusetts. Of this sum, \$472,500 was awarded to the Town of Russell for the purchase of a Conservation Restriction on Noble View's 358.5 acres.

An extraordinary partnership between the Russell Select Board, Planning Commission, and Conservation Commission; Winding River Land Conservancy; Pioneer Valley Planning Commission; Springfield Sewer and Water Commission; and AMC staff and volunteers achieved this excellent outcome.

This process will result in:

- Permanent protection and preservation of the open space at Noble View through a conservation restriction.
- Permanent protection of the part of Noble View that lies within the Springfield Water Commission's watershed.
- Funding for facility improvements at Noble View and support of education programming at the location.

The value of the Conservation Restriction, to be purchased from the AMC, is approximately \$675,000. The Town of Russell will not incur any costs in this purchase and it will achieve permanent protection of a significant amount of open space within its borders. Russell's share of the cost will be funded by the Self-Help Grant award and the balance will be funded by the Springfield Water Commission.

To bring the project to a successful conclusion, several important tasks must be accomplished within a closely defined timeline. As the project benefits Russell at no cost to the town, we expect the Town Meeting will approve the funding mechanism. Also, the parties and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts must reach agreement on the language of the Conservation Restriction.

We hope this remarkable collaboration will result in a successful outcome for all parties. We'll all certainly have something to be very, very proud of.

Improvements Continue at Noble View

Bathhouse construction was put on hold this fall, so we've insulated the foundation and underground plumbing to protect the cast iron piping against frost heave and plan to proceed at full speed once the ground thaws next spring. We hope to have the bathhouse ready for use by next winter.

The next project on the horizon is the extensive renovation and rehabilitation of the North Cottage. With Gary Forish's outstanding hands-on project management, we'll achieve the same excellent results here that we see at the Double Cottage—a safe, modern lodging facility with electricity, refrigerator, gas cooking range, and wood stove heat for the enjoyment and comfort of our guests.

Moving forward, we now need to:

- Build a stronger Noble View Committee.
- Establish local educational programming with the Town of Russell.
- Show significantly stronger revenues from lodging and programs.
- Show strength in long-term planning, succession management, and support for the mission.

Volunteers Make It Happen at Noble View!

Chief among our volunteers are Gary Forish and Fred Hoekstra, who are regularly at the property working on one thing or another. Dave Conley's been doing lots of trail work recently, often with Ed Watson's help.

Thanks, also, to the folks who came out for Woodcutting Days at Noble View. We split and stacked an enormous pile of wood and transferred many cords of dried firewood into the wood sheds.

If you have carpentry, electrical, or plumbing skills to offer, we'd really like to hear from you! If you don't have these skills, please consider volunteering at Noble View anyway. We always have plenty of work to do on the grounds and trails, and we'll also need some unskilled volunteer

labor on the bathhouse.

This winter, we'll need someone to shovel snow from the drive to the doorway of the Double Cottage and to the fire suppression system holding tank. This spring and summer, we'll need people to mow the lawns and care for the grounds.

Third Saturday Trail Work Days will begin again in March, and we're always looking for help here. We have a good time working together for three hours or so, and then we enjoy each other's company over lunch.

A Crucial Challenge

Thanks to the efforts of our Noble View leadership over the past five years and the more recent and very effective collaboration of AMC staff, we're well-positioned for another magnificent success. Following the Double Cottage renovation, our new bathhouse will enhance Noble View's desirability as a lodging destination, and this certainly should be reflected in our 2009 revenues.

I can't emphasize enough how important it is for us to build a strong and well-rounded Committee to capitalize on our successes and build Noble View in the coming years. We need your energy, enthusiasm, and commitment in these roles, or wherever you would like to help:

- **Vice Chair** – to help coordinate and facilitate the work of the Committee.
- **Development Subcommittee** – to work with AMC staff to research grants and write grant proposals.
- **Trails Subcommittee** – to coordinate volunteers to perform trail work and help with clearing invasive plants.
- **Marketing Subcommittee** – to attract AMC members and the public to the property for programs, events, and general use.
- **Programs Subcommittee** – to plan programs and events.

If you've been wondering whether now's the time for you to consider a volunteer commitment that will benefit the community and bring joy and satisfaction to your life, please consider helping out at Noble View.

Whether you come to Noble View to participate in trail work or a volunteer work day, walk in the beautiful winter woods, attend a training, or enjoy a social event, we hope that your affection for and connection to this unique resource grows and deepens.

Respectfully,
Rob Robertson
Noble View Chair



Christine Fogarty and Lynn Pace warm up by the wood stove in the Double Cottage.

Educational Workshops at Noble View

Berkshire Chapter Leadership Training Sat. & Sun., April 5–6, 2008

Whether you'd like to become a Chapter leader or just want to improve your outdoor skills, you're invited to attend. Training emphasizes group dynamics, leaders' responsibilities, trip planning/management, weather emergencies, incident/accident scene management, leader awareness, and decision-making. The \$25 fee covers day training and materials. Fee is refundable to Berkshire Chapter leaders once you've completed your three co-leads and have led your first event for the Berkshire Chapter. Overnight lodging available for \$15. Advance payment requested. Please contact Christine Fogarty at 978-372-8448 (before 9 p.m.) or training@amcberkshire.org.

Map and Compass Workshop, Sat. & Sun., Mar 15–16, 2008

With a simple compass, an accurate map, and the skills to use them, the woods are open for you to wander. Whether you're an outdoor leader or enthusiast, this active, participation-oriented field workshop is for you! You'll learn map symbols, scales, contour line identification, latitude/longitude, declination, and map and field bearings. You'll learn to follow bearings through the woods, and pace to control points. \$125 fee includes maps, compasses, etc. Lodging is available for additional \$15/night. For info or to register, contact Gary Forish at 413-519-3251 or forgary@comcast.net.

SOLO Wilderness First Aid, Sat. & Sun., Apr 26–27, 2008

WFA addresses the medical and logistical issues that arise where there is no ambulance, no roof or walls for shelter from the elements, supplies are few, and the length of the wait for help is unknown. Lectures and discussions are supplemented by hands-on scenarios. An emphasis on long-term care and evacuation complications in the backcountry makes this course unique. Fee of \$130 with optional lodging available. An \$80 subsidy is available for active Berkshire Chapter leaders. For info or to register, contact Gary Forish at 413-519-3251 or forgary@comcast.net.

The Outings Committee is Going Places, Welcomes New Volunteers

by Bob Napolitano, Outings Committee Chair

First of all, I want to thank all the monthly coordinators and hike leaders for their volunteer services to the Berkshire Chapter. There is no way one individual can perform this task; the club and all participants owe them a big round of applause. A special thanks, too, to my Co-chair, Dave Koerber, who unfortunately has had to step down to follow family and business activities. We owe our success in part to him—as I said, I couldn't do this effectively alone. Thank you, Dave.

While I sincerely appreciate the wonderful support we've been getting, the need continues for planning, organizing, and implementing our monthly activities. Specifically, we're calling for volunteers in the following areas:

- Monthly (or quarterly) coordinators to cover June, July, November, and December 2008.
- Activity leaders to co-lead one or more events so new leaders can get three co-leads under their belts.
- Special Event coordinators for National Trails Day, Earth Day, Annual Potluck Dinner day hikes, Annual Meeting day hikes, and third Saturday of the month work parties ("give back to the trails").
- Someone to set up and manage an email list-serve.

The Outings Committee had a busy year in 2007. For those who like numbers, there have been 80 hikes with 1121 participants during the first nine months. This is based on the returned signup sheets; I suspect there are more, but all the sheets may not have been returned to me yet. Leaders, please send them to Bob Napolitano, PO Box 650, Granby, MA 01033. Additional forms may be obtained by contacting me, or on the web at <http://www.amcberkshire.org/lead/docs>.

I hope members continue to enjoy our Chapter outings, and look forward to what we have in store. And please remember to contact me if you want to use your personal talents and volunteer to help. You can phone me at 413-534-8955 (please call before 8 p.m.), or send an email to nappyofma@comcast.net.

Would You Like to See More Activities in the Berkshires?

Be Our Berkshire County Representative!

If you live in or near Berkshire County, you can spare a few hours per month, and you'd like to take this exciting position on our Executive Committee, it could be perfect for you.

The following would be helpful:

- **Solicit approved Chapter leaders to run hikes and other outdoor activities, as well as other events, in the Berkshires.**
- **If you'd like, be an approved Chapter leader yourself and lead a few of your own events. (If you're not a Berkshire Chapter leader and you'd like to be, please see Berkshire Chapter Leadership Training above.)**

Does this sound interesting? Want to help out? Please contact Jon Hanauer at 413-568-0990 or chapterchair@amcberkshire.org.

Cape Cod Camping Weekend, 2008

Fri.-Sun., May 2-4

An outstanding weekend before the crowds arrive. Enjoy hiking, biking, or some of each. Highlights include the Cape Cod National Seashore, tidal flats (world's largest) of Cape Cod Bay, Wing's Island and surrounding salt marshes, Cape Cod Rail Trail, Cape Cod Canal Bikeway. Tent camping at Shawme-Crowell State Forest, Sandwich, MA. Community meals. All are welcome, especially new members. Price of \$50/person includes 2 nights camping, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners.

Advance registration and payment required. For details, contact leader Jon Hanauer (413-568-0990 or chapterchair@amcberkshire.org). Co-Leaders: Deborah Levine, Rob Robertson, Patricia Stevenson. Register soon; last year's trip sold out!



Wing's Island and tidal flats, Brewster.



**A Young Members hike on
Mt. Monadnock in November.
John Tu was the leader.**
photos by Brian Seppa

From the Chair, *continued from page 1*

(BBB) on November 3 was a great success, well-attended with 80 people. This year we tried something a little different—we hired a band instead of a speaker. The band, Victory, played classic songs from yesteryear, and folks had a wonderful time dancing or otherwise enjoying the music. Also, we were honored to have Bill Cushwa, Chapter Chair 1975–1976, as one of our guests.

On our Executive Committee, I want to thank those Committee Chairs who have stepped down after years of great service: Alice Hodgdon (Mountaineering), Dave Koerber (Outings), Donna Walters (Training & Education), and Ian Beatty (Website). Thanks and welcome to our newest Committee Chairs: Bob Wallner (Family Programs), Bill Fogel (Mountaineering), and Christine Fogarty (Training & Education). Thanks to Bob Bergstrom—previously Deputy Webmaster—for moving up to the position of Website Committee Chair and taking over as Ian steps down. Those continuing in their positions on our Executive Committee for 2008 are Deborah Levine (Chapter Vice Chair; Membership Chair), Patricia Stevenson (Secretary), Kelly Druzisky (Treasurer), Cosmo Catalano and Jim Pelletier (Appalachian Trail), Jon Hanauer (Berkshire Exchange), Charlie Camp and Connie Peterson (Canoe & Kayak), Patricia Lukas (Conservation), Jim Van Natta (Mountaineering), Rob Robertson (Noble View; Nominating; Past Chair), Bob Napolitano (Outings), Bess Dillman (Public Relations), Patrick Fletcher (Trails), and Steve Beauregard (acting Young Members Chair).

Thanks to Diane Furtek for continuing to find time during her busy schedule to contribute to the Berkshire Chapter and Noble View Camp; Cynthia Martin-Thompson, for helping out with the leadership of the Mountaineering Committee; Chris Ryan, who continues to handle our Membership in a Bottle program; Gloria LaFlamme, who has been our Tuesday Hike coordinator for so long (she'll be stepping down in April, but will continue to stay involved afterwards); Dave Conley, who's doing a fantastic job as our Tuesday Hike Email Postmaster; Nancy Gonter-Weld, our Website Editor-in-Chief, for continually getting valuable infor-

mation posted at amcberkshire.org; and Dale Geslien, for her support as our Regional Director.

The Berkshire Exchange Committee is still the same happy trio, and I continue to enjoy working with Editor Maureen Flanagan and Assistant Editor Gail Blackhall. Many thanks to both of you.

A very special, posthumous tribute goes to Rosmarie O'Conner, who passed away in the summer of 2007. Rosmarie was the Email Postmaster for the Tuesday hikers. Although she will be greatly missed, those of us who knew her are very thankful for the fond memories she left behind—she was a great friend to so many people.

Actually, hundreds of volunteers serve the Chapter in many different areas and I'm sorry space does not permit me to name all of you. Each and every one of you is an important part of the Berkshire Chapter and I thank you all.

In fact, even if you're a Berkshire Chapter member, regardless of whether you do any volunteering, you are supporting us just by being a member. Without a doubt, this is also greatly appreciated.

Please join me in looking forward to another great year in 2008. We continue to have so much to offer. Watch for recreational, educational, and conservation-oriented activities, Leadership Training and other workshops, family events, volunteer opportunities, and much more. Be sure to save the date for our Annual Members' Potluck on March 29. Keep up-to-date on all these great offerings by checking in with trips.outdoors.org, *AMC Outdoors* magazine, and this newsletter. Members and non-members are always welcome.

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

– CLUB-WIDE NEWS FROM AMC STAFF –

Save the Date for the 2008 AMC Spring Gathering on Cape Cod

Hosted by the Southeastern Mass. Chapter, **April 18–20**. What could be better than springtime on Cape Cod? Dune walks, sea kayaking, and bike trails await you. Details soon at www.amcsem.org and in *AMC Outdoors*, or contact chair@amcsem.org. See you there!

New Toll-Free Number for AMC Member Services

When calling the AMC's new toll-free number, **800-372-1758**, members are greeted by professional staffers. They can look up member numbers, change addresses and chapter affiliations, confirm that a membership payment was received, and take payments for new and renewing members on the spot. Prior to the move, 25% to 50% of all member services calls went to voice mail. Now, an agent is available to answer calls during normal business hours, and the live answer rate is close to 99%. We hope this improvement makes the AMC more accessible and responsive to members.

AMC Seeks to Reduce its Carbon Footprint

The AMC's Conservation Programs Committee has voted to support the scientifically-based greenhouse gas emissions reductions goal of 80% by 2050. This goal has been widely adopted by climate scientists and organizations worldwide who are concerned about the impacts of precipitous climate change.

The 80% by 2050 goal also is reflected in a number of Federal cli-

mate change bills and policies currently being considered by Congress. The AMC's Green Team, a group of staff working on ways to reduce the AMC's environmental impacts, is in the process of identifying carbon reduction goals and strategies to adopt as an organization that are consistent with our support for the 80% in 2050 emissions reduction target.

For the AMC, that would mean reducing our carbon output by an average of 28 metric tons (or 2%) a year for the next forty years. More information is available at www.outdoors.org/climatechange.

First Highlands Conservation Act Funds Secured

On October 1, 2007, the Highlands Coalition, along with its members (AMC, the New York/North Jersey Trail Conference, and The Wilderness Society) honored the successful efforts of Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ), and Congressman Scott Garrett (R-NJ), who helped to secure the first funds under the Highlands Conservation Act (HCA).

The HCA funds will go towards the preservation of Camp Vacamas in the Wyanokie Highlands in New Jersey. The State of NJ is purchasing 310 acres of Camp Vacamas using its share of the \$2 million in HCA funds approved by Congress, as well as funds from the Garden State Preservation Trust.

Camp Vacamas is an incredible institution founded in 1924 that is committed to enabling children from underserved families and communities to enjoy positive experiences. Over 5,000 children from the New Jersey and New York Urban Centers benefit from the camps services in areas of recreation and education. Over the years, AMC members have taught Leave No Trace and other backcountry skills to Camp Vacamas campers.

Annual Valley Forge Winter Picnic at Noble View

Please join us for the traditional George Washington Valley Forge Winter Picnic on **Saturday, February 16, 2008**. This day of winter activities will include hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing (depending on conditions), plus a winter picnic with beef and vegetarian stews, hot beverages, homemade bread, and more. Potluck desserts are especially welcome! Foul weather may move the dining inside, but it will not cancel the day's plans. Volunteers are needed, and reservations are required. Please RSVP to Elvery Veal at 413-665-3010 or v.elvery@comcast.net.

- Bill Burgart -
Wishing you all the best during your recovery!

The members of the Berkshire Chapter are sending you happy thoughts while you recuperate from your biking accident in Arizona. We're looking forward to seeing you again at Chapter events.

MEMBERSHIP IN A BOTTLE

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

- AMC Berkshire Membership Form -

I wish to purchase:

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

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

Please mail the kits to:

Name:

Street:

City, State, Zip:

Phone:

E-mail:

Is this a gift membership? Yes No

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

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

Please mail completed form with check to:

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

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Berkshire Exchange
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