

BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE



BERKSHIRE CHAPTER NEWS & EVENTS
APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB



amcberkshire.org
[outdoors.org](http://amcberkshire.org/outdoors.org)

Winter/Spring 2009

FROM *the* CHAIR

Looking Ahead to the Next Few Years as Your New Chapter Chair

As I begin my term as Chapter Chair, I am honored to follow in the very capable footsteps of so many talented men and women who served before me. Our Chapter has a rich past, and I hope to be able to work with all of you to create a strong future. I would like to thank, in particular, our past chair, Jon Hanauer, for two years of dedication and commitment to the Berkshire Chapter. Jon has served the Berkshire Chapter with hard work and active leadership. Serving as Vice Chair with Jon has been a very special experience and I look forward to continued reliance on his expertise and energy as he assumes the role of Past Chair. Please join me in thanking Jon for a job well done and very much appreciated.

The next two years promise to be very exciting for the Berkshire Chapter. We have a talented and creative Executive Committee whose work on behalf of the Chapter is tireless. The Chapter's leader base is growing steadily with new leaders joining the ranks of existing leaders. The Berkshire and Worcester Chapters recently completed a joint Leadership Training weekend, held at Noble View. Seventeen new leaders from both chapters were trained. The excitement and enthusiasm of both the trainers and the participants were infectious. Our leaders in all of the activity areas are offering a wide range of outings for every skill level and

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Noble View: A Bright Future Thanks to Steady Progress and Volunteerism

Reasons to be Cheerful – Bathhouse Update

Admittedly, 2008 was a difficult year for us at Noble View, but Gary Forish has been indefatigable in his efforts to find a solution to the black water and gray water disposal problem posed by the new state code. It appears that, with the help and support of Tighe and Bond, one of the oldest continuously operating engineering firms in New England, we've reached a crossroads.

We performed a successful perc test a few weeks ago, and it looks as though we're going to be able to position a gray water septic field in the meadow to the southwest of the Double Cottage. The site was surveyed in early December, and Tighe and Bond will prepare a septic field design for submission to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. We hope to have a design approved by the DEP in April 2009.

It now seems that we'll probably have to change the bathhouse design to accommodate composting toilets. This will likely require the partial demolition and rebuilding of the bathhouse foundation. The final piece, assuming we succeed with the gray water system and the composting toilet design and permitting, is successfully drilling a new well. Then, we'll be ready to build!

We hope to restart construction by late summer. Assuming that everything proceeds without a hitch—never a safe assumption—we hope to have the bathhouse completed sometime in 2010.

We're very grateful to David Pinsky, P.E., President and Chairman of the Board of Tighe and Bond, for the gracious donation of resources to this project. Thanks, also, to Glen Ayers for his time, energy, and expertise.

Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow!

The Circuit Trail (formerly the Cross Country Ski Trail) is now cleared of obstacles and, with the addition of some white stuff, is ready for skiing and snowshoeing. Many thanks to Dave and Mary Conley, Ed Watson, Mark Bidus, Jim O'Brien, Bess Dillman, and Dean McGranahan, as

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Saturday, March 28
ANNUAL
POTLUCK DINNER

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AMC Membership: Welcome to the Berkshire Chapter

by Diane Furtak, Membership Committee Chair

Many members join the Berkshire Chapter to get outdoors, learn new skills, and meet new people. With our Chapter, you can do all this and more. Each of us connects to the Chapter in a personal and unique way.

We talk about conservation, trails, paddling, mountaineering, education, passion, wellness, personal growth, and fun...just a few of the things we value. We can have an impact on our local trails, contribute to environmental efforts, and volunteer at Noble View. When we come together, we can walk away different and changed in some way. The Berkshire Chapter is people and we place value on our memberships.

We have potlucks, training, and activities that join us in building and working towards achieving our personal goals while making the Chapter a valued partner within our community. Watch for our family programming with hiking, sledding, and other outdoor activities to involve our young outdoor enthusiasts.

I encourage you and someone you know to come check us out and join us on our next great adventure. Visit us at amcberkshire.org, or contact me at membership@amcberkshire.org or 413-589-5530.

Consider giving a gift of membership and renewing your own membership. We are adding value, adventure, and a sense of community to the Berkshire Chapter. And remember, all but \$6.83 of your membership dues is tax-deductible.

Nominating Committee Process Under Development

by Rob Robertson, Nominating Committee Chair

Every volunteer organization faces the challenge of filling leadership positions and managing leadership succession. We've been fortunate in that most of our positions have been filled, and filled by capable and enthusiastic people. However, we know that we can be more effective in identifying and recruiting people who have an interest in the many different things the Berkshire Chapter does.

We're revising our Executive Committee job descriptions. We'll advertise our open Committee Chair positions through the *Berkshire Exchange* and amcberkshire.org. As of this writing, the positions of **Vice Chair** and **Public Relations Chair** are open. We'll also advertise for people to join committees that have asked for help: Conservation, Family Programs, Membership, Nominating, and Trails.

When finalized, our process for filling Executive Committee positions will look something like this:

- All position descriptions and current openings will be posted online.
- Those interested will contact the Nominating Committee, and we'll get together to discuss the candidate's interests and experience, as well as the details and responsibilities of the position.
- Candidates who are still interested will be invited to attend as many Executive Committee meetings as they'd like in order to see what happens there, and how much fun we're having.
- By the time a candidate is ready to commit to a position, we'll know there's a good match.

At this point, the Nominating Committee consists of one person, the Chair. Let's start by asking some folks to come forward to help out on the Nominating Committee!

In order to match prospective candidates with committees seeking new people, we'll ask candidates to contact either the Nominating Chair or the Chair of the committee that interests them.

Whether you're interested in one of the open Executive Committee positions, or you want to contribute to the work of a specific committee, or you have an interest in any aspect of the Berkshire Chapter, please contact Rob Robertson at 413-549-4963 or ceroberatson@comcast.net.

Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee

– 2009 –

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Chair: Deborah Levine

(chapterchair@amcberkshire.org; 413-584-6065)

Vice Chair: vacant

Treasurer: Kelly Druzisky (treasurer@amcberkshire.org)

Secretary: Pat Stevenson (secretary@amcberkshire.org)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Appalachian Trail Committee:

Jim Pelletier (wanderer0131@yahoo.com; 413-454-4773)

Berkshire County Representative: Jim Wells

(berkshirecounty@amcberkshire.org; 413-229-2742)

Berkshire Exchange Publisher: Jon Hanauer

(newsletter@amcberkshire.org; 413-568-0990)

Canoe and Kayak Committee:

Charlie Camp and Connie Peterson

(paddling@amcberkshire.org)

Conservation Committee: Patricia Lukas

(conservation@amcberkshire.org; 413-253-5711)

Family Programs: Nancy Weld

(familyprograms@amcberkshire.org; 413-256-8728)

Membership Committee: Diane Furtak

(membership@amcberkshire.org; 413-589-5530)

Mountaineering Committee:

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

Jim Van Natta (mountaineering@amcberkshire.org)

Noble View Committee: Rob Robertson

(ceroberatson@comcast.net; 413-549-4963)

Nominating Committee: Rob Robertson

(ceroberatson@comcast.net; 413-549-4963)

Outings Committee:

Bob Napolitano (nappyofma@comcast.net; 413-534-8955)

Past Chair: Jon Hanauer

(newsletter@amcberkshire.org; 413-568-0990)

Public Relations Committee: vacant

Trails Committee: Patrick Fletcher

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

Training and Education Committee:

Christine Fogarty

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

Website Committee:

Bob Bergstrom, Chair (webmaster@amcberkshire.org)

Nancy Weld, Editor (nancy@gonter.com)

Young Members Committee:

Wendy Barbour and Paxton Berardy

(ymchair@amcberkshire.org; 413-569-9998)

Other Helpful Contacts

Chapter Trips Approver: Jon Hanauer

(approver@amcberkshire.org; 413-568-0990)

Membership in a Bottle: Chris Ryan

(bottles@amcberkshire.org; 413-549-4124)

Regional Director: Dale Geslien

(dalegeslien@sbcglobal.net; 203-778-3651)

Tuesday Hiking: Sonja Goodwin

(SGoodwin@alum.rpi.edu)

BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE

– March 2009 –

Editor: Maureen Flanagan

(berksexeditor@amcberkshire.org)

Assistant Editor: Gail Blackhall

(proofreader@amcberkshire.org)

Submissions (to the Publisher): Jon Hanauer

newsletter@amcberkshire.org; 413-568-0990

Berkshire Exchange, 29 Atwater St., Westfield, MA 01085-1541

Address Changes:

AMC, 5 Joy St., Boston, MA 02108; 800-372-1758

Title image:

Farm House at Noble View, by Gary Forish

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.

Save the Date! All Are Welcome!

AMC Berkshire Chapter Annual Potluck Dinner

Saturday, March 28, 5:30 to 9:00 p.m.

American Legion Hall, 162 Russell St. (Rte. 9), Hadley, MA

Help us welcome new, returning, and prospective members! Enjoy a delicious potluck dinner and an exciting "green" program. Meet new and old friends, network with Committee Chairs, and learn how you can join in and get involved. Bring along any friends who might like to know more about the AMC.

Our guest speaker is Cynthia Barstow, author of *The Eco-Foods Guide: What's Good for the Earth is Good for You*.

Please bring a dish to share with 6–8 people. Last name A–C, salad; D–M, dessert; N–S, casserole; T–Z, appetizer.

**It's a great event for all!
Plenty of free parking!**

For questions, please contact Diane Furtek at 413-589-5530 or membership@amcberkshire.org.

Cynthia Barstow: Biography

Cynthia Barstow is President of Seed to Shelf: Marketing for Sustainability, a marketing consulting firm for the natural and organic industry. She is also adjunct faculty at the University of Massachusetts, teaching Food Marketing, Food Merchandising and Natural Products Marketing. Barstow is a writer and well-known speaker for the natural products industry.

Barstow is a well-known speaker for the natural products industry. Her audiences have ranged from Hewlett Packard employees and marketing managers for conventional manufacturers such as Quaker Oats and Dole Foods to farmers at the SARE Organic Transition Training and fellows at the upcoming University of Vermont Food Systems Leadership Institute. She is on the advisory board of the Agricultural Justice Project and the Biodynamic Farmland Conservation Trust.

Her writing appears in industry magazines such as *The Natural Foods Merchandiser* and *Progressive Grocer* as well as consumer publications such as *Vegetarian Times* and *Mother Earth News*. She is the author of *The Eco-Foods Guide: What's Good for the Earth is Good for You* (New Society, 2002).

— WEDNESDAY EVENING POTLUCK SERIES —

Wednesday, May 6 Potluck & Slide Show: Arizona-Idaho-Wyoming

Hadley Senior Community Center, 46 Middle Street, Hadley, MA. Dinner: 6–7, Program: 7–8:30. Bring a potluck dish to share. Jon Hanauer presents slides of outdoor adventures in The Tetons, Yellowstone, Craters of the Moon, Targhee National Forest, the Snake River, the Grand Canyon, and more. Contact Diane Furtek at membership@amcberkshire.org or 413-589-5530.

Wednesday, June 3 Potluck & Outdoor Cooking Presentation

Hadley Senior Community Center, 46 Middle Street, Hadley, MA. Dinner: 6–7, Program: 7–8:30. Bring a potluck dish to share. Frank Evans presents outdoor gourmet cooking. If you love the outdoor cooking lifestyle, Frank will review cooking methods, equipment, and great outdoor cooking recipes. Get inspired for your next adventure. Contact Diane Furtek at membership@amcberkshire.org or 413-589-5530.

Thoughts From Your Departing Chapter Chair

While 2008 was an economically challenging year for nonprofit organizations in general, the AMC Berkshire Chapter still managed to pull off a year of successes. We maintained a membership base of nearly 3,000 people in 2,000 households and offered a full schedule of programs and activities for all ages and interests.

Chris Fogarty, our Training & Education Chair, continued to offer Leadership Training twice a year and added many new active leaders for our Chapter. In the fall, Chris also started a successful partnership with the Worcester Chapter for Leadership Training.

Diane Furtek, our new Membership Chair, continued to organize monthly potlucks with a variety of programs for new and prospective members. Diane also earned her wings and became an approved leader so she can now welcome our members on the trail too.

Conservation Committee Chair Pat Lukas and some of her volunteers offered programs to educate folks about the environment. Such activities included book discussions, a wind turbine tour, and river cleanups in cooperation with our Canoe & Kayak Chairs Connie Peterson and Charlie Camp plus a few of their Committee's paddling leaders.

Our Family Programs Committee started offering family-oriented outdoor events. Praise to Nancy Weld for stepping up to the plate to be Chair of this committee, while also continuing as our Website Content Editor.

Our Appalachian Trail Management Committee, led by Cosmo Catalano and Jim Pelletier, continued to keep Massachusetts' 90 miles of the AT and Upper Goose Pond Cabin in shape and accessible. The annual Appalachian Trail Day in October was well attended.

Pat Fletcher, our Trails Committee Chair, kept folks up to date about the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail. He also has been on top of the latest information about parts of the M-M Trail affected by private landowners.

At Noble View Camp, Committee Chair Rob Robertson's efforts have been nonstop through many challenges. Also, Gary Forish's hard work, knowledge, and construction expertise have been irreplaceable.

Our new Young Members Committee Chairs are Paxton Berardy and Wendy Barbour. They have given new energy and enthusiasm to this committee and its leaders.

Bob Napolitano continues his hard work as Outings Chair. Every month he and his coordinators round up our leaders to get activities

scheduled and publicized.

Thanks to the editing skills of Maureen Flanagan and Gail Blackhall, I've continued to get a great Chapter newsletter out quarterly.

Now that my two-year tenure as Chapter Chair has ended, Vice Chair Deborah Levine has moved into the Chapter Chair role for 2009–2010. I look forward to continuing to work with her during her term. Her energy, creativity, and expertise will benefit the Chapter and the AMC greatly for the next two years and beyond.

My experience as Chapter Chair has been wonderful. I've met so many great people and learned so much. It has been a rewarding venture I'd recommend to anyone who's up for such a challenge.

I'd like to thank *all* our Executive Committee members (not just those mentioned above): Deborah Levine, Pat Stevenson (Secretary), Kelly Druzisky (Treasurer), Cosmo Catalano and Jim Pelletier, Jim Wells (Berkshire County Representative), Charlie Camp and Connie Peterson, Pat Lukas, Nancy Weld, Diane Furtek, Bill Fogel and Jim Van Natta (Mountaineering), Rob Robertson, Bob Napolitano, Bess Dillman (Public Relations), Pat Fletcher, Chris Fogarty, Bob Bergstrom (Website Committee), and Wendy Barbour and Paxton Berardy.

I'd also like to thank past members of the Executive Committee who served during my 2007–2008 tenure: Bob Wallner, Alice Hodgdon, Donna Walters, Ian Beatty, Cynthia Martin-Thompson, and Dave Koerber.

There are too many to name (and that's a good thing), but thanks also to the many other key volunteers who contributed so much in making our Chapter great. This includes, but is not limited to, many dozens of event leaders and trail maintainers.

Also too many to name, I must not forget to thank all those AMC staff members for their unending support.

Now, 2009 promises great times for the Berkshire Chapter. Keep watching for the many recreational and volunteer opportunities. And don't forget, we'll be hosting the AMC Fall Gathering in October.

Very best wishes,
Jon Hanauer
Chapter Chair, 2007–2008

**Jackson Lake
and The Tetons.**



Educational Workshops

Berkshire & Worcester Chapters' Leadership Training, Sat. & Sun., April 4–5, 2009

Whether you'd like to become a Berkshire Chapter leader, or just want to improve your outdoor skills, you're invited to attend this joint Berkshire-Worcester two-day training in Boylston, MA. Training emphasizes group dynamics, leaders' responsibilities, trip planning/management, weather emergencies, incident/accident scene management, leader awareness, and decision-making. \$25 fee covers two-day training and all materials. Attendance both days is required. Overnight lodging is available for \$18/night. Advance payment requested. Current Berkshire leaders attend at no charge. Please contact Christine Fogarty at 978-857-7078 or learning@amcberkshire.org.

Intro to 3-Season Hiking Workshop, Wed., April 1, 2009

Hadley Senior Community Center, 46 Middle Street, Hadley, MA, 7–9 PM. New to hiking or can't remember the last time you hit the trails? Then this workshop is for you! We'll go over hike preparation, proper gear, hydration, nutrition, and more. This workshop kicks off the graduated series of hikes led in conjunction with the Worcester Chapter. Preference for participation in this series will be given to workshop participants. Workshop free for AMC members; \$5 non-members. For info or to register, contact Christine Fogarty at 978-857-7078 or learning@amcberkshire.org.

Berkshire & Worcester Chapters' Intro to Backpacking, Sat., May 2, 2009

Oregon Sportsman's Club, 610 New Lombard Road, Chicopee, MA. Join experienced backpackers from both chapters for an educational one-day seminar discussing trip planning, personal and group gear, food/nutrition, first aid, and Leave No Trace principles. Backpacking hikes occurring throughout the summer and fall with preference given to series attendees. Info session free for AMC members, \$5 for non-members. Register with leaders. Contact Christine Fogarty (978-857-7078 or learning@amcberkshire.org) or Gary Fitzgerald (617-504-2436 or gfitzz@comcast.net).

SOLO Wilderness First Aid, Sat. & Sun., June 13–14, 2009

Noble View Camp, Russell, MA. Standard first aid practices are generally based on the assumption that help will arrive shortly and the patient will be at the hospital in under an hour. WFA addresses the medical and logistical issues that arise when there is no ambulance, no roof or walls to provide shelter from the elements, supplies are few, the length of the wait for help is unknown, and moving the patient a short distance might take hours. Classroom lectures and discussions are supplemented by practical work and problem-solving scenarios that provide hands-on experience. The WFA course is an intense yet fun journey through the world of wilderness emergency care and is recommended for all outdoors people. An emphasis on long-term care and evacuation complications in the backcountry make this course unique. Fee of \$140 with optional lodging available for \$15/night. For info or to register, contact Gary Forish at 413-519-3251 or forgary@comcast.net.

AMC Fall Gathering 2009 – Hosted by the Berkshire Chapter

Fri.–Sun., Oct. 16–18, 2009. Save the date! Chimney Corners YMCA Camp, Becket, MA.

Don't miss this opportunity to spotlight our Chapter and our region, and have a great time along the way as we host all AMC members at the annual Fall Gathering. The weekend will be full of outdoor activities, workshops, events, and camaraderie. Look forward to joining in and having a fantastic weekend in the Berkshires.

Many volunteers will be needed for everything from welcoming guests to leading hikes and organizing events. We need the enthusiasm, energy, and expertise of many to make this a success. If you are interested in being a part of the planning or helping out at the Gathering, please contact Deborah Levine at 413-584-6065.

Stay tuned for more information in the *Berkshire Exchange* and on the web.

Join the AMC on Facebook!

The AMC has launched its official Facebook page, featuring regular feeds of staff-led blogs, events, and press releases, as well as recent videos and our *AMC Outdoors* photo contest on Flickr. The goal is to use this growing communications channel to reach a new audience of potential members, including ways for chapters to leverage social networking sites in promoting local activities. Sign up for free at www.facebook.com, log in and do a search for "Appalachian Mountain Club."

The AMC is interested in your feedback! Send your thoughts to Valerie Bianchi at vbianchi@outdoors.org.

Changes in Store for *AMC Outdoors* and Member E-Communications

In an effort to reduce expenses and AMC's carbon footprint, *AMC Outdoors* will be published six times per year, beginning with the September issue. The magazine will also begin running abbreviated activity listings beginning with the May issue. At the same time, AMC is stepping up its efforts in member e-communications and social networking.

Full listings will continue to be available online at trips.outdoors.org, and well as through a new email-based activity alert available through the AMC Member Center (www.outdoors.org/membercenter). Members can also sign up for e-delivery of chapter newsletters, when available, on the Member Center.

Trip leaders will see new word count limits for magazine listings on the Online Trip Listing system submission forms starting February 15 for trips submitted for the May issue. A complete Q&A for trip leaders will be distributed through chapter chairs, published in the March *AMC Outdoors*, and posted to www.outdoors.org/volunteer/forms.

Highlights of Upcoming Chapter Events

Partial listing; for complete listings of all Berkshire Chapter events, please see *AMC Outdoors* or visit trips.outdoors.org.

L=Leader; CL=Co-Leader; R=Registrar. For details about hike difficulty ratings (e.g. "C3C"), contact the leader.

OUTINGS

Sat., Apr. 4. Hike the Arch Bridge Tr. (C3C), Chester

Hike to the Unkamit Path on Gobble Mtn., overlooking the hidden hills in Chester. L Janice Doubleday (413-354-2304; beechhill26@hotmail.com).

Sun., Apr. 5. Trails at Holcomb Farm (C4C), Granby, CT

Meet in Southwick, MA at 9 a.m., Rite Aid parking lot on Rtes. 10 & 202. L Sheila Croteau (413-732-7254; sheilacroteau@aol.com).

Tue., Apr. 7, 14, 21, 28, May 5.

Tuesday Hiking

Check the Tuesday Hiking listings at trips.outdoors.org, or call coordinator, Diane Crowell, at 413-734-8188.

Sat., Apr. 11. Robinson State Park (B3B), Agawam

Meet 11 a.m. at Rocky's Hardware, corner of Routes 147 & 75. Bring lunch and liquid. For more info call Leaders. L Bea Robinson (413-786-0190), CL Bill Burgart (413-527-9080).

Sun., Apr. 12. Annual Easter Sunday Monument Mountain Hike (C3B), Great Barrington

Afternoon hike. Nice views of Berkshires and Catskills. Bring sturdy hiking shoes/boots, water, snacks, extra warm layers, rain shell (snow or heavy rain cancels). Meet 11:30 a.m. in Westfield, or 12:30 p.m. in Great Barrington. New and prospective members especially welcome. Call for meeting location. L Jon Hanauer (413-568-0990), CL Deborah Levine.

Sat., Apr. 18. Scenic Hike in Mounts Tekoa & Shatterack Area (B3B)

Contact leader closer to hike date for details. L Alex Trzasko (413-562-5782 before 9 p.m.; atrzasko@verizon.net), CL Bill Burgart (413-527-9080).

Sun., Apr. 19. Hike M-M Trail, Harris Mtn. Rd. to the Notch (B3B)

Step into spring! One-way, 5.4 mi., mod. pace. Several steep sections with lots of ups and downs and beautiful views. Will spot cars. Sturdy boots, food and water required. Steady rain cancels. Ltd. to 8 participants. Reg. with co-leader. L Chris Fogarty (978-857-7078 before 9 p.m.), CL & R Rebecca Budaj

(413-289-0114 before 7:30 p.m.; rbudaj@comcast.net).

Sat., Apr. 25. Chesterfield Gorge and East Branch Trail (B3C)

Approximately 8 mostly-flat miles from the Chesterfield Gorge along the East Branch of the Westfield River. We'll check out the spring flowers. May do a one-way hike or double back depending on the amount of water being retained by Knightville Dam. Meet at 10 a.m. Bring lunch and liquids. Heavy rain cancels. Contact leader for meeting place. L Bess Dillman (413-667-5178; bess123@ecoisp.com).

Sat., Apr. 25. Mohawk Trail State Forest (B3C), Charlemont

We'll have the opportunity to see old growth forest, views of the Deerfield River and possibly wildlife. This will be a loop hike. Location may change depending on weather and trail conditions. Contact leader to reg. and for meeting info. L Michael Zlogar (413-253-7522; mzzlogar@comcast.net).

Sat.–Sun., May 2–3. Griffith Lake Backpack (A3B)

Backpack to Griffith Lake via the AT and return via the Old Job Trail, 8 miles each day with elevation gain on both days. Participants should be self-sufficient. Shared equipment based on group size and experience. Participants new to backpacking or a little rusty are encouraged to come along. Option: hike south on AT to Bromley and out to Rte. 30. Call for details and to register before Wed., April 25. L Bob Napolitano (413-534-8955 before 8:00 p.m.; nappyofma@comcast.net), L Dave Koerber, CL & R Sonja Sweeney (413-212-1665; sonja.sweeney@yahoo.com).

Sat., May 2. Quabbin Park Loop (B3C)

Hike around 5 mi., taking in the tower and great views. Be prepared for some muddy trails. Bring lunch, liquids. Rain cancels. Meet 9:30 a.m. at Hawley's Restaurant, jct. Rtes. 9 & 202, Belcher-town. L Ann Wood (413-256-6094).

CONSERVATION

Sat., Apr. 4. Book Discussion

Join an informal discussion of the book, *Field Notes From a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change*, by Eliza-

beth Kolbert. Location and time TBD. Please register by March 28.

L Patrice Paré (413-348-3670; plpare@comcast.net).

FAMILY PROGRAMS

Sat., May 9. Puffers Pond & Nearby Trails, Amherst

Afternoon family walk, with possible snack at Cushman General Store after. Join us for the kickoff of the Berkshire Chapter's 2009 Family Programs season. All ages welcome; kids, bring a parent or guardian. Appropriate footwear required, especially if it's muddy! Reg. with co-leader. L Jon Hanauer, CL & R Nancy Weld (413-256-8728; familyprograms@amcberkshire.org).

QUIET WATER

Sat., Apr. 18. Concord River, Concord

The Berkshire Chapter's annual season-opening quietwater trip is on the Concord River during Patriots' Day Weekend. Meet at the Rte. 117 put-in at 9:30 a.m. Birding opportunities at Great Meadows Wildlife Refuge. Optional dinner afterwards. L Rudy Julian (413-283-8294; rudyjulian@comcast.net).

MOUNTAINEERING

Sat.–Sun., Apr. 18–19. Instruction: Beginner Top-Rope Rock Climbing

Introduction to Top Rope Rock Climbing. Basic instruction in climbing, belaying, and general safety. Come and have fun on the rocks! Discounted fee to AMC members. (Fee: \$60 for members, \$50 for young members, \$75 for non-members). Prior experience not required. Gear is available. Call leader 2 weeks in advance if interested. L Ed Daniels (413-527-4384).

Sun., Apr. 26. Rock Climbing: Top-Rope and Sport, Sunderland

At Sunbolt in Sunderland. L Bill Fogel (413-427-1693; william.m.fogel@verizon.net).

Sat.–Sun., May 2–3. Rock Climbing, Multi-Pitch & Trad, New Paltz, NY

Multi-pitch rock climbing at the "Gunks." Must be a qualified, experienced, multi-pitch second or leader. L Adam Jasionkowski (413-563-2518; atom413@yahoo.com).

Volunteer at Noble View!

For more information on any of these positions at Noble View Outdoor Center, please contact Rob Robertson at 413-549-4963 or cerobertson@comcast.net.

• Administrative •

Noble View Committee

We are seeking Committee members for **Vice Chair, Development, Marketing, Programs, Property, and Trails.**

**Registrar
Greeter
Treasurer**

• Physical Plant •

**Snow Plowing
Ice Storm Cleanup
Lawn Mowing and Trimming
Upcoming Construction Projects
Trail Blazing
Trail Work Days
Invasive Plant Removal
Stone Wall Restoration**

Volunteer for the BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE!

We have two positions available on the Berkshire Exchange Committee. If you're interested in either of these opportunities, please contact Jon Hanauer at newsletter@amcberkshire.org or 413-568-0990.

• E-Newsletter Administrator •

Through the AMC's new online Member Center (located at www.outdoors.org/membercenter), members can set their preferences for delivery of the *Berkshire Exchange* (in addition to other options). We need an administrator to learn the AMC's Kintera Sphere system and set up the Berkshire Chapter's options for how members will receive their newsletter when they opt out of US Mail delivery.

• Content Compiler and/or Writer •

In order to help obtain written material for the *Berkshire Exchange*, we're looking for someone who can solicit Chapter leaders and other members to write articles. Also, the person who takes this position may sometimes want to compile and edit material gathered in order to write their own articles.

From the Chair, *continued from page 1*

interest. There are many chances to get outdoors and play; for young and old, singles and families, there is something for everyone.

The monthly potlucks, held on the first Wednesday of each month, continue with interesting speakers and opportunities for Berkshire Chapter members to come together to socialize with new and old friends.

Our leaders also take an active role in the AMC as a whole, gaining additional knowledge and experience to bring back to the Chapter. October's Fall Gathering, held in Maryland and hosted by the Washington DC Chapter, saw eight Berkshire Chapter leaders and Committee Chairs in attendance. Also, seven of our Committee Chairs attended the AMC's Annual Meeting in Danvers. Participation in Club-wide events is not only informative but a great deal of fun.

Looking ahead to next fall, the Berkshire Chapter will be hosting the AMC's 2009 Fall Gathering. We will welcome all of the AMC chapters to the Berkshires for a weekend of activities, hikes, outings, meetings, workshops, and entertainment. There will be much more information coming and many, many ways to volunteer your time and talents to create a fantastic weekend that will celebrate our Chapter and region. This promises to be a great time. The dates are Oct. 16-18, 2009 and the Gathering will be held at Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA Camp. Mark your calendars and stay posted for more information.

The Berkshire Chapter has many volunteer opportunities for anyone with enthusiasm and a desire to get out and contribute. We have a chapter

with people of many, many gifts and skills. Let us know what your interest is and we can help make a match. Noble View, the AMC volunteer-managed facility located in Russell, MA, is especially in need of energetic volunteers to join the Noble View Committee, work on trail maintenance and do many other important jobs. If you haven't been to Noble View yet, be sure to plan a visit or join a hike or event. Noble View is a treasure and beautiful during every season. Keep an eye on the Noble View section of *AMC Outdoors* or the *Berkshire Exchange* to see how you can experience this special place.

In upcoming editions of the *Berkshire Exchange* I plan to bring you news of both the Chapter and the AMC. In the meantime I look forward to meeting and hearing from as many Chapter members as I can. Please share your ideas and interests, sit in on an Executive Committee meeting, ask questions, or make suggestions. The strength of our Chapter lies in the many committed members and volunteers who create and sustain a wonderful sense of community.

This is your Chapter—join in!

Deborah Levine
Berkshire Chapter Chair
chapterchair@amcberkshire.org
413-584-6065

Noble View, *continued from page 1*

well as all of the other folks who participated on Trail Work Days, for all of their work over the last year and more.

Come Out, Give Back, Have Fun!

How could a message from Noble View be complete without another reminder that almost everything we do is done by volunteers? Those who have contributed time and energy to any worthy cause will agree that, as St. Francis said, "it is better to give than to receive." The rewards for involvement in the Berkshire Chapter and Noble View are great: the fun of meeting new friends with diverse backgrounds and skills, the satisfaction of working effectively together toward a common goal, and the pleasure that comes from having done something for others.

This coming spring, we'll ask for help with landscaping, repairing

stone walls, maintaining trails, renovating the North Cottage, and building the bathhouse. Please pitch in, whether it's for a couple of hours, or a day, or a few weekends, or for the life of the project! We need your help, and you'll feel great about it.

Best wishes for your health, prosperity, and peace in the new year.

Rob Robertson
Noble View Chair
cerobertson@comcast.net
413-549-4963

• In Memoriam •

JUNE GEORGE – A member of the Berkshire Chapter since 1990, recently passed away.

KATHRYN WILBY – A life member of the Berkshire Chapter since 1941, recently passed away.

Get the very latest event listings!

trips.outdoors.org

Just select **BERKSHIRE** in the Chapter field
(the other fields can be left blank).

Then click the **SUBMIT** button.

Don't forget to check in at home!

amcberkshire.org

**LATE-BREAKING NEWS & IMPORTANT
CHAPTER INFORMATION**

Take a look at Noble View's new web site!

www.nobleviewoutdoorcenter.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* • 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

Questions? Contact Chris Ryan at 413-549-4124 or
bottles@amcberkshire.org

BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE
Winter/Spring 2009



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