



SUMMER 2025

A CLOSE-UP VIEW OF OUR CHAPTER'S
VIBRANCY AND DEDICATION



WACHUSETT VIEWS

Letter from the Editor

Executive Committee

Chair	Wendy Dziemian
Past Chair	Christine Pignatiello Chatson
Vice Chair	Rob Gonzalez
Secretary	Linea Rowe
Treasurer	Jose Schroen
Biking	Eric Fung
Communications	Carol Warren
Conservation	Connie Sanchez Morillo
Families	OPEN
Hiking	Walt Lazarz
Historian	Dave Laska
Leadership	Don Davies
Membership	OPEN
Midstate Trail	Mike Peckar
Paddling	OPEN
Skiing Chair	Ruth Langh
Social	Ingrid Molnar
Climbing	OPEN
Third Wednesday	Joe Massery
20s & 30s	Luke Chapdelaine
Trails	Stephen Crowe

WE NEED YOU!

Please consider volunteering

Happy Summer! Still being a novice at writing this newsletter... this is my second... I really wanted to shout all to all who submitted content. Thank you all so much.

We have articles on our Leadership Training, Backpacking Workshop and Gear Shakedown. We have participant perspectives on Finding your inner backpacker, along with how to bring some favorite comforts out on the trail. We have our continuing series of Map & Compass and a brand new series of Fit for the Field. Our trails chair contributed how AMC Worcester used the backdrop of National Trails Day to do some trail work at Wachusett. We have perspectives from both our Chapter Chair and Vice Chair this publication.

Enjoy the glimpses of what we have been up to this Spring and be sure to check out all that's coming next.

We in Worcester pride ourselves on Community, and that can be seen throughout this newsletter. I welcome your feedback, critique and encouragement in my continual effort to share all that is absolutely amazing about our very own Worcester Chapter.

Carol, Communications Chair
Carol Warren, Wachusett Views Editor

Under the Red Felt Crusher

Wendy Dziemian

AMC Worcester Chapter Chair

Hello Worcester Members!

Spring is traditionally an exciting and busy season for the Worcester Chapter, with the backpacking and bikepacking workshops and the leadership and wilderness first aid trainings, not to mention our TrailsFest Potluck at Wachusett Mountain. According to Joe Massery and Steve Crowe, Steve coined the TrailsFest name during a brainstorming session around ways to celebrate National Trails Day back in 2018. Over the years, the event has grown into a magnificent way to elevate trail work, rally community partners, and appreciate our members and volunteers. Many thanks to the organizers, tablers, trip leaders, trail maintainers, barbecue masters, set up and clean up crew, and folks who



Chapter Chair, Wendy Dziemian, leading some of the returning Hut Information Volunteers on a hike to Mount Pierce at their annual training.

brought something delicious to the potluck to share. The rain did not stop us from gathering together and having a good time. Next year's TrailsFest will be EPIC as it will coincide with the 150th Anniversary celebration of the AMC- AMC Relay 150. Check out the AMC150 page [here](#) to visit the interactive map and sign up to adopt a section of the route. There are suggested hikes, backpacks, biking trips, paddles, and festivities. Some very cool sections have already been adopted – Worcester Chapter hiking and backpacking leader, Sue Serra, will carry the flag along a section of the route in Great Barrington on a backpacking trip in May. Interested in learning more? Attend the Chapter Volunteer Engagement Team's Office Hours with special guest, AMC150 Project Manager, Mark Zakutansky, on Friday, July 18 at noon. You can [register here](#).

Save the date for our Annual Meeting and dinner at The Manor in West Boylston on Saturday, October 25th from 5PM- 9PM and be on the lookout for registration details. Doug Teschner, who spoke at the 2017 annual meeting, will return to tell a dramatic story of finding a dead man and rescuing his injured partner on Mt Washington. He will share how that 1984 experience shaped his later life, including serving in the NH state legislature and as Peace Corps country director in Ukraine and West Africa. Doug, who grew up in Westborough, got his start in the outdoors with the Worcester Chapter in the 1960s and is a featured author in the Appalachia journal.

I love the seasons in New England and summer is my favorite. The longer days and bursting nature energize me. All the planning and hard work of the year begins to bear fruit. Leaders are mentoring new leaders and we're getting folks outdoors on some amazing trips. Your executive committee met on June 25th to think ahead to next year before we break for the summer. If you're interested in learning how you can get more involved please consider this your official invitation to join any of our upcoming meetings. Reach out for details to chair@amcworchester.org.

Happy Summer!

Wendy, Chapter Chair

Wendy Dziemian,

AMC Worcester Chapter Chair

Mark your calendars:

August Camp - July & August
Annual Meeting & Social - 10/25/25
Winter Workshop - 11/15/25
AMC Relay 150 - May/June 2026

Be sure to check Outdoors Connector for all event listings.

We are always looking for....

- **volunteers, leaders and committee members.**

Contact anyone on the Executive Committee or any of your friendly leaders.

- **content for this newsletter**

please consider submitting an article
Email: newsletter@amcworchester.org

Find us on social media

[Website](#)

[Meetup](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Facebook 20s & 30s](#)

[Instagram](#)

[YouTube](#)

[TikTok](#)

Table of Contents...

- [Under the Red Felt Crusher](#)
- [We are always looking for](#)
- [Find us on Social Media](#)
- [Celebrating 150 Years](#)
- SERIES: [Map & Compass](#)
- SERIES: [Fit for the Field](#)
- [The GAPS in the TREES](#)
- [Leadership Training Recap](#)
- [Backpacking Workshop & Shakedown](#)
- [NTD: Trailwork](#)
- [Perspective: Inner Backpacker](#)
- [Perspective: Backpacking Brew](#)
- [Recent Awards](#)
- [Special Interest](#)
- [We need you.](#)



AMC Worcester Executive Committee Members

WE NEED YOU....

Looking to become more involved with our Chapter?
Consider joining our dynamic, fun Executive Committee Team!

Current positions that are open or soon to be open include:



Paddling Chair
Cycling Chair
Membership Chair
Climbing Chair
Hiking Chair
Families Chair

If interested in learning more about any of these positions, contact Chris Pignatiello-Chatson at pastchair@amcworchester.org.



Coming in 2026: **AMC 150**
Celebrate 150 Years With US



Celebrating 150 Years of AMC

Celebrate 150 years of AMC in 2026! Get involved in the 150th Relay, attend events, or become a brand sponsor to honor a legacy of outdoor adventure and conservation.



Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC)

For all the latest check out the Official [AMC 150 page](#)

Series: Map & Compass

article by Joe Ciras

What is North?

Good question. There are three types of north that are used in navigation: True north, Magnetic north, and Grid North

Why three norths? Isn't north always up?

Here are the differences.



True north, also called geodetic north or geographic north, is the direction of the line of longitude. All longitude lines converge to points at the north and south poles.

Grid north (GN) is the direction of a plane grid system, usually the grid associated with the map projection. On current US Topo maps, the projection is Transverse Mercator and the plane grid is Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM). All US Topo maps have a 1,000-meter UTM grid included on the map; the angle at which this grid meets the map projection line visually shows the difference between true and grid north. Adjacent US Topo maps may not have the same grid north.

Magnetic north (MN) shows the direction a magnetic compass would point at the time the map was published. The direction of magnetic north varies over time and with the position on the earth's surface, so magnetic declination values on old maps might no longer be accurate. Magnetic declination values shown on current maps are obtained from NOAA's National Geophysical Data Center.

Your compass points to magnetic north and not true north. The difference between true north and magnetic north is magnetic declination. Why is that important? Let's say we traveled 100 feet. With a small declination value for 1° W, you would be off your mark by 2 feet. At the local declination of 14° W, you would be off your mark by 25 feet. At 500 feet, you would be off by 9 feet or 125 feet.

When using a map, always look at the direction of the north arrows. They do not always point to the top of a map.

To find North at night, locate the Big Dipper constellation. Then, draw an imaginary line from the two pointer stars at the end of the bowl to the bright star at the end of the Little Dipper's tail, which is the North Star (Polaris). The North Star points directly towards true north.

Next issue: *Orienting a map. This was a subject that had much discussion during the two recent map and compass training courses. I will give step-by-step instructions on how to do this.*

Joe Ciras

Joe Ciras, Map & Compass Chapter Guru

New Series: Fit for the Field

article by Benjamin West

Introducing Fit for the Field

Starting with this edition, Wachusett Views will feature a new column: Fit for the Field – Tips for Keeping Your Gear Trail-, Snow-, Water-, and Road-Ready. Each edition, written by experienced volunteers, will highlight simple but often overlooked ways to keep your gear performing its best. From preserving the loft in your down gear and maintaining your life vest, to preventing bacteria in your hydration pack and keeping your bike derailleur running smoothly, these tips can help you stay safer, spend less on repairs or replacements, and keep your outdoor adventures full of AMC Joy!

Editors NOTE: Thanks Ben for initiating this series.... We solicit other leaders to submit similar articles going forward in their area of expertise.

Pole Patrol: Don't Let Your Poles Let You Down

Trekking poles are among the most frequently used—and most often neglected—pieces of gear for hikers, backpackers, and snowshoers. They provide essential balance and support, especially on uneven terrain and water crossings. But when they fail, they can turn from helpful to hazardous in an instant.

Have you ever struggled to extend or collapse your poles, had a lock jam, or felt a pole collapse under pressure during a descent? These problems are usually preventable—and a few simple maintenance steps can make your poles more reliable, safer, and easier to use.

The good news? Trekking poles are among the easiest gear items to care for.

Basic Maintenance

For most **telescoping poles**, fully separate the sections, wipe down each part with a clean, soft, dry cloth, and ensure they are completely dry before reassembling. This helps prevent grit buildup and internal corrosion, especially if moisture gets trapped between the sections. When storing them long-term, leave the locking mechanism disengaged.

For **folding poles**, especially adjustable-length models, extend them fully, wipe clean with a clean, soft, dry cloth, and remove any dirt or debris from the joints. Allow all parts to dry thoroughly before folding and storing.

Never use lubricants or oils —

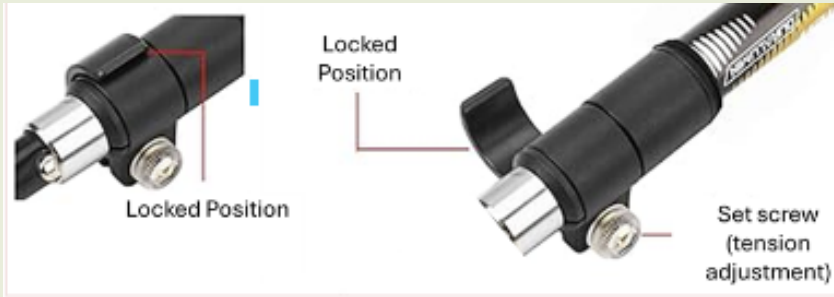
they can interfere with the locking mechanisms. If you notice light corrosion, use very fine steel wool to clean affected areas gently.

Lock Mechanism Checks

If your poles use lever locks (the most common and most secure type), check the tension regularly:

- If the lever is hard to close, loosen it slightly.
- If the pole slips under pressure, tighten it.

In most cases, you can make these adjustments by unlocking the lever and turning the set screw until the tension is just right. Just be sure to make the adjustments in small increments (e.g., ¼ turn) at a time, test, and repeat if necessary.

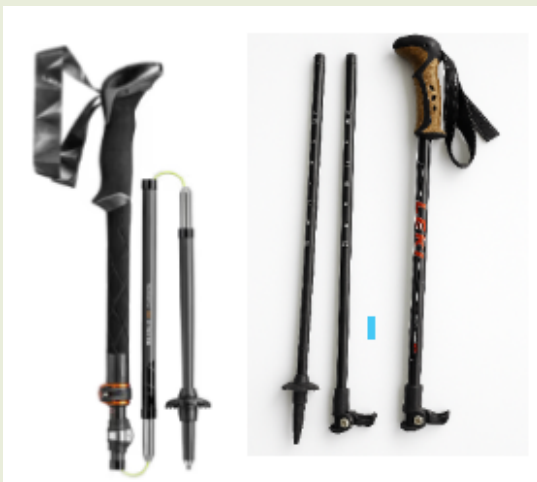


How Often?

Clean and dry your poles:

- Anytime they get wet or muddy
- If they feel gritty or sluggish when adjusting
- Before storing them for more than a few days

When in doubt, check the owner's manual—or ask an experienced leader on your next AMC trip!



Ben West

Benjamin West, Hiking & Backpacking Leader

The GAPS in the TREES

Rob Gonzalez

AMC Worcester Chapter Vice-Chair

It is easy to forget that mystery still lives in the woods.

As part of the AMC, we seek to provide outdoor education and make the wilderness increasingly accessible for all. We learn how to adventure safely, respect wildlife, leave no trace, etcetera, etcetera. And all of this is essential. As a wise man named GI Joe once said, "knowing is half the battle." A solid baseline of knowing keeps us safe, makes us good stewards, and enables us to have a good time out of doors.

But... (Could you sense the 'but' coming? Did you feel it? Maybe on the back of your neck?) there is another layer to engaging with nature – one we don't talk as much about as it feels almost counterproductive to the efforts of outdoor education. It's not in guidebooks, we don't go over it in trail talks, we save it for when the sun has set and the fire burns low. It's the unknown. The ineffable. The downright strange. That feeling you get when wind moves through the trees but you can't feel it on your skin. Or that flicker of movement in your peripheral vision that is likely just your eyes doing their best (and failing) to see at night.

I could make some grand claim that we tell ghost stories around campfires not just for fun, but because deep down, we know nature is still untamed. After all, Mother Nature is history's most prolific serial killer. Which is a quote from 2013's World War Z starring Brad Pitt. Theatrical cut, not great, but the unrated version is surprisingly good. I digress but the point holds. When Henry David Thoreau was ruminating on naturalism here in New England, wagon trains were still going West where everyone would die or go missing.

So yes, I could make that grand claim, but I won't. I lack that level of belief in the human condition. I think it's a lot simpler. We don't tell ghost stories because of some deep down feeling, we tell ghost stories because they're fun, they're eerie, they're spooky, and the more time we spend outside, the more likely we are to have that one thing we cannot explain no matter our expertise in the outdoors



Stories of cryptids, strange lights in the sky, and shadowy figures ahead on the trail are all fascinating. Me personally? I don't think there's anything particularly impossible out there; we're not that lucky. Sorry Bigfoot fans. But the inexplicable absolutely still happens. Things that get our hearts beating, our adrenaline kicking, and those all-too-unused portions of our brains waking up and wondering if there is something in the darkness.

Even in the age of GPS and trail apps, there are places flashlights can't reach. A beam of light shone directly at the woods will light up the frontmost trees so you can see each trunk and every branch silhouetted against the night sky. But only so far. Eventually there's only darkness in the gaps in the trees.

Nature's majesty has two sides. The immense, awe-inspiring, and beautiful. And then the flipside. The unknowable, inexplicable, and unsettling.

The unknown reminds us to be humble. To listen. To wonder. It keeps us from treating the wild as just another thing to be conquered. It's more than just a list of peaks to be completed. The unknown makes it human.

Next time you're out in the woods, breathe in the fresh air, follow your safety guidelines... but also, let the mystery in. Let your imagination walk with you. You're not going to stumble upon the Pukwudgies, but you just might have something happen and it won't matter what sort of pro you are or how much you think it over. Sometimes answers just don't come and you'll never know what that noise outside your tent was.

So yeah. I invite all of you to take your flashlight, and look deep into the gaps in the trees and wonder just what could be out there. Probably nothing. Probably.

Or it could be like those clown sightings in 2016. Remember those? No? Well, you'll be thinking about it now.

Have fun!

Rob, Chapter Vice Chair

Rob Gonzalez,

Worcester Vice Chair and Chief Trail Cultist

Building Leaders: 2025 AMC Worcester Chapter Outdoor Leadership Training Recap

April 12–13, 2025 | Trout Brook Recreation Area, Jefferson, MA

article by Don Davies

Despite a surprise blanket of 5 inches of snow greeting us on Saturday morning, the spirit of leadership and community was stronger than ever at this year's AMC Worcester Chapter Outdoor Leadership Training weekend.

Held at the rustic Trout Brook Recreation Area in Jefferson, MA, the event brought together 10 eager and enthusiastic Leaders-in-Training (LITs) for a two-day interactive experience designed to build the next generation of outdoor trip leaders.



We kicked off the weekend with introductions and an overview of what was to come. The training covered a wide range of essential leadership topics, including:

- Leadership approaches and AMC leadership requirements
- People and communication skills
- Risk management
- Leave No Trace principles and conservation ethics
- Participant screening and trailhead talk best practices

Each afternoon shifted from classroom-style discussions to interactive role-playing scenarios, allowing LITs to apply and reinforce what they learned through hands-on experience. The transition from theory to practice sparked engaging conversations and insightful feedback, with plenty of one-on-one support from our dedicated Worcester Chapter mentors.

Mentors were on hand throughout the weekend to guide, support, and encourage the LITs. Many of the mentors took this opportunity to discuss future trip ideas, planning logistics, and how to stay involved with AMC activities beyond the training. The weekend wasn't just about learning—it was also about forging new friendships and connections within our vibrant outdoor community.



And let's not forget the food! Thanks to our hard-working kitchen crew, no one left the training with an empty stomach. We enjoyed delicious and hearty meals throughout the weekend — including snacks, desserts, and even a snowy Saturday night cookout that brought everyone together around the fire in the lodge.

Participants were also offered the chance to camp on-site, and many embraced the early spring adventure—snow and all.

If you're interested in becoming a leader with the AMC Worcester Chapter and want to begin your own training journey, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact us at leadership@amcworchester.org, and we'll help get you started.

Don Davies

Don Davies, AMC Worcester Leadership Chair
leadership@amcworchester.org

Worcester Chapter's 2025 Backpacking Workshop and Gear Shakedown

article by Joe Massery

"I love hiking, and I'd like to do longer trips, but I'm afraid of staying in the woods overnight."

"I have no idea what gear to pack to spend a night in the forest."

"How can you possibly enjoy hiking for days, carrying all your stuff on your back?"



These are some of the comments we've heard over the years from avid outdoors people who want to know more about backpacking. Some have only heard about it but can't imagine how to get started. Others have already decided to thru-hike the Appalachian Trail next year and want all the info and tips they can get. No matter what their end goals are, all have found our annual Worcester Chapter Backpacking Workshop and Gear Shakedown program to be just what they need to get their questions answered.

Our 2025 program was held in April. Forty participants attended the one-day workshop at the Blackstone Heritage Visitor Center in Worcester. The presenters—all experienced backpackers with hundreds of nights in tents over the years—covered the essentials from planning trips to shelter systems to food selection and preparation to water treatment. During breaks in the presentations, several of our backpacking leaders put their gear out on display and gave demonstrations so folks could ask questions and see just what each of them actually packed for a typical trip.

A couple of weeks later, we held the Gear Shakedown at Douglas State Forest. The day began with a gear inspection, where the participants unloaded their packs while a leader gave advice on each of the items. Recommendations included options that highlighted tradeoffs between weight vs. features vs. cost. After the inspections, we all packed up our gear and hit the trail. Our destination: the Midstate Trail shelter, our mock campsite for the "night". There, the leaders guided groups of two or three participants through all the steps of choosing sites for their tents or hammocks and setting up their gear. We helped them treat their drinking water and use their camp stoves to make a hot lunch. One very important skill, which is always an entertaining part of the day, was hanging bear bags. Finding a suitable tree, then slinging a weighted rope over just the right branch, took some practice—but everyone got the hang of it (pun intended).

While sitting around our camp “kitchen” eating lunch, we covered some finer points and other topics: What does Leave No Trace mean in this setting? How do you dig a cat hole (if there’s no privy like the one at this campsite)? Hanging bear bags vs. canisters vs. other techniques for keep food away from critters large and small? We wrapped up the discussions with a debrief and Q&A. After lunch, we decamped, and we headed back to the parking lot.

Judging from the comments from the group, all their questions were answered ... for now, that is, since questions inevitably pop up during every trip, and new things are learned, no matter how many nights you’ve spent in a tent. Many of the participants suggested that they couldn’t wait to get started with some “real” backpacking trips. Just so happens, we have just the thing for people who want to take that next step: our Inner Backpacker trip series. These trips are led by many of the same leaders who put on the workshop and shakedown. They are designed to accommodate newbies, with registration preference given to those who attended the workshop. The trips start out easy—less distance and elevation, fewer nights, slower pace if needed—and progress throughout the season as participants gain experience and expertise.



The 2025 backpacking season is now off to a rousing start, as IB trips are underway, just about all fully subscribed! I can't wait to see if those aspiring AT thru hikers follow through with their dream. Over the years that we've been offering this program, we typically have one every year or two make that Georgia-Maine journey. Makes us all feel good!

Workshop Team:

Kim Beauchemin
Chris Fogarty
Walt Lazarz
Sue Serra
Wendy Dziemian
Chau Ho
Ingrid Molnar

Shakedown Team:

Sue Serra
Rick Chin
Ben West
Steph Keimig
Tiffany Montgomery
Walt Lazarz

Joe Massery

Joe Massery,
Past Chapter Chair
Third Wednesday Chair



AMC Worcester Chapter Trailwork on the MidState Trail

article by Stephen Crowe

The Worcester Chapter once again used the backdrop of the American Hiking Society's National Trails Day event to host a TrailsFest celebration at Wachusett. As part of the morning activities celebration, I organized a rock work project on the Midstate Trail. When I arrived at 8:30 there were many cars at the parking Lot and tents, tables and chairs were already underway being set up for the afternoon Potluck Social aspect of TrailsFest.

Last year the DCR decided that The Pine Hill Trail was complete, and they no longer needed our crew to do any work. So, I decided to return to an old project we had started before the pandemic. This property is owned by Wachusett Ski Area. We used a highline and grip-hoist to place several very large stones into position to replace a wooden bridge across an intermittent stream that flows into Wachusett Lake. We did not finish putting in stones along the bank of the stream, so I wanted to get the crew in to add more stepping-stones to complete the previous work.



We met in the Wachusett Ski area Parking Lot at 8:30 am and proceeded to head out to the work site. Several MidState Maintainers were able to join us, so we had 8 Volunteers working on the project. There was a rock jammed into the area that we had designed to have the water flowthrough when we initially constructed the stream crossing. When we removed that rock the water flowing across one to the steps ceased and the step dried out, making for a safer hiking surface. We began quarrying rocks to install 8 new steeping stones along the bank of the stream. Some of the rocks were big enough that we needed to use our one ton Grip-hoist to drag them into position. Otherwise, we rolled and carried many rocks needed to rip-rap the side of the stream and build a stonewall to protect and stabilize the new stepping-stones we had just installed.

Mother Nature's fury this winter had caused the Witch-hazel Plants to bend over, often being in your face as we walked into the site. Fortunately, we had Dave Elliot and his trusty axe along for the morning and he set out, using his loppers to cut back the ice storm damage and chop away at some blowdowns across the trail.

We managed to finish just as a light rain was beginning to start. We cleaned up the muddy tools in the stream, packed up the gear and headed back to the truck to finish up the Trail Work for the day. We headed back to the Ski Area Parking Lot and enjoyed the fine grilling of Mike Foley, dining on hotdogs and Hamburgers, along with the delicious salads that people had made for the Potluck. The tents helped very well until the Thunderstorm started later that afternoon. We had been talking with Oliva Houde from the Greater Worcester Land Trust about future rock work projects at their Asnebumskit Hill property on a trail leading up to Thoreau Seat. Stay tuned for monthly trips over the summer to install rock steps and enhance the treadway as we reroute this trail up the hill.

Stephen Crowe

Stephen Crowe, Worcester Chapter Trails Chair



Find Your Inner Backpacker - Douglas State Park

article by Cheri Mitchell

"In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks" - John Muir

I attended the Worcester AMC Backpacking workshop, shakedown, and The first overnight backpack, a few weeks ago at Douglas State Forest. I have no previous experience spending a night in a tent or in a campground, So I was a little anxious as to what to expect.

I'm grateful for the well run, professional classes and hands-on teaching from AMC Instructors. These classes have helped me acquire the confidence to hike with a 33 pound pack for 5 or 6 miles. We also have learned to: set up a shelter, cook dinner, hang bear bags, map navigation, heat management ,fire building and enjoying hot coffee at breakfast.

This workshop and the series of inner backpackers trips held this spring and summer are truly an awesome opportunity. The instructors and participants have been so welcoming, patient, and genuinely caring to help us greenhorns to enjoy the great outdoors, safely .

So far I have been taught by highly skilled backpackers, what to bring on a backpack, how to manage your gear, from using permethrin to keep ticks away, to hanging bear bags, cooking meals, setting up shelter, managing bio breaks, map reading, trail blaze reading and so much more.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of going on overnight trips are the people you meet. I've met a variety of Massachusetts people who are just as eager as me to learn backpacking and get away from society for a bit. It's truly amazing the laughing and bonding that occurs between a group of strangers who have never met, spending 24 non stop hours together as a team, with a shared interest of keeping each other safe and happy does a soul good!



On Inner packer trip # 1 was held at Douglas State Forest. We shared many funny stories and anecdotes of hiking and camping. We also bonded by sharing food and drink (Sue's Blondies awesome) (Tom's homemade beef jerky a pretty big hit, we were all very hungry) (Joe's yummy beverages).

After dinner we worked together as a group to hang bear bags, and gather wood and have a nice campfire. We did have an Eagle scout and professional fire starter amongst us, (Thanks Calvin).The laughter at camp all evening was truly contagious. I found it interesting as each person added flavor and skills to make the campground atmosphere fun and engaging .

I'm looking forward to continuing this back packing journey, meeting more people and enjoying the great outdoors. Thanks to all the AMC Worcester leaders and hiking people helping me along this path, I'm enjoying the ride.

Happy Trails,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheri Mitchell". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Cheri" and last name "Mitchell" clearly distinguishable.

Cheri Mitchell

Flat Mt Pond Backpack Trip

article by Linea Rowe

Chilly rain welcomed us as we gathered our backpacking gear at the Flat Mountain Pond trailhead on an early May morning. We were heading out on one of the Worcester Chapter Inner Backpacker trips and I was excited but also feeling a bit uneasy about the weather. It poured all day and we heard some thunder rumbles, but the weather didn't dampen the fun. The hike hugged a beautiful stream with waterfalls and we had a chance to practice our water crossing skills on multiple challenging spots. The camp site was on a serene mountain pond and we had the place to ourselves. Our leaders, Ben, Connie, and Charlie were full of good advice, and Charlie even managed to start a fire in the rain (in an established fire pit, of course). We had a windy but peaceful night, woke to clear weather, and hiked out under sunny skies. I learned a ton from the trip leaders and I'll be seeking advice and tips from more experienced backpackers for the next couple of years.

Despite my novice status, there is one tip that I can share: how to make outstanding coffee on the trail. I'm a fan of pour over coffee and figured out a way to enjoy my favorite brew without my regular coffee gear. You have to carry out your grounds, but it's worth it.

Here's my technique:

1. Prep for your hike by adding enough ground coffee for one mug in a paper filter and secure it with a rubber band
2. While your water is boiling, open the filter and secure it to the top of your camp mug (photo 1)
3. Slowly pour boiling water over the grounds until the coffee reaches your preferred strength and volume (photo 2)
4. Sit back and enjoy

Linea Rowe

Linea Rowe,

AMC Worcester Chapter Secretary

Recent Awards - Congrats all!

Volunteer of the Month

March 2025



Dirk Auman

Nominated by Rob Gonzalez

"Dirk is one of the 20s&30s leaders volunteering his evenings to help lead the Full Moon Hike Series. For March's full moon he brought that little something extra with facts about the season (it was a Worm Moon) and coffee/hot chocolate for a very blustery peak. Oh! And gummy worms to tie it all up thematically. It was a great hike led by an excellent leader."

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you. The Chapter appreciates all you do.



Volunteer of the Month

April 2025



Sue Cerra

Nominated by Joe Massery

"Sue prepared all the food for the Backpacking Workshop, including some incredible homemade bake-goods. She also made time to conduct gear demos, a key part of the workshop agenda."

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you. The Chapter appreciates all you do.



Volunteer of the Month

May 2025



Ruth Legg

Nominated by who Walt Lazarz

Congrats to Ruth for all her recent leadership training. Worcester is lucky to have you!

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you. The Chapter appreciates all you do.



Volunteer of the Month

June 2025



Mike Foley

Nominated by who several people

"Mike was nominated by several people for all his help with this year's TrailsFest."

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you. The Chapter appreciates all you do.



Special Interest

Solicited quarterly from
Contributing authors....

Stewardship
Paddling
Cycling
Hiking
Leaders Corner
Photo Contest
Recovery
Fitness
Conservation
History
Map & Compass



please consider submitting an article
Email: newsletter@amcworchester.org

We want you; we need you

A community is made great because of it's members. Hopefully this newsletter gives you a glimpse of the depth and breadth of your favorite AMC Chapter. We are always looking for new members, volunteers, leaders and committee members. Reach out; get involved; you will not be disappointed.