

Wachusett Views

Worcester Chapter Appalachian Mountain Club



Spring 2019

A close-up view of our chapter's vibrancy and dedication.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Vice Chair	Beauchemin Sue
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Conservation	Jonathan DiRodi
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Families	Ingrid Molnar
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Historian	Michele Simoneau
Leadership	Paul Glazebrook
Membership	Jean Langley
Midstate Trail	Kim Simpson
Paddling	David Elliott
Past Chair	Dave Cole
Programs	Shalin Desai
Skiing	Claudine Mapa
Social	Mike Foley
Social Media	Lisa Buckley
Technical Climbing	John Grote
Third Wednesday	Fred Mezynski
Trails	Stephen Crowe
Trails	Don Hoffses
20s & 30s	Mike Morin

Spring 2019

Letter from the Editors

The arrival of spring has brought new workshops to get you primed to participate in your favorite outdoor activities, a fresh series of hikes, paddling, and bicycling, among other activities, and the Chapter's big event of the year, TrailsFest, to be held on National Trails Day, June 1, at Wachusett Mountain.

With this spring issue, enjoy reading about how you can contribute to AMC's conservation research by using the inaturalist app, seeing pictures from a magical winter hike in the White Mountains, learning about upcoming opportunities with AMC, and more. Thank you to all who contributed your stories and photos.

We hope you enjoy reading fellow chapter members' stories, and keep the article ideas coming for the summer edition.

Have a fun spring!
Zenya and Alex



*Alexandra Molnar
Zenya Molnar*

Worcester Chapter Communications Co-Chairs

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Appalachian Mountain Club
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Chapter Chair's Message: Under the Red Felt Crusher

Joe Massery, Chapter Chair

Volunteering is in our DNA. The volunteer spirit drives AMC folks in all sorts of ways. Some to pay back, some to pay forward, some because it's fun, and others just because...! Our Chapter is certainly blessed with an abundance of this spirit, and whenever we can, we like to recognize them for their contributions. Most don't seek the limelight, but I'm going to mention some notables anyway!

At the AMC Annual Summit in Norwood, MA this past January, the Club awarded some of the AMC's highest volunteering honors to a number of our very own Worcester Chapter members:

Distinguished Service Award: [Steve Ciras](#)

The AMC's most prestigious volunteer award. Established in 1976 on the 100th Anniversary of the Club, it recognizes AMC volunteers who have contributed outstanding efforts to the mission of the Club for a sustained period of time and at the very highest levels.

Volunteer Leadership Award: [Pat Lambert](#), [Pete Lane](#)

Recognizes the AMC's outstanding volunteer leaders who demonstrate the desire to share their time and expertise in the pursuit of AMC's recreation, conservation, and education mission.

Warren Hart Award: [Ed Faron](#), [Steve Crowe](#)

Marian Pychowska Award: [Pete Lane](#), [Laura Lane](#), [John Grote](#), [Emerson Grant](#), [Joanne Bartlett](#)

The Hart and Pychowska awards honor AMC volunteers who carry on the tradition of public service activity and bring new members to join in the effort. The Stewardship Society structure seeks to recognize and encourage AMC's grassroots public service volunteers to contribute to the protection, enjoyment, and wise use of the public lands. The Hart award recognizes those who have given at least 224 hours. The Pychowska award recognizes those who have given at least 96 hours.

In our Worcester Chapter, your Executive Committee recognizes members who have gone above and beyond in their volunteer efforts in support of the Chapter and its members. Nominations are sought from the Chapter membership, and at each monthly EC meeting, we draw a nominee's name from a hat. I can attest that all the nominees are winners, and we'll recognize them all at our Annual Meeting in November. For now, here are the Chapter's **Volunteers of the Month** for the year to date:

November: **Ed Faron** and his team of bridge builders for their demo during 100th celebration.

December: **Steph Keimig** for helping with the winter hiking gear shakedown.

January: **Norm Debuc** for his historical reenactment at the 100th celebration.

February: **Angela Smith** for leading a yoga event at the 100th celebration.

Most of our volunteers just go about their business without looking for a pat on the back – it's just what they do! All the same, if you run into an AMC person working on a trail, or leading a trip, or handing out brochures at an event, or teaching wilderness skills, stop and say thanks.

Joe Massery
Chapter Chair





Pete Lane Receives AMC's 2019 Volunteer Leadership Award

The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) honored Pete Lane with its Volunteer Leadership Award at the 143rd AMC Annual Summit held January 26 in Norwood, Mass. The award recognizes AMC's outstanding volunteer leaders who share their time and expertise in pursuit of AMC's mission. Pete was unable to attend the award ceremony in person—he will be presented is award at another AMC event in 2019.

Pete Lane exemplifies the stewardship ethic and educational focus of AMC! He volunteers as an Alpine Steward on Franconia Ridge and Mt. Washington, promoting Leave-No-Trace principles and backcountry safety with hikers in the alpine zone. While above treeline, Pete monitors AMC's plant research phenology stations, and helps maintain cairns and scree walls.

Pete's efforts go well beyond his own volunteer commitments! He teaches other volunteers during training weekends and mentors new Alpine Stewards. Pete also teaches Leave-No-Trace courses in Massachusetts and writes a regular column about LNT topics for the Outdoor Program Centers' volunteer newsletter. Pete served as a Lead Alpine Steward for three years, during which he helped improve the volunteer program. Pete is a dedicated AMC volunteer, with a special passion for promoting stewardship of the outdoors and leading other volunteers to do the same. Pete is also active with the Worcester chapter as a leader.



Pat Lambert Receives AMC's 2019 Volunteer Leadership Award

The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) honored Pat Lambert with its Volunteer Leadership Award at the 143rd AMC Annual Summit held January 26 in Norwood, Mass. The award recognizes AMC's outstanding volunteer leaders who share their time and expertise in pursuit of AMC's mission.

Pat has volunteered for the Worcester Chapter in many different roles for more than 10 years. In her six years as Vice Chair, Chair, and Past Chair, Pat led the Chapter thru a period of growth in leaders and members. Many, if not most, of today's leaders in the Chapter were mentored and/or instructed by Pat either directly or indirectly. As a leader herself, Pat has led AMC hikes in just about all venues in the area, from local hikes to winter hikes in the Whites, and contributed to our educational programs and workshops.

Most recently, Pat has led the Worcester Chapter's Endowment Committee. This committee is responsible for evaluating opportunities to invest the proceeds of our endowment to further the aims of the Club and the Chapter. Under her guidance, the Chapter updated their approach to managing the endowment and was able to contribute to the funding of programs such as YOP, JUMP, A Mountain Classroom, Project Healing Waters, and others. Pat worked with the leaders of the recipient organizations, evaluated their needs, and determined the fit with AMC's mission. Pat epitomizes AMC's volunteer spirit! Congratulations, Pat!



Steve Ciras Receives AMC's 2019 Distinguished Service Award

The Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) honored Steve Ciras with its Distinguished Service Award at the 143rd AMC Annual Summit held January 26 in Norwood, Mass. The award recognizes those AMC volunteers who have contributed outstanding efforts to the mission of the organization, for a sustained period of time, and at the very highest levels. This award recognizes long-term commitment to enhancing and sustaining the integrity of AMC's conservation, education and recreation mission.

Since the turn of the century Steve has become THE go-to guy for both the Chapter and the Club because of his unbridled and contagious enthusiasm. Steve has led hikes, backpacks, trail work, and 20's & 30's trips since 2000. In 2008, Steve became a part of the Chapter's leadership training team and he organizes skills programs for leaders like map & compass and Leave No Trace. In 2016, Steve became a Master Leader for the Worcester Chapter.

He loves conservation and volunteers. In early 2012, Steve came up with the Giving Back theme for the year with a focus on promoting trail work opportunities to the Chapter membership. This has encouraged more members to work on trails from Wachusett Mountain, to the White Mountains, to the Maine Woods. In service to the broader club, Steve has served as Chair of the Clubwide Conservation Committee. He also led the effort for the Worcester Chapter to donate \$10,000 to the Club's Maine Woods Initiative (MWI). He then championed volunteer engagement and partnered with the Maine Chapter to construct the Phoenix Shelter. Since that time, Steve has continued to lead an annual trip to the shelter, most recently to work on the Henderson Brook Trail, which Steve adopted on behalf of the Chapter. In 2010 when the Worcester Chapter hosted the Club's Fall Gathering, Steve was involved in planning the event from start to finish. Following this event, he identified and proposed important changes to the Chapters Committee to improve the future planning experience for other chapters.

Most recently, Steve took on leadership for the Worcester Chapter 100th Anniversary Celebration. Over 2 years, Steve worked with the planning committee and trip leaders to offer events highlighting the Chapter's history. This culminated in the 100th Anniversary Celebration weekend in September 2018 – a great success! In many ways, Steve is considered the classic front guy – you ALWAYS know when he is around. However, he should also be known for his behind the scenes work. This work is what makes Steve one of the unsung volunteer heroes of the AMC. Congratulations, Steve!

Appalachian Mountain Club, Worcester Chapter's

2019 TrailsFest!

In the Spirit of National Trails Day, We Bring Together Worcester County's
Outdoor Community & Celebrate All Trails – Hiking Trails, Bike Paths,
Waterways, Climbing Routes & More!

Wachusett Mountain Ski Area, 499 Mountain Road, Princeton, MA

June 1, 2019, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM



**BE
OUTDOORS**
APPALACHIAN MTN CLUB

8 AM – 12 PM: TRIPS & ACTIVITIES, Including:

*Hiking • Trail Maintenance • Climbing • Paddling • Outdoor Yoga • Birding • Geocaching
Outdoor Art Classes • Paddleboarding • Road Biking • Mountain Biking*

12 PM: KEYNOTE, John Judge, President & CEO, Appalachian Mountain Club

12 PM – 4 PM: MUSIC, FOOD TRUCKS, BEER! Come meet our partners:

*Wachusett Mountain Ski Area, Greater Worcester Land Trust, Midstate Trail, REI, LL Bean,
Mass Audubon, Wachusett Greenways, North Quabbin Trails Association, DCR, US Army
Corps of Engineers, TerraCorps, EcoTarium, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, MA AT
Management Committee, Southborough Open Land Foundation, New England Mountain
Bike Association, Friends of the Wapack, Bay Circuit Trail, Northborough Trails Committee
Leave No Trace, Appalachian Trail Conservancy & More*

**For more information check out our event listing on outdoors.org
Questions? Want to Partner? Contact Shalin Desai, programs@amcworchester.org**

Winter Hike Trip Report

Will Desrosiers

Mt. Eisenhower/Pierce hike on January 26, 2019

Trip leaders: Debi Garlick, Denise Guillemette, Neil Schutzman, and Jim Walsh

Fantastic winter hike to the summits of Mt. Eisenhower and Mt. Pierce. The leadership team demonstrated expertise and flexibility to optimize the experience for all the participants.







CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF THE NEW ENGLAND
TRAIL WITH THE 2019

Hike50NET Challenge

New year, new decade, updated challenge!

HIKE - VOLUNTEER - DONATE - SHARE - CELEBRATE

Joining the #hike50net challenge is the best way to say happy 10th birthday to the New England Trail. Designated as a National Scenic Trail in 2009, this year marks the ten year milestone of this amazing trail.

Anyone can complete the challenge, earn prizes and receive a special edition completion patch by earning 50 or 100 points! Participants can earn points by hiking, volunteering, attending trail events, and more! Visit newenglandtrail.org to design your own challenge and sign-up today! Don't forget to share your adventures on social media using #Hike50NET

Visit <https://newenglandtrail.org> to sign up today!



Hike, take photos, contribute to science

Annie Evankow, AMC Research Assistant

Become a Citizen Scientist and Support AMC Research. Download iNaturalist on your smart phone. Join our Northeast Alpine Flower Watch project. Contribute important data while you explore the outdoors!

This year the AMC has launched the Northeast Alpine Flower Watch, a smartphone oriented extension of Mountain Watch, our long-term monitoring program that tracks how plants are responding to climate change. Since 2004, AMC has been monitoring the timing of plant seasonal events like flowering in conjunction with weather conditions. From day one, we've relied on the help of hikers to tell us what they've seen along the trails. By taking photos of flowers and fruits on your hike this summer, you can help too!

The Northeast Alpine Flower Watch tracks the effects of climate change by gathering flowering and fruiting time data with the help of hikers in alpine areas. AMC has partnered with the Adirondack Mountain Club, Green Mountain club, and Baxter State Park to achieve this goal in New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine.

Using the iNaturalist app, you can identify almost any living animal or plant. Your mobile device will also automatically geotag (assign a location to) the image, and if you're not sure of the name of the species of plant you have observed, the community on iNaturalist, including AMC's own scientists, will help confirm or identify the plant. **You don't need to be an expert to identify key species and contribute to this project!**

AMC's scientists will use photos of our target plants that you upload, confirming the plant identity and coding their flowering and fruiting status. In addition to our focus on Northeast alpine areas we will track plants in the White Mountains, Maine Woods, and along the Appalachian Trail to understand seasonal development in the context of climate change. The more photos that are posted, the more we can capture the large variability that is inherent in mountain environments.

Check out our website for updates:

<https://www.outdoors.org/flowerwatch>



Call for Naturalists!

The Worcester Chapter is interested in starting a series of local hikes with a naturalist theme. We are looking for amateur naturalists interested in helping in leading local trips with a nature theme. An experienced hike leader will join the trip. Possible themes include, but are not limited to: birding, the night sky, a mushroom walk, wildflowers, animal tracking, forest trees and plants, and an insect walk.

If interested in leading a trip or participating as a naturalist, contact Worcester Chapter Leadership Chair Paul Glazebrook at leadership@amcworchester.org.

Teen Trail Crew

Still accepting registrations but Register Now—Space is Limited!

Teens 14 to 19 years old can lend a hand maintaining trails across the northeast for one to four weeks! These programs foster leadership and develop conservation ethics while building skills and making lifelong friends. Teen Trail Crew participants can earn 40 hours of community service per week!

Here is a sampling of our 2019 program calendar with more crews available online:

North Country 4-Week Leadership & Conservation Teen Trail Crew

June 23 – July 19, 2019 –

<https://activities.outdoors.org/search/index.cfm/action/details/id/110069>

Southern New England Appalachian Trail 2-Week Spike Teen Trail Crew

June 23-July 5, 2019 –

<https://activities.outdoors.org/search/index.cfm/action/details/id/109878>

Delaware Water Gap Mohican 1-Week Teen Trail Crews

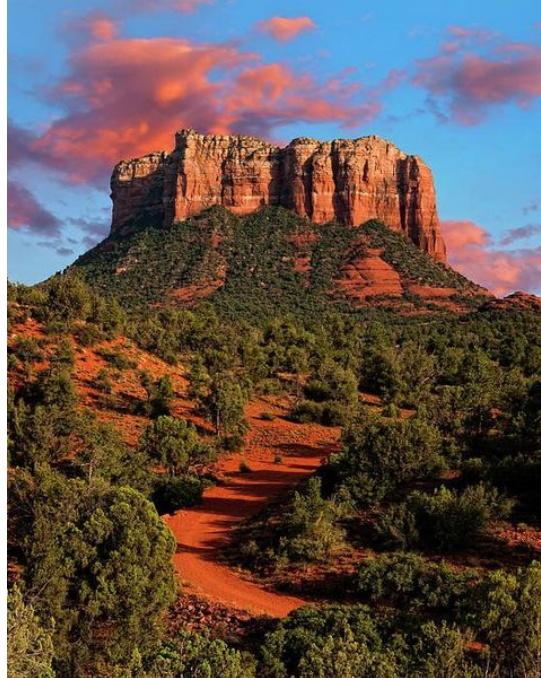
July 14-19, 2019 – <https://activities.outdoors.org/search/index.cfm/action/details/id/110123>

July 21-26, 2019 – <https://activities.outdoors.org/search/index.cfm/action/details/id/110124>



Take your next Adventure with AMC in Sedona!

Join the Adventure Travel program for a week (November 9th – 17th, 2019) of hiking beautiful Sedona in Red Rock Country with deep canyons, soaring mesas, towering pinnacles and massive red rock formations. In addition to hiking, we will explore Native American sites with rock art and cliff dwellings and the area's vortex sites. Trip cost: \$2195. **For details contact L Leslie Carson, lesliecarson929@yahoo.com; CL Annemarie Langhan, amlhikeamc@gmail.com**



To find out more about the program, visit www.outdoors.org/adventuretravel. If you are interested in learning more about becoming an Adventure Travel leader contact Nancy Holland at nholland@outdoors.org.

New England Trail Hike50 Challenge

Have you heard? The New England Trail is launching a 2019 Hike50 Challenge! New year, new and updated challenge! Are you in?

This year we are celebrating another important milestone on the NET. It has been 10 years since the New England Trail was designated by Congress as National Scenic Trail. To celebrate this important occasion, and to build on your momentum from last year, we are launching the next Hike50 challenge!

The rules are the same- hike 50 miles on the NET during 2019 or earn 50 points and get a special edition patch. Along the way, participants will have access to NET Challenge resources and will be entered in a series of prize drawings!

Join the Hike 50 Challenge today to launch your adventure on the New England Trail! For more information and to sign up, visit newenglandtrail.org.

Defend the Clean Water Act – Add Your Voice

Oppose any changes to the Clean Water Act that would harm our nation's rivers and waterways.

The Environmental Protection Agency is attempting to rollback important protections for our rivers and creeks by changing the definition of "waters of the United States". If enacted, this change would strip protections from critical waterways including ephemeral streams, wetlands, and any part of a river that does not flow continuously.

Removing protections from these streams and wetlands is bad public policy that threatens human health and the environment. Small streams and wetlands protect downstream drinking water quality, provide habitat, and ensure ecosystem health. They are also sources of backcountry water supplies for hikers and backpackers.

To tell the EPA to reject harmful changes to the Clean Water Act and take action for other conservation priorities, join the Conservation Action Network at [outdoors.org/CAN](https://www.outdoors.org/CAN).



Sunset over lake at Camp Burgess on Cape Cod

Discover where the locals hike, bike, and paddle on Cape Cod at Fall Gathering 2019

Save the dates: October 18-20th, 2019!

Come join the Southeastern Mass. Chapter at AMC Fall Gathering 2019, October 18-20th on Cape Cod. As always, you'll have a chance to meet, socialize, and share ideas with members from AMC chapters up and down the East Coast. And at this Fall Gathering, you'll also have a special opportunity to let our local leaders "on Cape" share their favorite – and often hidden – hiking trails, bike routes, and paddling areas with you!

The Cape is particularly appealing in the fall when the leaves start to change, the air turns crisp, and the summer crowds disappear. The location we've selected for FG 2019 is the beautiful [Camp Burgess](#) in Sandwich, Massachusetts. This great facility spans nearly 300 acres of forests, meadows, trails, and freshwater ponds. It offers a large private lake; spotless cabins (many with lake views); indoor washrooms and shower facilities; and a bounty of on-site recreational opportunities including zip line; climbing wall; and basketball, volleyball, tetherball, and gaga ball courts.

At this event, you'll be able to explore the best "the Cape" has to offer! We're planning a wide variety of hikes, bike rides on quiet roads and pristine trails, and (weather permitting) one or two paddles. The hikes will include woodland hikes, hikes on the National Seashore, dune walks, and naturalist hikes. We're also planning to have live music, a trivia contest, yoga, campfires, and other activities to keep everyone engaged and entertained throughout the weekend.

One-night, two-night, or single-day options will be available along with delicious and healthy meals in the camp's expansive dining/meeting facility. Please save the date for FG 2019 and visit www.outdoors.org/fallgathering for more details! Registration opens July 1, 2019.