

# Wachusett Views

## Worcester Chapter Appalachian Mountain Club



Summer 2019

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

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair	Joe Massery
Vice Chair	Kim Beauchemin
Secretary	Sue Serra
Treasurer	Jose Schroen
Biking	Janice Melchiore
Biking	Neil Schutzman
Communications	Zenya Molnar
Communications	Alexandra Molnar
Conservation	Jonathan DiRodi
Endowment	Bill Zahavi
Families	Ingrid Molnar
Hiking	Debi Garlick
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
Technical Climbing	John Grote
Third Wednesday	Fred Mezynski
Trails	Stephen Crowe
Trails	Don Hoffses
20s & 30s	Mike Morin

### Summer 2019

#### *Letter from the Editors*

A breeze stirs the lush green leaves and the hum of insects drowns out all other noises of the woods. It's summer and all time spent outside is a good time. A delayed start to summer meant a delay of the black fly plague across all of New England (or at least in the places we were hiking!). No amount of bug spray, bug nets, or long sleeved shirts could ward off the irksome critters that know all the best places to attack. The constant invasions made for some very unpleasant hikes and stargazing. But it also makes you reflect on your place as an outdoorsperson in the world. Come to find out, black flies are pollinators. They are also indicators of clean water. So next time, instead of being irritated up to our eyeballs while being attacked by the little ruthless insects, we may think about the good they are doing in the world.

At the same time, we're glad black fly season has subsided and we can enjoy the rest of summer among other less pesky pollinators. We hope you, too, will enjoy soaking in the subsiding strands of sunlight while it's still here and continue to get outside no matter what seemingly disagreeable aspects of nature we all may face.



*Alexandra Molnar  
Zenya Molnar*

Worcester Chapter Communications Co-Chairs

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## **A message from the Chapter Chair: under the red felt crusher**

*By Joe Massery, Worcester Chapter Chair*

Summer's here and the time is right...

... for getting outdoors. Right now, the Worcester Chapter has over 70 activities posted in the Activity database. Something for everybody: cycling, backpacking, paddling, hiking, and more.

... for volunteering. The Chapter regularly organizes trail work parties all over New England: Trail maintenance and rebuilds at Mt. Wachusett, in the Whites, in Maine's 100-Mile Wilderness. In addition, other chapters lead trail work teams elsewhere in Massachusetts, such as the Appalachian Trail in the Berkshires, the Bay Circuit Trail in eastern Mass., river "trail" work on the Connecticut River, and others. Invest some sweat equity and enjoy the returns – fun, friends, and a feeling of satisfaction.

... for planning ahead. A few key events are on the horizon, so mark your calendars. The AMC Fall Gathering is set for the weekend of October 19. And it's right in our back yard at Camp Burgess in Sandwich, Mass.

Our own Worcester Chapter Annual Meeting and election of officers will be held on Saturday evening, November 9, at the Manor Restaurant in West Boylston. Be on the lookout for details later in the summer.

Speaking of our election, we are assembling a slate of Executive Committee officers right now. If you or someone you know is interested in helping run the Chapter, contact Dave Cole (PastChair@AMCWorcester.org). No special experience is required, just an interest in giving back to the Chapter, while working with an outstanding and fun group of fellow Chapter members.

Time for me to get back to planning my summer – my 48<sup>th</sup> 4K is scheduled for this weekend, then ten days on the AT in the 100-Mile Wilderness, and several Inner Backpacker trips. So much to do ... a great time to be outdoors!

Joe Massery  
Chapter Chair



## Leaving No Trace: The Tissue Issue

*By Pete Lane, Worcester Chapter member*

I used to burn my used toilet paper. Or at least try to. It was never easy. I would squat next to my cat hole holding a lit match to the paper until the match went out, and then I would light another. In theory all that would remain was a bit of ash and a used match. The reality was the paper was hard to light because it was damp and what I ended up with was charred edges and a pile of burned matches. After years of frustrating attempts, I finally gave up and buried the toilet paper with the feces.

Then I met a take-no-prisoners Idahoan who offered to show me her double-bagged stash of used toilet paper. We were hiking the Colorado Trail, which has no privies, and the closest flush toilets are a long hitch into town. I declined her offer, but she gave me something to brood over as I hiked my way to Durango. Could I pack it in, pack it out?

The Leave No Trace guidelines recommend that we use toilet paper - only unscented white - sparingly in the backcountry. Estimates are that it takes 1-3 years for tissue to completely decompose, ironically longer if it's buried instead of exposed to weather. The guidelines don't recommend leaving it out for all to see or burning through a book of matches. Taking it with you eliminates the possibility of a number of catastrophes like the pollution of water sources, the spread of disease or the likelihood of someone seeing, stepping or sitting on it. Eeeeew.

So now, I double bag and pack out my used TP. I drop it into an opaque doggie poop bag, and then slip that into a resealable plastic bag. On multiple day trips, I carry several of the doggie bags and add them to the Ziploc as I fill them. I stow the bags in an outside pocket on my pack because I don't want to contaminate anything, like food, clothing, sleeping bag, you name it. Second, I want the bags handy so I can toss them into the next convenient trash can. And third, if anyone asks to see them...well, there they are.

If the thought of carrying used toilet paper in your backpack makes you queasy, there are always natural options, ie. a smooth stone, although I have never tried it; snow when it's available; or vegetation, in particular hobble bush and striped maple. Both are plentiful in the Northeast and have large non-irritating leaves. Hobble bush feels waxy whereas striped maple, also known as goose foot, is fuzzy. The choice is yours.

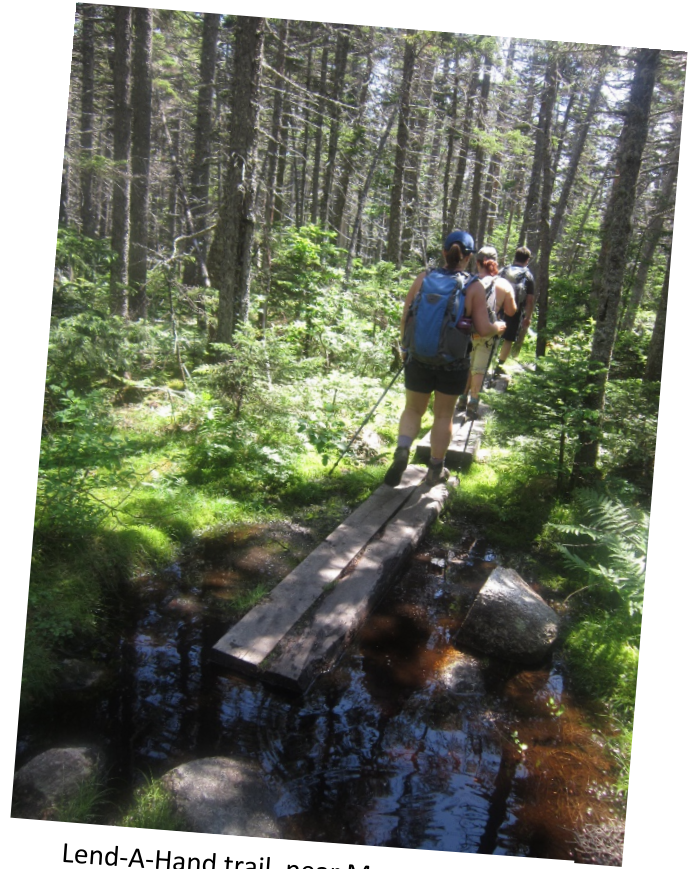
A Leave No Trace Limerick:

When squatting down behind a tree,  
What do you do with your used TP?  
Pack it in, pack it out.  
Don't leave it about.  
For it's not something we want to see.

Worcester Chapter on the trails!



Mount Willard, NH



Lend-A-Hand trail, near Mount Hale, NH



Galehead Hut, White Mountains, NH



Summer Star Wildlife Sanctuary, Boylston, MA

## Volunteers needed!

Join the ranks of talented and dedicated volunteers by considering a position on the Worcester Chapter Executive Committee! We are looking for an enthusiastic individual to fill the Membership Chair role for 2020. No experience necessary - training and support will be provided by the Chapter Chair - only a willingness to chip in and a desire to give back! As the Membership Chair, you will learn about and participate in running the Chapter and have an opportunity to work with a great group of people.

For more info or if you are interested, please email Dave Cole at [pastchair@amcworchester.org](mailto:pastchair@amcworchester.org) or Joe Massery at [chair@amcworchester.org](mailto:chair@amcworchester.org).



## **Volunteer for Conservation – Environmental Voter Project**

Looking for a way to get engaged with conservation action? Help increase voter turnout to push environmental issues to the top of the political agenda by joining the AMC and [Environmental Voter Project \(EVP\)](#) for a volunteer training webinar! Polls show that voters consistently rank environmental issues among their lowest concerns in every election. This is a huge problem. **Politicians listen to voters, and if environmental issues are a low priority for voters, they will be a low priority for policy makers.**

Yet polls also show that tens of millions of Americans strongly prioritize progressive environmental policies – the real problem is that these people do not vote. Indeed, even in recent nation-wide elections, over 15 million individually identifiable environmentalists have stayed at home on Election Day. Therefore, the key to getting powerful environmental policies in place might not be to persuade more Americans to be environmentalists; it may be as simple as getting more of our existing environmentalists to vote.

EVP is a non-partisan nonprofit that uses data analytics to identify non-voting environmentalists and then applies the latest behavioral science to turn them into more consistent voters. EVP is turning out environmental voters across Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Colorado, Florida, and Nevada for crucial municipal and statewide elections in 2019, and getting ready for the 2020 presidential election!

During the webinar, volunteers will be trained in texting and phone banking environmental voters using EVP's unique messaging. This is not an effort to tell voters who to vote for. Last year, AMC asked its membership to sign the EVP pledge to vote and had great success in increasing the voter turnout within our club. This is an additional volunteer opportunity to help put environmental issues on the forefront of priorities among elected officials.

The webinars will take place on Wednesday, September 11th at 12:00 p.m. and Thursday, September 12th at 7:00 p.m. Sign up for the September 11th webinar [here](#) and the September 12th webinar [here](#). Listings for the webinars can be found at [activities.outdoors.org/search/?keywords=webinar](https://activities.outdoors.org/search/?keywords=webinar). **Register today!**

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## **AMC Leave No Trace Master Educator Course**

### ***September 11-15 – Sea Kayaking on Muscongus Bay, Maine***

AMC is partnering with Maine Sport to offer this 5-day Leave No Trace Master Educator Course on Muscongus Bay, Maine. This course is designed for individuals who are actively teaching others backcountry skills or providing recreation information to the public, with a particular focus on sea kayak activities. The course includes one night in an island lodge and three nights out on remote islands. All instruction, educational materials, food, group gear, and sea kayak rentals are included in the program fee. [More information and registration >](#)



## **Maine Woods Rambler**

***Sunday, October 20 – AMC Medawisla Lodge, ME***

In partnership with the Bicycle Coalition of Maine, AMC will be hosting a gravel bike ride (not a race) at Medawisla this fall. There will be varying course lengths as well as a kids ride. [More details >](#)



## ***Wachusett Views* needs you!**

Did you go on a memorable outdoor trip recently? Did you participate in an interesting training or program? Do you want to share your knowledge about anything related to the outdoors? We want your stories!

Please submit stories, trip reports, and photos for the fall 2019 *Wachusett Views*. Email all contributions by **September 30, 2019** to: [newsletter@amcworchester.org](mailto:newsletter@amcworchester.org).

