

# Wachusett Views



Worcester Chapter  
Appalachian Mountain Club

**Spring 2023**

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

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair	Chris Pignatiello
Past Chair	Kim Beauchemin
Vice Chair	
Secretary	Carol Warren
Treasurer	Jose Schroen
Biking	Eric Fung
Communications	Nancy Cahn
Conservation	Eric Harris
Finance	Christine Crepeault
Families	Cheri Mitchell
Hiking	Debi Garlick
Historian	Dave Laska
Leadership	Wendy Dziemian
Membership	Kathryn Acciari
Midstate Trail	Mike Peckar
Paddling	David Elliott
Past Chair	Kim Beauchemin
Programs	
Skiing	Ruth Langh
Social	Vanessa Butler
Technical Climbing	Dave Brainard
Third Wednesday	Erin Doolittle
Trails	Stephen Crowe
20s & 30s	Zenya Molnar
At Large Social Media	Karyn Marciniac
Outreach	Alex Molnar
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)	Ladda Kosaketh

## Spring 2023

### ***Letter from the Editor***

Spring is here, and when the colors begin to emerge and birds start to chirp again, there's such an excitement for warmer days ahead. Springtime is one of the most beautiful times of the year in New England. Hopefully you'll get out often on the trails.

In this issue, you will learn about the open positions on the Worcester Executive Committee and about the Carbon Footprint Challenge. You will also read about our recent work on the Greater Worcester Land Trust.

If you want to share a story, or contribute to our combined knowledge, please consider submitting an article to me at [newsletter@amcworchester.org](mailto:newsletter@amcworchester.org). I'd love to hear from you.

My hope is that in reading this newsletter, you'll be inspired to get outdoors and join us. We need you to help us protect the great outdoors and to enjoy it responsibly.

Enjoy our newsletter and get outside!

*Nancy*

Nancy Cahn, Wachusett Views Editor

AMC Worcester Chapter  
[amcworchester.org](http://amcworchester.org)  
Appalachian Mountain Club  
10 City Square  
Boston, MA 02129

# Under the Red Felt Crusher



Greetings Fellow AMC Members!

In the coming weeks we will welcome in Spring, and although up to 18 inches of new snow is falling as I write this message, soon the days will grow longer and warmer. Winter lovers will enjoy this late season opportunity to once again get out there and break trail while thinking about the new activities that will become available in the months ahead. Likewise, the Worcester Chapter is swinging into full gear with exciting trip postings, workshops, and overall planning efforts to refine and improve upon what we do best, to help people learn about and enjoy the outdoors. This Spring we will be working toward various initiatives including volunteer recognition, rolling out new leader levels within the Outdoors Connector,

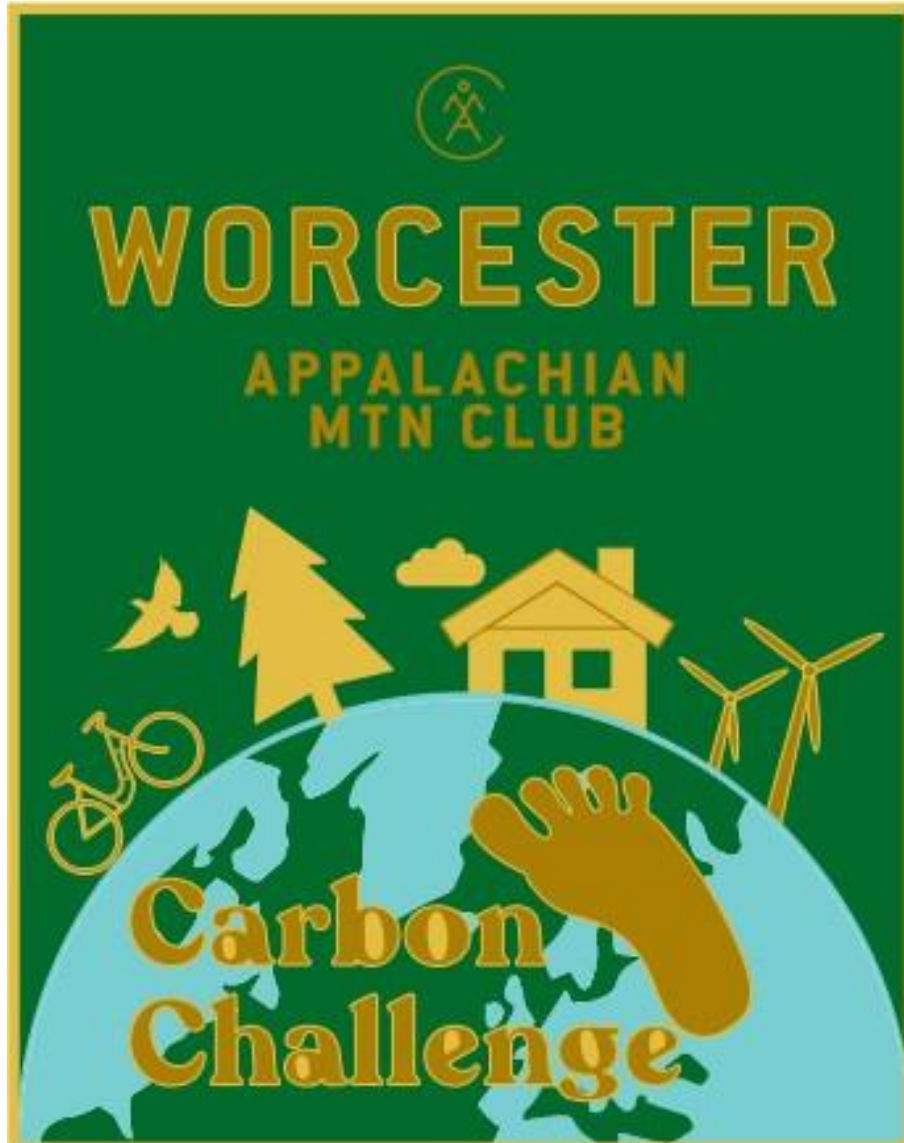
and exploring better and unique ways to share information within our Chapter and beyond. As your Chair, I continue to be impressed by the enthusiasm and dedication of our leadership at both the Chapter and corporate level, and am grateful for the many hours devoted to make our Club successful. I look forward to continued participation in outdoor adventures as the season changes, and encourage all of you to explore our [activities page](#) to see what's happening in your neck of the woods.

Happy trails!

Chris Pignatiello  
Chapter Chair

# The Carbon Footprint Challenge

Submitted by Eric Harris, Conservation Chair



Looking to get involved with Conservation?

It is now a new year, and what better way to celebrate than getting involved with conservation. This year the executive committee of the Worcester Chapter has decided that conservation is a main goal for the

chapter to focus on as it is often overlooked. We all love the outdoors, but in order to enjoy it we must protect and support the preservation of our land and waterways. Conservation is a core value to the AMC mission and needs to be represented on a local level within the Worcester Chapter. As your Conservation Chair, this is a big task to undertake in order to spread the word and to educate others. That is why I am asking for your assistance in making a positive impact this year!

Ever since the beginning, conservation has always been a team effort involving many people coming together to make a positive change. The action of caring and protecting our planet's natural resources such as air, minerals, plants, animals, soil, and water is something that doesn't happen overnight. It requires continuous effort by passionate folks who love the natural world, by changing the mindset of other people through education and outreach. There have been many great conservation heroes that have come before us such as Rachel Carson, John Muir, and Aldo Leopold in order to name a few. These conservation heroes set the framework for many natural lands to be protected and laws to be passed promoting the preservation of natural resources. We sit on the backs of these great pioneers whose lives' work was protecting the environment from human destruction.

The work of conservation will never be finished for as long as mankind continues to persist here on planet Earth. Every year the global population continues to grow which has led to an unsustainable rate of consumption of natural resources and loss of biodiversity. The torch of conservation needs to be passed on to future generations in order to lead the charge and protect our beloved wild places. You may ask yourself what can I do living here in central Massachusetts to truly make a difference for nature? Well, my friend, the answer is quite simple. You can join the conservation movement on a local level by participating in some of the great events planned this year. You can help by taking the Carbon Footprint Challenge or by joining the AMC Worcester Chapter Conservation committee!

One way you can participate and start to make an impact is by participating in the Carbon Footprint Challenge. This a fun way to achieve your

environmental goals and combat the ongoing crisis of global warming. The objective is for people to input all their daily habits using an online carbon footprint calculator. It is achieved by reporting on things such as water consumption, fuel usage, electricity usage, and trash produced. All your information will be submitted and compiled in order to determine which participant has the lowest carbon footprint. Each month of 2023 the winners with lowest carbon footprint score will be chosen and will receive a custom made iron on patch.

Here is the [link](#) to the google form for the 2023 Carbon Footprint Challenge. Follow along with the online calculator by answering all the questions. Then submit your answers using the google form.

If you wanted to take a more active approach in getting involved, then please consider joining the all new Conservation Committee! The purpose is to form a committee of like-minded folks with the goal to promote, educate, and inspire people to think about the importance of conservation. The group will support the efforts of the Conservation chair in order to plan out and create a variety of related programs and events. Activities of the committee will be to plan events and challenges, post messages on social media, organize conservation hikes, partner with local environmental groups for stewardship efforts, come up with conservation swags (shirts/patches/etc..), and create conservation promotional materials to provide to activity leaders.

The Conservation committee will meet once a month via remote meetings or in-person. There will be an agenda emailed to members prior to every meeting with conservation event topics for discussion. Meetings will be held on a weeknight based on everyone's availability. During the warmer summer months there might be opportunity to have committee meetings as a social event at a local eatery. If you have any questions or are interested in joining the committee, please email me at [conservation@amcworchester.org](mailto:conservation@amcworchester.org)

Thank you for your support!

# OPEN POSITIONS ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Submitted by Kim Beauchemin, Past Chair, Worcester Chapter AMC

We're in search of two volunteers to fill our ranks on the Executive Committee. If you have the desire to help our Chapter in new and exciting ways, please keep reading! Contact me at [pastchair@amcworchester.org](mailto:pastchair@amcworchester.org) if any of the positions below are interesting to you OR if you have any questions about them.

## **Communications Co-Chair:**

- Elected annually.
- Attends Chapter Executive Committee meetings (9 per year), the Chapter's Annual Meeting and special meetings of the Chapter or of the Executive Committee.
- Manages Communications budget
- Prepares Communication Chair's inputs to Chapter annual report
- Monthly email blasts
  - Encourage Chapter leaders to submit items
  - Edit and layout email blast
  - Schedule emails to be delivered
- Work with Membership Chair and Chapter Chair on any special needs for communication with the members or Club.
- Represent our chapter and communicate with outside groups.
- Participate in AMC-led calls and trainings with communications chairs across chapters.

(Handled by other Co-Chair: Quarterly newsletter editor

- Encourage members to submit stories, articles, and pictures
- Edit articles, layout newsletter, and proofread.
- Send newsletter to Webmaster to upload to Worcester Chapter website.
- Deliver newsletter to our members.)

## **Programs Chair:**

- Elected annually.
- Attends Chapter Executive Committee meetings (9 per year), the Chapter's Annual Meeting and special meetings of the Chapter or of the Executive Committee.
- Manages the Programs budget; often collaborates on planning and budgeting with other Chairs on special events or projects.
- Prepares Program Chair's inputs to Chapter annual report.
- Helps set yearly programs goals, direction (theme) and educational approach.
- Helps develop overall yearly marketing/social media plan or branding ideas to promote programming in a cohesive way leading up to Trails Fest.
- Develop outreach opportunities to attract more families and a wider age range of people to our programs and events.
- Overall programming support.
- Community outreach to other non-profits and like-minded organizations to set up projects/programming for chapter members which help promote mission.

# Greater Worcester Land Trust Gets Facelift

Submitted by Steve Crowe  
photos submitted by Emerson Grant



Over three days in January 2023, Steve Crowe and his volunteer crew worked at the Greater Worcester Land Trust/Worcester State Collage Field Station at Patch Reservoir. After Steve completed the initial trucking and excavator work, the crew built a ‘home-owner quality’ stone wall, and added drains to prevent water build up on the road and parking lot.







## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Chris Pignatiello, Chapter Chair

Our January Volunteer of the Month award went to Scott McEachern. Scott was nominated by Debi Garlick for stepping in as the second lead on a Monadnock hike on 1/7/23 when one of the actual leaders became ill. Scott performed all of the hike related tasks efficiently, connected with all participants, helped to check their gear, and remained observant of hiker pace. Thanks Scott!

Our winner for February was Mike Morin, past chapter chair, nominated by Alex Molnar for organizing a fantastic 20's & 30's social event that month. Great work, Mike!