

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER



87th Anniversary

Annual Report

November 15, 2008

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

MISSION STATEMENT

Through our broad range of activities and programs, the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club encourages people to enjoy and appreciate the natural world. We believe that successful conservation depends on this experience. The Connecticut Chapter promotes the protection, enjoyment and responsible use of the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut as well as other trails, rivers and byways within the state in cooperation with other maintenance organizations. We believe that the mountains and rivers have an intrinsic worth as well as provide recreational opportunity, spiritual renewal, and ecological and economic health for the state. The members of the Connecticut Chapter of the AMC form a network of users and stewards who protect these areas and educate others as to their use.

Adopted May 1993

**APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB
CONNECTICUT CHAPTER
2008 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Chapter Chair	<i>Leo G. Kelly</i>
Chapter Vice Chair	<i>open</i>
Secretary	<i>Carol Hassett</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
Bicycling Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Rick Merritt Agatha Pohorylo</i>
Conservation Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Jamie Lee Andrew May</i>
East of the River Committee Chair	<i>Steve Braciak</i>
Education Committee Chair	<i>Dale Geslien</i>
Excursions Committee Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Fairfield County Group Co-Chairs	<i>Tom Carruthers David Roberts</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee Chair	<i>Jean Trapani</i>
Members at Large	<i>Gene Grayson Maggie Grayson</i>
Membership Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Beth Bryan Critton Joanne Shortell</i>
Mountaineering Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Gini Kramer Tim Linehan</i>
Program Committee Chair	<i>David Bellemare</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Darcy Witham</i>
Northwest Camp Committee Chair	<i>Rod Parlee</i>
Trails Committee Chair	<i>David Boone</i>
Webmaster/AMC Outdoors Liaison	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Whitewater Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Mark Schappert Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Committee Co-Chairs	<i>Jamie Howland Chris Rees</i>
Regional Director	<i>Dale Geslien</i>

CHAPTER CHAIR'S REPORT

The Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club continues to enjoy the success and recognition it has had over the past 87 years. I submit my report below with great pride in that I have been afforded the opportunity to be involved with such a great group of people, the Chapter members and their families and friends. I have mentioned only a few of my many Chapter related activities as Chair below. It would be impossible with space allowed to mention all experiences that I have had throughout the 2008 year. It is my hope that my report will give a sense of the roles, responsibilities and rewards associated with the Chapter Chair position.

In January, I had the opportunity to lead a Chapter event, a weekend trek to both Tuckerman and Huntington Ravines in Pinkham Notch, New Hampshire. Excursions Chair David Roberts, Mountaineering Co-Chair Gini Kramer and her husband Gary, Education Chair Dale Geslien and several other willing and able members of our Chapter attended. Extreme winter conditions made for a very challenging yet rewarding experience for all.

Also in January I had the opportunity to attend the 132nd AMC Annual Meeting held in Danvers, Massachusetts. In my role as CT-AMC Chapter Chair, I was invited to several Club committee meetings including the Chapters Committee, Outdoor Leadership Development Committee (OLDC) and the Chapter Youth Program. I learned a lot and I was proud to represent our Chapter and all its members. We had a good representation from several other CT-AMC committees including Conservation and Northwest Camp.

Also at the Club Annual meeting I had a chance to speak with Diane Joy, *No Child Left Inside* Coordinator for the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), following her presentation about the *No Child Left Inside* initiative. All this led up to the evening program by the evening's keynote speaker, DEP Commissioner Gina McCarthy. Her *No Child Left Inside* presentation after dinner was motivational and very well received by all. I'd like to thank Past Chair Beth Critton for her part in procuring Gina as the keynote speaker for the Annual Meeting. It was a proud Connecticut moment.

Along with routine Chapters matters, I fielded questions from the Chapter website including an inquiry from a book publisher interested in leaving her book at various spots along the Connecticut portion of the Appalachian Trail (AT) for the enjoyment of the hikers, an irate New Jersey hiker who had his car vandalized at Bulls Bridge and a note from the location manager for a Wes Craven film (*Nightmare on Elm Street*)

letting me know that they would be shooting scenes for a new movie along a section of the AT in Connecticut.

Activity leaders reported gearing up for the spring/summer season and the Chapter Ambassadors had a presence at local outdoor sports stores.

As Chair, I am now much more aware of a number of green related issues including the proliferation of non-native invasive plant species along the AT and right here in our own backyards! Also, Club wide issues have been discussed via the Internet with other Chapter Chairs. These issues have included by-law changes, special funds request and Chapter Youth Program opportunities.

I joined East of the River (EOR) members on their annual Emerald Necklace hike around Boston and conducted, along with Education Chair Dale Geslien, a Leave No Trace awareness hike in conjunction with National Trails Day on Saturday, June 7.

The summer months were different than those of past years for me as most days I was preparing for, or recovering from, knee surgery. It slowed me down but all is well and I am happy to report a full recovery

Several months of planning paid off with a successful Chapter Hut Weekend held this year on September 19-21 at the AMC Lonesome Lake Hut, nestled on the western slopes of Franconia Notch.

I have worked with the CT-AMC Executive Committee in securing sponsorship for the Chapter's Annual Gathering. I was proud to represent the Chapter at the Fall Gathering held in Maryland in October where a check for \$10,000 was presented to the AMC by the Connecticut Chapter Conservation Committee after a successful campaign to raise funds towards special projects of the Maine Woods Initiative (MWI). I am looking forward to my second year as Chapter Chair and the challenges of 2009. Many thanks to the Chapter Executive Board for their support and encouragement over the past year.

Leo G. Kelly

CT-AMC Chapter Chair

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING – 2007

The 86th Annual Gathering of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club (CT-AMC) was held on December 1, 2007 at MountainRidge in Wallingford, Connecticut.

Program Committee Chair David Bellemare introduced Chapter Chair Beth Bryan Critton. Beth thanked Dave and welcomed everyone to the Gathering.

Beth, a hiker and hike leader rated the evening's "hike." Because of the good bit of ground to cover, she gave it an "A" for distance. She said she'd try to keep us moving at a very brisk pace – "2." She said maintaining this speed would be easy, because the terrain was mellow and the company was fine.

She noted that we usually begin our hikes with introductions, and this hike would be no exception. She introduced Program Committee Chair Dave Bellemare and his Committee (including Wilda Wyse, Lori Stethers (and baby Adam), Frank DeFazio, and Will Parker); Carol Hassett who compiled the Annual Report; and Darcy Batzanian who designed the Program. Beth thanked them for putting together such a wonderful event and asked them to stand to be recognized.

Beth shared the wonderful news that Dave Bellemare was persuaded to stay on as Program Committee Chair. She added that Dave will need some help from everyone to plan the events for the coming year.

As she did last year, Beth again thanked her four children for their support. Her youngest, Ben was present with his girlfriend, Sara Erdmann. Her daughter Mindy, who attended with her husband Paul, had a few words of wisdom for Beth about what she should say at the evening's event: "Ma," she said, "Keep it short." Beth said she'd do her best.

With the night's meeting, Beth was ending her term as Chapter Chair. At the beginning of her tenure, there was a great unanswered question: "Can a woman who has never led anything bigger than the Morley Elementary School Election Day bake sale really lead a 9000 member outdoor organization?" The answer was: "**NOT ALONE!**" She added that such an accomplishment was possible only with the help and support of dedicated volunteers.

Beth said there is talk in non-profit circles about whether membership-based outdoor organizations like ours remain viable in contemporary society. She quoted Curt Miller, the President of the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) who wrote: "People used to join ADK because of hiking, backpacking, and local chapter activities. Today's outdoor

enthusiasts are finding recreational activities online, bypassing the hiking clubs.”

She added that with all due respect to Mr. Miller and to Mark Twain, she believes that the rumor of the demise of outdoor membership organizations is greatly exaggerated.

Since she is a lawyer, she was prepared to present four pieces of evidence to support her view that Mr. Miller is, in a word, wrong.

First, she gave a personal testimonial. She said that being a member of AMC had been a transformative and life-affirming experience for her, taking her to places where she might never have traveled, challenging her to embark on new adventures (like her first rappel with the Mountaineering Committee), and introducing her to new experiences, new knowledge, and, best of all, a wonderful group of people. She moves faster and is thinner and happier than before she joined AMC!

Second: unsolicited fan mail. The past November 3, as winds howled and rain fell, she and Pete Herrmann led a group of three intrepid hikers into the wilds of the Chatfield and Nayantaquit Trails. After the hike, she received an e-mail from one of the hikers, a new AMC member and mother of three young teenagers:

“I’m very interested in [AMC’s] upcoming trips...So much to look forward to and get excited about!! The AMC is a great group of people and I look forward to becoming as active as I can. I really like being around people who share this common love for the outdoors. I feel like we are all connected and wired very similarly.”

Her third exhibit was the Annual Report, which she encouraged the audience to take home and read. Some of the accomplishments of CT AMC in 2007 included:

- The e-mail lists of every Committee grew in 2007. The largest of these, the short notice hike list is at 1100.
- The Bicycling Committee held Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday rides and out of state trips.
- Conservation Committee contributed in numerous ways to the Chapter’s conservation objectives.
- East of the River (EOR) had two hikes each Tuesday and Thursday, had its first Interchapter Excursion to Cardigan Lodge and has its own newsletter.
- The Education Committee conducted successful leadership, SOLO Wilderness First Aid trainings, and Leave no Trace trainings.

- Excursions Committee volunteers conducted 549 hikes, compared with 503 last year led by 101 different hike leaders compared with 91 last year.
- Fairfield County Group (FCG) attracted large numbers to dinner presentations in Westport and Bethel and held its fourth successful Picnic. She added that all were invited to the Committee's upcoming "Holiday Bash" in Bethel.
- The Whitewater and Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committees conducted indoor pool sessions during the winter months and provided many outdoor paddling opportunities, including Flatwater's "Having Fun with Canoes" taught by Barry Gorfain and Whitewater's yearly trip to Ottawa Kayak School. Flatwater increased the number of sea kayaking trips and had its first Level III trip.
- The Mountaineering Committee's year-round activities included indoor rock climbing in the winter months, ice climbing, and outdoor rock climbing during the summer. Its introduction to rock climbing class was so successful that they had to add a second session.
- Under the guidance of Darcy Batzarian, we produced three excellent Chapter newsletters, reaching 7000 households. Darcy increased advertising revenue.
- The Program Committee organized the Spring Dinner at the Cheshire Grange, the Trails Day Picnic; New Member Day (NMD) Dinner, and, of course, the Annual Gathering.
- Trails Committee volunteers gave countless hours related to the maintenance of 53 miles of the Appalachian Trail (AT) in Connecticut.
- Give-A-Day to Trails had its largest participation to date.
- Webmaster Jim Scheef introduced a new design to the Chapter website, implemented new membership pages and refined the activity database.
- The Young Members (YM) Committee's e-mail list now tops 300. They have added more socials and a hike series to cover all Connecticut state parks.
- CT-AMC and its various Committees were visible representatives at events ranging from the Eagle Festival in Essex to the openings of L.L. Bean and REI stores to the Banff Mountain Film Festival to Earth Day activities.

- CT-AMC continued to be the sponsoring Chapter for Fall Hiking Week, which saw its participation grow in 2007, its 124th year.
- And we hosted a picnic for over 200 participants for CT-AT Day on October 20.

Finally, the fourth Exhibit in support of the continued viability of outdoor membership organizations: the opinion of an expert, renowned psychiatrist William Glasser, M.D. in his book, *Choice Theory*, emphasizes the role of two influences on personal happiness – (1) a sense of interconnection with others and (2) fun. The need for fun, according to Glasser, is built into our genes and is enhanced when it is combined with learning and, more important, when it is shared with others.

The themes of interconnection and fun are also expressed in our Chapter’s Mission Statement. The Statement focuses on the role of CT-AMC in encouraging the enjoyment and appreciation of the natural world and recognizes that “members of the Connecticut chapter of the AMC form a network of users and stewards who protect (our trails, rivers and byways) and educate others as to their use.”

Beth rested her case.

Beth introduced out of town guests starting with Paul Ray, from the eastern shore of Maryland, Chair of the D.C. Chapter. Paul extended an invitation for everyone to attend the Fall Gathering in 2008.

Also in attendance were Kristen Sykes, AMC Mid-Atlantic Project Manager, from the Highlands of Pennsylvania, and Jennifer Heisey, AMC Mid-Atlantic Recreation Planner. Kristen and Jennifer are the “go-to” people if you want to learn more about the Highlands Region.

Beth then introduced Andy Falender, Executive Director of the AMC since 1989. Andy spoke about the Club’s Maine Woods Initiative.

Beth said the Chapter was recognizing a record number of recipients for the year’s Volunteer Stewardship Awards. She asked volunteers please stand together for a well-deserved round of applause after she had read their names.

2007 Volunteer Stewardship Awards

<i>Bob Andrews</i>	<i>Mary Friel</i>	<i>Terri Pappagallo</i>
<i>Doug Atwell</i>	<i>Adriana Gabarron</i>	<i>Rod Parlee</i>
<i>Marilyn Atwell</i>	<i>Paul Garbarino</i>	<i>Nick Pasquariello</i>
<i>Denise Badger</i>	<i>Dale Geslien</i>	<i>Ruth Penfield</i>
<i>Tom Baker</i>	<i>Jim Gleba</i>	<i>Peg Peterson</i>
<i>Leon Barkman</i>	<i>Barry Gorfain</i>	<i>Carole Phelan</i>

<i>Darcy Batzarian</i>	<i>Gene Grayson</i>	<i>Jeff Phelon</i>
<i>Barbara Beckerman</i>	<i>Ben Hager</i>	<i>Robin Pleshaw</i>
<i>Dave Bellemare</i>	<i>Carol Hassett</i>	<i>Agatha Pohorylo</i>
<i>Len Berton</i>	<i>Nancy Hatfield</i>	<i>Bob Poitras</i>
<i>Dick Blake</i>	<i>Daryl Hawk</i>	<i>Mirela Postelnicu</i>
<i>Terry Bludeau</i>	<i>Ray Helie</i>	<i>Al Puches</i>
<i>Dave Boone</i>	<i>Ken Henneberry</i>	<i>Mark Puglisi</i>
<i>Steve Braciak</i>	<i>Pete Herrmann</i>	<i>Lynn Reid</i>
<i>Hugh Brughel</i>	<i>Jo Ann Hewett</i>	<i>Barry Resnick</i>
<i>Ed Buck</i>	<i>Jeff Hogan</i>	<i>Ed Richarson</i>
<i>Paula Burton</i>	<i>Ed Holowenko</i>	<i>Walt Rinehart</i>
<i>Don Button</i>	<i>Jamie Howland</i>	<i>David Roberts</i>
<i>Dick Cable</i>	<i>Bob Iannucci</i>	<i>Betty Robinson</i>
<i>Phil Capaldo</i>	<i>Paul Ives</i>	<i>Dick Roethlein</i>
<i>Gary Carlson</i>	<i>Jeri Jaminet</i>	<i>Connie Rokicki</i>
<i>Jo-Ann Carlson</i>	<i>Jerry Jaminet</i>	<i>Richard Rouse</i>
<i>Tom Carruthers</i>	<i>Harlan Jessup</i>	<i>Barbara Rutigliano</i>
<i>Russ Charest</i>	<i>Jonie Kafka</i>	<i>Jim St. Amand</i>
<i>Doug Christie</i>	<i>Leo Kelly</i>	<i>Zellene Sandler</i>
<i>Cory Clark</i>	<i>Vinny Kiernan</i>	<i>Aimee Santeler</i>
<i>Joyce Clark</i>	<i>Laurie Kommitz</i>	<i>Keith Santeler</i>
<i>Hugh Cobrain</i>	<i>Gini Kramer</i>	<i>Eleanor Sasso</i>
<i>Larry Cook</i>	<i>Judy Kunkel</i>	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
<i>Ted Cowles</i>	<i>Elaine LaBella</i>	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
<i>John Crist</i>	<i>Bruce Laroche</i>	<i>Rudy Schuster</i>
<i>Beth Bryan Critton</i>	<i>Jamie Lee</i>	<i>Brian Sears</i>
<i>Dave Cronin</i>	<i>Nina Levenduski</i>	<i>Bill Shaffer</i>
<i>Lorraine Cronson</i>	<i>Tim Linehan</i>	<i>Jack Shea</i>
<i>Dave Cullen</i>	<i>Jim Liptack</i>	<i>Ann Sherwood</i>
<i>Mike Cunningham</i>	<i>Al Mahan</i>	<i>Joanne Shortell</i>
<i>Nola Currie</i>	<i>Jim Malumphy</i>	<i>David Shoup</i>
<i>Ron Curtis</i>	<i>Nancy Mann</i>	<i>Beth Siegelman</i>
<i>Walt Daniels</i>	<i>Tom Mann</i>	<i>Pete Sofman</i>
<i>Birge Dayton</i>	<i>Carol Marchion</i>	<i>Mark Sondeen</i>
<i>Frank DeFazio</i>	<i>Andrew May</i>	<i>Jerry Stage</i>
<i>Martin Dinep</i>	<i>Ellen McGuire</i>	<i>Allan Stebinger</i>
<i>Anna Dobbs</i>	<i>Doug McKain</i>	<i>Lori Stethers</i>
<i>Dick Don</i>	<i>Christine Melson</i>	<i>Eric Stones</i>
<i>Carmen D'Onofrio</i>	<i>Jere Meredith</i>	<i>Gay Szumyk</i>
<i>Sandy Dunn</i>	<i>Rick Merritt</i>	<i>Ray Taskar</i>
<i>Tom Ebersold</i>	<i>Dave Mihalek</i>	<i>Debra Tedford</i>
<i>Henry Edmonds</i>	<i>Geri Mihalek</i>	<i>Jean Trapani</i>
<i>Orest Engelbrecht</i>	<i>Jenifer Nadeau</i>	<i>Kristin Violette</i>
<i>Finlay Ferguson</i>	<i>Gustavo Nava</i>	<i>Russ Waldie</i>

<i>Mary Ferguson</i>	<i>Fiona Nicholson</i>	<i>Susan Wallen</i>
<i>Jane Ferrall</i>	<i>Bob Nickels</i>	<i>Dana Warner</i>
<i>Wayne Fogg</i>	<i>Bill Novoa</i>	<i>Bill Wheeler</i>
<i>Robert Forster</i>	<i>Carolyn Olsen</i>	<i>Robert White</i>
<i>Merri Fox</i>	<i>Glenn Orcutt</i>	<i>Dennis Wigg</i>
<i>Phyllis Freeman</i>	<i>Jim O'Rourke</i>	<i>Wilda Wyse</i>
<i>Barbara Frey</i>	<i>Paul Palmer</i>	<i>Bob Youle</i>

In addition to receiving the sincere thanks of the entire Chapter, volunteers recognized for this award will be receiving a Recognition gift – a Princeton Tech Impulse LED light.

One honoree who had registered for the dinner was not able to attend because he was at home recovering from emergency surgery. This is the first Annual Meeting that this dedicated Appie has missed since he became an AMC member in 1982.

Beth asked Betty Robinson and Carolyn Olsen of the EOR Committee to please stand and lead a toast to Steve Braciak (and symbolically to all other absent members unable to join the evening's festivities).

Beth asked Trails Committee Chair Dave Boone to describe and present the Trails Committee Awards.

Pychowska Award (96 Hours Trails Stewardship)

<i>Dave Boone</i>	<i>Hugh Broughel</i>	<i>Denise Badger</i>
<i>Hugh Cobrain</i>	<i>Walt Daniels</i>	<i>Birge Dayton</i>
<i>Ben Hager</i>	<i>Ann Sherwood</i>	

Hart Award (224 Hours Trails Stewardship)

<i>Henry Edmonds</i>	<i>Bob Youle</i>
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Beth explained that the Chapter has two awards for members who have made substantial contributions to CT-AMC. She called on two past Chapter Chairs and past "Appie of the Year" award winners to describe the awards and present this year's Appie of the Year Award and the Lifetime Service Award, Dave Cullen and Eric Stones.

Eric Stones presented the "Appie of the Year" Award to Al Puches who has been the Chapter's Treasurer and financial advisor for the past ten years. He also serves as the treasurer for the FCG, Whitewater, and NW Camp Committees. Al's timeliness in responding to reimbursement requests has been exemplary.

Dave Cullen presented the Lifetime Service Award (via telephone) to Merri Fox, a member since 1984. She has served the Chapter in many ways. She was Chair of the Program and Excursions Committees and Co-Chair of the Membership Committee. She has also served on the Nominating Committee. A veteran hike leader, she has been a long time

instructor for the Education Committee. Merri coordinated the very important food aspect of the Chapter's AT Day in the fall. She is a club-wide Major Excursions Leader and is now the training coordinator for the Major Excursions program.

Beth asked for a round of applause for Merri Fox and Al Puches.

Beth introduced NW Camp Committee Chair Rod Parlee, who accepted an award on behalf of Jonie Kafka and Jim St. Amand.

Beth then recognized Connecticut's fifty-year Club members.

Mr. John McIntosh of Middletown, CT
Mr. William Foye of Middletown, CT
Mr. Samuel Dodd of Mansfield, CT
Mr. John Woodworth of Hampton, CT
Mr. Charles Katan of West Granby, CT

Although these dedicated members were unable to be present, the audience gave them a round of applause.

Beth asked those who had been members for 25 years or more to stand for recognition.

One of CT-AMC's unique traditions is our Harry Duren Scholarship. Beth called on Dick Don who spoke about the scholarship.

Beth said that our current success as a Chapter would not have been possible without the mentors and members who came before us.

A moment of silence was observed as members stood to honor the memory of those CT-AMC members who passed away since the last Annual Meeting.

<i>Edward C. Bannon</i>	<i>Frank Chappell, Jr.</i>
<i>Ann Farrar</i>	<i>Joseph A. Franco</i>
<i>Walter M. Florczak</i>	<i>Robert A. Harman</i>
<i>Eleanor Harwood</i>	<i>George Heston</i>
<i>Frederick R. Keifer</i>	<i>Katharine Knapp</i>
<i>Karl Kochman</i>	<i>Walt Landgraf</i>
<i>Joseph J. McAleer</i>	<i>Carolanne Markowitz</i>
<i>Max Matt</i>	<i>William Miller</i>
<i>Wendy Murphy</i>	<i>Douglas Reid</i>

Beth asked if anyone knew of other members who had passed away and asked that their names be called out so that they may also be honored. The following two names were called out: LeRoy Doar and Dan Green

Beth thanked the members of the 2007 Executive Committee who served over the past year. Since almost the entire Executive Committee was

returning, Beth recognized the following Executive Committee members who were “retiring:”

John Crist and Jim O’Rourke for helping to make the Chapter’s Conservation Committee a model for other Chapters and a strong and effective voice for the environment.

Doug Atwell for fostering the increasing involvement of the EOR group.

At 7:49 p.m., Beth called to order the business portion of the 86th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Beth called for a motion to accept the Secretary’s Report as presented in the 2007 Annual Report, which was received, seconded, and passed. Beth then called for a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report as presented in the 2007 Annual Report, which was received, seconded, and passed.

The next item of business was the election of the 2008 Executive Committee.

Beth called upon Barbara Beckerman and Bruce Laroche of the Nominating Committee to present the slate of nominees for 2008. She asked each nominee to come forward as his/her name was called.

Chapter Chair	<i>Leo G. Kelly</i>
Chapter Vice Chair	<i>open</i>
Secretary	<i>Carol Hassett</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
AMC Outdoors Liaison	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Rick Merritt</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Agatha Porholyo</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Jamie Lee</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Andrew May</i>
East of the River Chair	<i>Steve Braciak</i>
Education Chair	<i>Dale Geslien</i>
Excursions Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Fairfield County Co-Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Fairfield County Co-Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair	<i>Jean Trapani</i>
Member at Large	<i>Gene Grayson</i>
Member at Large	<i>Maggie Grayson</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>Beth Bryan Critton</i>
Membership Co-Chair	<i>Joanne Shortell</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Gini Kramer</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Tim Linehan</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Darcy Batzarian</i>
Northwest Camp Chair	<i>Rod Parlee</i>
Program Chair	<i>Dave Bellemare</i>

Trails Chair	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Webmaster/Technology Chair	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Jamie Howland</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Mirela Postelnicu</i>
Regional Director	<i>Dale Geslien</i>

A motion was made for the secretary to cast one ballot for the slate as presented. The motion passed.

Beth spoke about the origin of the “red hat.” According to legend, back in 1950, or maybe 1951, either Marie Cardin or maybe John Herr, then Chapter Chair, felt the Chapter was getting so big that not everyone knew who the Chair was. After all, there were 500 members. (We are almost 9000 members now.) Either Marie or John, (depending on which version of the legend you prefer), introduced a red felt crusher hat as the symbol of Chapter leadership.

In 2005, Beth was deeply honored to don for the first time the red felt hat identifying her as Chapter Chair and she has worn it proudly as Chair in 2006 and 2007. She asked our other past Chapter Chairs in attendance to put on their red hats and stand:

Dale Geslien: 2003-2005
 Eric Stones: 2000-2002
 Paula Burton: 1997-1998
 Dave Cullen: 1995-1996
 Mary Dorpalen: 1993-1994
 Trish Niece: 1987-1988
 Judy Besancon: 1983-1984
 Ledge Clayton: 1975-1976

Beth asked the audience to give the past Chairs a round of applause.

Beth then presented the Red Hat of Chapter Chair to Leo G. Kelly and asked the audience to give Leo a round of applause.

Leo asked for a motion to be made to adjourn the meeting. At 8:06 p.m. a motion to adjourn the business meeting was made, seconded, and passed.

Dave Bellemare, Program Committee Chair, then introduced the program speakers, Carolyne Gatesy and Donald Lewis, the Connecticut couple who set a world record climbing Antarctica’s Vinson Massif.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Hassett,
 Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2006 AND 2007

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Cash at January 1	<u>\$48,984</u>	<u>\$60,818</u>
Revenue Collected:		
Joy Street dues allocation	32,425	32,028
Program activities	20,438	21,927
Contributions	3,200	1,000
Reserve funds – sources ⁽¹⁾	2,643	8,257
Local sale of memberships	2,045	3,827
Leadership training	7,460	6,530
Subscriptions and Advertising	1,729	5,384
Merchandise sales	141	818
Interest income	<u>3,044</u>	<u>9,889</u>
Total revenue collected	\$73,125	\$89,660
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	\$18,820	24,261
Cost of merchandise	95	365
Reserve funds – uses ⁽¹⁾	2,368	1,186
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	1,624	1,951
Conservation	1,140	1,779
East of the River	1,812	1,480
Education	7,371	5,584
Excursions	9	14
Executive	8,968	8,753
Fairfield County	1,143	419
Flatwater	321	–
Membership	1,969	3,008
Mountaineering	1,263	2,583
Newsletter	9,936	9,342
Northwest Camp	223	–
Program	56	12
Trails	2,443	6,451
Whitewater	1,195	1,299
Young Members	<u>535</u>	<u>409</u>
Total expenditures	\$61,291	\$68,896
Cash at December 31	<u>\$60,818</u>	<u>\$81,582</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2007 AND 2008

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Cash at January 1	\$60,818	\$81,582
Revenue collected:		
Joy Street dues allocation	\$21,426	\$20,770
Program activities	12,506	17,358
Reserve funds – sources ⁽¹⁾	7,090	16,701
Local sale of memberships	2,402	3,016
Leadership training	5,655	6,490
Subscriptions and Advertising	2,234	–
Contributions	–	680
Merchandise sales	50	551
Interest and investment income	<u>5,495</u>	<u>-1,688</u>
Total revenue collected	\$56,858	\$63,878
Expenditures:		
Cost of program activities	14,022	16,892
Reserve funds – uses ⁽¹⁾	1,186	4,361
Committee operating expenses:		
Bicycling	1,412	1,755
Conservation	333	61
East of the River	1,337	714
Education	3,747	4,325
Excursions	14	13
Executive	4,066	5,038
Fairfield County	368	169
Membership	2,904	2,420
Mountaineering	543	1,307
Newsletter	6,651	7,319
Trails	3,543	2,404
Whitewater	987	106
Young Members	<u>279</u>	<u>61</u>
Total expenditures	\$41,392	\$46,945
Cash at September 30	<u>\$76,284</u>	<u>\$98,515</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT
RESERVE FUNDS

⁽¹⁾ Reserve funds are cash set aside by the Chapter for a specific future use or spending objective. Sources of such funds are often grants, gifts, or contributions, but can also include funds set aside from the Chapter's operating budget. A summary of the Chapter's reserve funds is as follows:

	<u>12/31/06</u>	<u>12/31/07</u>	<u>9/30/08</u>
Reserve funds:			
AT Handicap Accessible project	12,869	11,683	11,683
Duren Memorial Scholarships	3,907	5,296	5,632
Jim Wright Memorial	264	264	264
Stanley Grant Reserve	2,472	2,472	2,472
Stephen Meyers Memorial	1,895	1,895	1,895
Whitewater reserve	8,118	7,365	10,774
Maine Initiative Fund	0	1,417	3,793
Durr Donation	0	0	9,100
General fund	<u>31,293</u>	<u>49,773</u>	<u>52,902</u>
Total cash	<u>\$60,818</u>	<u>\$81,582</u>	<u>\$98,515</u>

Al Puches – Treasurer

Bicycling Committee

Terri Pappagallo, in her fourth year on the job, successfully published seven issues of the newsletter, *AMC Cyclist*. Terri distributed some of the newsletters electronically, reducing costs.

JoAnn Hewett, our bike ride coordinator, did a great job again this year keeping all rides for our newsletter and posting all rides on line.

Tom Ebersold did a great job moderating a yahoo group list consisting of about 300 names, enabling bike leaders to publicize rides scheduled at the last minute.

Judy Kunkel, in charge of the Monday program, had a very successful season, with a ride every Monday from April 1 through the end of October. She recruited coordinators who were responsible for each month's rides.

The Tuesday night rides ended on September 9. An average of over 60 cyclists of all ability levels participated in rides ranging from 15-40 miles. The turn-out was larger than in previous years. David Waldburger, Rick Merritt, and Glen Orcutt led most of the rides with the help of Agatha Porholyo, Ray Tarksa and other bike leaders on some nights.

From May through August, Finlay Ferguson and Barbara Rutigliano led the Thursday night rides, which were very successful. The number of cyclists averaged 20-30 each week. The rides were mostly hilly, with no cue sheet, and averaged 20-30 miles. Most of the participants had dinner together after the rides and they bonded very well.

Weekend trips, all well attended and incident-free, were held in the following locations: Bar Harbor, Maine, Cape Cod, Massachusetts Hampton Beach, New Hampshire, Gloucester, Massachusetts, and Washington, D.C. Many thanks to leaders Terry Bludeau, Maureen Sylvestre-Craig, Larry Hayden, Joann Carlson, Gary Carlson, Jeri Jaminet, Jerry Jaminet, Rick Merritt, Russ Pacino, and Susan Wallen.

A ride was scheduled each Saturday and Sunday throughout the season, some days with more than one ride. Hopefully we can do better next year.

We need to find more volunteers to step forward to lead rides. Recruiting new leaders seems to be a problem with all bicycling clubs. Hopefully over the winter months we can find some people to answer our call for help.

BICYCLING COMMITTEE:

Jo Ann Hewett - Ride Coordinator
Terri Pappagallo - Newsletter Editor

Agatha Porholyo – Co-Chair
Rick Merritt – Co-Chair

Conservation Committee

The Conservation Committee accomplished a lot in 2008 and expects to do so again in 2009. Through October our dedicated volunteers have accumulated over 500 volunteer hours on numerous projects and activities on behalf of the CT-AMC. Although the Maine Woods Initiative (MWI) was our primary focus this year, we were still able to get to many other activities on our agenda.

We began the “AMC Year 2008” in October of 2007 with the Housatonic River shore and Appalachian Trail clean up at Bulls Bridge. It is an annual favorite (our 3rd year!) and a huge success, thanks to the planning of Aimee and Keith Santeler. Again we tabled at the AMC Annual Meeting in Danvers, Massachusetts where our table displays received many compliments and interest from Club members and leaders. Keith and Aimee's updates to the [ct-amc.org\conservation](http://ct-amc.org/conservation) website for 2008 look great. Russ Charest led many hikes and helped one of our fellow committee members, Adriana Gabarron, co-lead so that she could achieve her hike leader status (way to go!). We spent a good portion of 2008 raising funds for MWI through the purchase of recycled cotton canvas bags toting the words “Saving the Planet One Bag at a Time.” And, again thanks to Aimee and Keith keeping our website updated, you can track our progress with our ‘Mac the Moose’ making his way toward our \$10,000 goal.

Four Committee members attended the club wide Annual Meeting in Massachusetts. Russ Charest explained the energy saving devices on our display and answered a lot of questions while Jamie Lee and Andrew May attended the club wide conservation meeting. John Crist did his best to raise money for MWI with our drawing for prizes; the top prize winner went to one of our fellow Chapter Conservation Chairs, Claude Guerlain (Worcester).

At our January 2008 committee meeting, Josh Friedman spoke to us regarding the support for a CT carbon cap. After presenting this to the CT-AMC Executive Committee, we received approval to throw the CT-AMC Conservation Committee support behind this initiative, which was later approved by Joy St.

February was a good month in our efforts of raising money to meet our goal for the MWI. Through John Crist's newsletter, we raised over \$610 in donations and an additional \$240 while tabling at the Eagle Festival in Essex.

In March the following MWI activities took place bringing us closer to our \$10,000 goal:

- The Conservation Committee held a Hike, Dinner & Movie Social on March 5 where we walked the CFPA grounds, watched *Alone in the Wilderness*, and, along with good company, enjoyed pizza, drinks, and a very delicious cake baked by Aimee Santeler.
- On March 12 John Crist and Jamie Lee attended the Fairfield County Group (FCG) meeting in Westport. We enjoyed a presentation by David Roberts on his trek through South Africa and sold more of our 'Save the Planet...' recycled canvas bags.
- Later in March John Crist led a conservation themed, cabin to cabin, cross country ski trip in Maine for eight participants (nine including John). The trip was recreational, interspersed with education and conservation themes. In total \$685 was raised towards the CT Chapter MWI goal, and others indicated they were planning to donate on their own. More importantly everyone had a great experience in the Maine woods while learning about the area's history, importance, recreational opportunities and the AMC's MWI.

On April 18 and 19 Bob Andrews and Jamie Lee attended and tabled at the EMS Club Days where we informed customers not only about the AMC, but about how to get more involved with maintaining trails and conservation. The interest was so great we started to run out of pamphlets and informational materials. We also raised another \$180 toward the MWI. The folks at Eastern Mountain Sports (EMS) in Waterford were great. I have to admit I ended up spending a little money, but with 20% off for club days I couldn't pass up the savings. One of the highlights for me was the cook off. There were two teams, girls vs. guys, and they both had to prepare a meal using only the ingredients available and using only outdoor cooking materials. It was great to watch and it did smell good, but I was not one of the tasting judges (darn!). The winner was the guys' team and they won an EMS backpack filled with EMS goodies.

On June 28, 2008 the CT-AMC Conservation Committee sponsored its 2nd annual invasive species hike, this year up and around Rattlesnake Mountain and Pinnacle Ridge in Plainville. This beautiful area is part of the blue blazed Metacomet Monadnock Mattabesett (MMM) trail which recently passed the U.S. House of Representatives for designation as a National Scenic Trailway. Although the temperature threatened to reach the high 80s, it was a perfect day where the weather cooperated and participants ranged from those yet to be born (an expectant mom), to pre-teen and teenage boys and adults ranging from their 30s to 70s. Dr. Charlotte Pyle provided a wonderful trail head briefing for our 21 eager participants on the non-native invasive plant species plaguing Connecticut's open spaces. We hope to see our article in one of the upcoming issues of *AMC Outdoors* or possibly in the next CT-AMC Newsletter.

The past month has proved to be very exciting with the recent release of the Fall Newsletter, and the Conservation Action Network (CAN) announcement making our last plea to help us reach our goal of \$10,000 toward the MWI by the 10/31/08 deadline. Within one week of the announcements going out Jamie received numerous e-mails and phone calls to make donations and receive the 'Save the Planet...' recycled cotton canvas bags. The response has been so overwhelming that we now only have the grocery totes available, and on October 18 we were able to present a check for \$10,000 to AMC Executive Director Andy Falender during the AMC Fall Gathering in Maryland.

Lastly, we are starting to see a growing interest from conservation minded folks who would like to help in our conservation efforts now and in 2009. Looking ahead to 2009 the CT-AMC will be hosting, for the first time, a club wide conservation workshop. More to come as we work together on such an important issue, not only politically but environmentally and personally!

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE:

Bob Andrews

John Crist

Bonnie Dewkett

Aimee Santeler

Beth Byron

Birge Dayton

Adriana Gabarron

Keith Santeler

Russ Charest

Diana Desnoyers

Ceila Robbins

Jamie Lee – Co-Chair

Andrew May – Co-Chair

East of the River Committee

We continued to schedule two hikes each Tuesday and Thursday throughout the year. The hikes starting at 10:00 a.m. were shorter and easier while the 9:30 a.m. hikes provided more of a challenge. Our hike coordinators scheduled approximately 16 hikes each month.

The East of the River Committee (EOR) sponsored a picnic held on Saturday, October 6, 2007 at Valley Falls Park in Vernon. Two hikes, both beginning at 10:00 a.m., were offered prior to the picnic. Despite the hot weather, 35 individuals participated in the hikes while 48 attended the picnic.

A committee meeting, which was attended by 14 members, was held on November 14, 2007 at the Marco Polo restaurant in East Hartford. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss various EOR issues.

A hike leaders meeting was held on Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at the Marco Polo restaurant in East Hartford. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss issues of interest to our hike leaders. 17 leaders attended. CT-AMC Education Chair Dale Geslien was present to discuss the possibility of conducting a regional Soft Skills Workshop in Eastern CT. Agenda items of interest follow:

- Martin Dinep volunteered to organize a committee to plan nature hikes (birding, wildflower, tree, geology, etc.)
- Dale Geslien provided an overview of the Soft Skills workshop. Everyone agreed that this workshop would be beneficial to the leaders.

We conducted two work parties on the Manor Trail in Mansfield on the 11th and 19th of April, 2008. We repainted many blazes, picked up and hauled out trash, trimmed back overgrown vegetation, and put stakes into place to guide hikers in areas where no trees were available to put blazes. This trail was adopted by the EOR group as part of the AMC's Chapter Trails Challenge which encourages chapters to adopt and maintain trails. Since 2005, AMC members have newly adopted 185 miles of trails throughout the region.

Barry Resnick and Sandy Dunn led their annual Boston Emerald Necklace hike on Thursday, May 15, 2008. Twelve hikers participated in this 12 mile hike around Boston. The hike began at Boston Common and traveled through the Public Garden, along Commonwealth Avenue, through Back Bay Fens, Riverway, Olmsted Park, around Jamaica Pond, through the Arnold Arboretum, and ended at Franklin Park. After the hike everyone enjoyed dinner at The Cheesecake Factory.

EOR held a Spring Pizza Party on Saturday, May 17, 2008 at the Rockville United Methodist Church. There were 76 in attendance. Ann Colson, editor of the CT Walk Book, was guest speaker and gave a presentation about the hidden treasures on Connecticut's hiking trails.

The EOR group sponsored a trip to Cardigan Lodge May 19-22, 2008. 22 hikers plus the 3 trip leaders attended. On Tuesday, 21 hikers successfully completed a hike to the summit of Cardigan Mountain while 4 others opted to do some easier trails around the Lodge. Wednesday was our "Out of Camp Day" when 10 hikers did the Welch-Dickey Loop Trail, 4 did some walking along the Pemi Trail, and 11 hiked to Lonesome Lake. There was still about 18 inches of snow on the trail along the south side of Lonesome Lake. We all met for dinner at the Woodstock Station, Inn, and Brewery. On Thursday a few hikers trekked to Welton Falls. This easy hike was completed by noon, followed by lunch and then the drive home. Overall, the weather was cool and dry. No hikes were rained out.

A special note of thanks is extended to:

1. Our hike coordinators (Michelle Baughman, Phyllis Freeman, Bob Nickels, Bill Novoa, Carolyn Olsen, Barry Resnick, and Zellene Sandler) for recruiting leaders for all of our hikes and to Carol Hassett for assembling the hikes into one list and sending the list to everyone on our mailing list.
2. Our Program Committee members (Nola Currie, Dot Davis, Dick Don, Ruth Griffin, and Carolyn Olsen) for all of their hard work planning and running our social events.
3. And finally to Betty Robinson, our newsletter editor, for all of the volunteer work she has done over the years to make the EOR group a huge success.

EAST OF THE RIVER COMMITTEE:

<i>Michelle Baughman</i>	<i>Nola Currie</i>	<i>Dot Davis</i>
<i>Dick Don</i>	<i>Phyllis Freeman</i>	<i>Rob Funk</i>
<i>Ruth Griffin</i>	<i>Carol Hassett</i>	<i>Mary Ann Kouyoumjian</i>
<i>Pam Lewis</i>	<i>Bob Nickels</i>	<i>Bill Novoa</i>
<i>Carolyn Olsen</i>	<i>Barry Resnick</i>	<i>Betty Robinson</i>
<i>Zellene Sandler</i>		

Steve Braciak - Chair

Education Committee

2008 proved to be another successful year in educating and training our members, as well as the public, in Leadership Training, Wilderness First Aid (WFA) and Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics (LNT).

Dale Geslien presented three LNT workshops on November 10, 2007 reaching 90 high school aged students participating in the Canon sponsored Envirothon at Northwest Park in Windsor. (see www.envirothon.org). The students chose to attend this event as an extracurricular activity and were preparing to compete in an ecological project competition. What a satisfying and exciting opportunity to teach the seven principles of LNT to a genuinely interested audience of the next generation!

The 2007 Leadership Training School was held November 16-18, 2007 at White Memorial in Litchfield. Eighteen participants completed the course and about 50% went on to become leaders. Many thanks to veteran instructors Merri Fox and Jeff Hogan, as well as staff members Aaron Gorban and Jess Wilson for assisting with this training. Chief cook and bottlewasher Laurie Kommritz, along with volunteers Rance Fox and Jeri Jaminet, made sure everyone was well fed!

Dale Geslien and Leo Kelly presented a workshop entitled "Solving the Riddle of the Sphinx, Anatomy of a Rescue in the Great Gulf Wilderness" to a full house at the Chapter Annual Gathering on December 1, 2007. An additional presentation took place at the Club-wide Annual Meeting on January 26, 2008 in Danvers, Massachusetts. The presentation documented the true story of the rescue of a Mountain Leadership School (MLS) participant in a group where Dale was one of the instructors and Leo was the Director of the School in June, 2005.

The Education Committee participated in the Eagle Festival on Saturday, February 16, 2008 in Essex. The most popular discussions with passersby were regarding family activities and educating the public about our organization.

The annual WFA and optional CPR training took place April 5-6, 2008 at White Memorial in Litchfield with Chapter Chair Leo Kelly wearing his SOLO instructor hat, assisted by fellow SOLO instructor Dave Krueger. The training inspired a few participants to document their rewarding experience for publication in our Chapter newsletter. Dale Geslien and Scott Mahakian managed the logistics of the weekend.

Two Soft Skills Workshops were scheduled and East of the River hike leaders took advantage of the May 5 dinner workshop at Marco Polo's Restaurant in East Hartford. The workshop was attended by 8 participants

who felt it was worthwhile and provided a means for leaders to share past experiences and discuss "what if" scenarios. A variety of topics was discussed covering the use of various leadership styles, group dynamics and accident scene management. As an incentive to leaders attending this advanced training, the night's dinner was subsidized by the Education Committee and door prizes were awarded to Barry Resnick and Phil Wilsey.

The Education Committee participated in Give a Day to Trails on May 10, 2008. We were able to participate in the inaugural "re-positioning" of CT's first composting privy.

There were 18 participants on the May 31 teen family hike co-sponsored with the Bethel Teen Center, where LNT principles were discussed along with Teen Wilderness Adventures and AMC destination information with interested parents.

The Trails Day LNT Awareness Hike conducted by LNT Master Educators Leo Kelly and Dale Geslien was attended by about a half dozen enthusiastic participants and one lucky winner who collected an earmarked piece of trash!

Committee member John Crist was a field instructor at June's Club-wide MLS and Dale was the lead base team instructor.

Fifteen participants attended the June 29 CT Chapter Leadership Training Session at Sleeping Giant State Park, which was instructed by Dale Geslien, Leo Kelly and Scott Mahakian.

The Club's August MLS Program again saw CT-AMC participation with Mike Laurie as field instructor and Leo Pon and Dale Geslien on the base team.

The Education Committee display was present at the New Member Potluck Dinner on September 27. Recent Leadership Training participants re-acquainted and the program was explained to new members.

Leo Kelly chaired the MLS 50 Committee, with Connecticut-based committee members Dale Geslien and John Crist participating to organize the 50th anniversary celebration of AMC's Mountain Leadership School on October 4, 2008 at Pinkham Notch, New Hampshire. As part of the celebration festivities, Past Education Chair and past MLS Director and CT-AMC member Jeff (Hike) Hogan participated in a roundtable discussion of past directors along with Past MLS Director Leo Kelly, and Bill Putnam, the program's very first director in 1958. The weather was glorious, providing a spectacular backdrop for a panoramic group photo. The day was filled with reminiscing, AMC and MLS staff presentations,

and a special presentation by Nicholas Howe, author of *Not Without Peril*. It was a momentous occasion with much material collected for the archives. Dale and Leo concluded the event with another “Sphinx” presentation open to the public at the Pinkham Notch Visitor Center.

A Train the Trainer workshop is planned for the 2008 Annual Gathering; hoping to increase the instructor staff with experienced leaders.

I offer my heartfelt thanks to the committee members who share their passion for the outdoors with others with the hopes of educating and inspiring them to teach and lead others to promote the protection, enjoyment and wise use of the mountains, rivers, and trails of the Appalachian region.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

John Crist
Leo Kelly
David Roberts

Merri Fox
Laurie Kommritz
Kristin Violette

Jeff Hogan
Scott Mahakian

Dale Geslien – Chair



Excursions Committee

The Excursions Committee enjoyed a very successful year although high gas prices made hiking a much more expensive activity than in previous years. As a result the number of hikes listed during the twelve months to September 30, 2008 fell slightly to 534 compared to 549 in the previous twelve months but still well above the 503 hikes listed two years ago. Hikes sponsored by Young Members, EOR, Family Hiking, and the Thursday Western CT Group made a major contribution to these totals. Hikes run by the Excursions Committee accounted for almost 60% of all activities run by the CT Chapter.

Exactly 100 Hike Leaders led at least one hike during the year demonstrating the depth of our group of Leaders and this allowed us to list a wide variety of hikes by area, distance and speed. Around 60 of our Hike Leaders and volunteers have qualified for Chapter "recognition" awards as a result of leading 5 or more hikes or contributing 30 or more hours to support our efforts.

EOR Midweek Hiking continued to sponsor four well attended hikes each week this year; the Western CT Thursday Group continued to sponsor one hike each week; our Young Members group sponsored 21 hikes; and our new Family Hiking Group sponsored at least one hike each month.

During the year Eric Stones agreed to join the Excursions Committee as our Family Hikes Coordinator and has successfully organized a series of hikes. Eric led many of them himself but he received increasing support from other Hike Leaders. This is an important development for our committee and we hope that Eric's efforts may result in additional family activities within the Chapter in due course.

In addition to local hikes many of our Hike Leaders led backpacking trips both inside and beyond the state, one organized a backpacking teach-in, and several also led Major Excursions. Hike Leaders also strongly supported Chapter-wide events such as National Trails Day, New Member Activity Day and our first, highly successful, AT day when over 100 people joined our 10 hikes covering every mile of the CT section of the Appalachian Trail.

Once again the Excursions Committee sponsored the AMC's Fall Hiking Week, now in its 125th year, Many of our CT-AMC Leaders participated in Fall Hiking Week and also in the Club's August Camp. We thank everyone who organized and led hikes at these great events.

Many thanks to the Education Committee for organizing the weekend-long Annual Leadership Training School in Litchfield and a one-day Leadership Training Session, both of which were very well attended and

which are extremely important in providing potential Hike Leaders with high quality training. With their help we added a significant number of new Hike Leaders during the year. In addition, several of our Leaders qualified for advanced leadership grades during the year.

The Excursions Committee was one of the first to build e-mail lists, to adopt the AMC's Activity Listing System and to develop these systems to a point where their operation seems effortless. In fact, behind the scenes, several volunteers spend countless hours maintaining our lists, approving hikes, distributing emails and responding to many e-mails from hikers and potential hikers. Their contributions are very much appreciated.

Our main e-mail list for distributing hike notices now has over 1,200 names on it and when we combine all of our hiking e-mail lists we have over 2,000 names receiving our hike notices. We continue to support other committees by including their events in our popular Weekly Upcoming Hikes List e-mail.

By using Internet technology the Excursions Committee has eliminated paper from its systems in recent years and has also eliminated essentially all of its costs.

The Excursions Committee would like to thank all of the Hike Leaders for their wonderful contribution during the year as well as the volunteers who maintain our list. We would also like to thank Education Chair Dale Geslien and Chapter Webmaster Jim Scheef for their support .

EXCURSIONS COMMITTEE:

Dave Cronin
Eric Stones

Carol Hassett

Fiona Nicholson

David Roberts – Chair



Fairfield County Group

The Fairfield County Group (FCG) has grown rapidly in recent years. Only a few years ago FCG organized seven events each year, five speaker meetings in Westport and two in Bethel. Now FCG runs twelve events annually; five speaker meetings and a Beach Party and Clam Bake in Westport, four speaker meetings and a December Holiday Bash in Bethel, and an Annual Hike, Bike and BBQ Picnic in Redding

FCG's 2007/2008 season of five speaker meetings in Westport attracted a total audience of about 420 people or an average of over 80 people per meeting. FCG's Westport meetings are now well established with attendees enjoying excellent presentations, a hot pasta dinner, dessert, wine, coffee and a great atmosphere.

During 2006 FCG increased the number of speaker meetings in Bethel from two to four and moved to a new location. The Bethel meetings are still in somewhat of a build up phase but several recent meetings have attracted crowds of over 50 people and we continue to work to further increase attendance at these meetings. FCG's Bethel meetings feature appetizers, wine, desserts and coffee as well as great speakers.

FCG's speaker meetings feature a wide range of topics, mainly in the armchair travel category, and in the 2007/2008 season included Borneo, Mexico, Italy, Mali, Bolivia, South-West Africa and Peru.

Our Annual Picnic at Putnam Park has now been running for several years and has established itself as a very pleasant outdoor event where everyone can enjoy some morning exercise followed by burgers, hot dogs, drinks and relaxed conversation beside the lake.

FCG's second Annual Holiday Bash in Bethel was impacted by some very cold weather which reduced the crowd relative to the previous year but everyone had a good time and FCG will continue to build this event.

This July FCG held its first ever Beach Party and Clam Bake which was a huge success. Over 70 people enjoyed a great clam bake, swam, played games and generally had fun. This will now be an annual event.

FCG's events not only help to retain members within the Club but have also directly resulted in a significant number of people joining the AMC at FCG meetings.

FCG has continued to develop its communications efforts with posters and press releases for all its events and has enjoyed good local media support. All FCG events are listed in *AMC Outdoors*, on the chapter website and have featured regularly in the chapter newsletters. FCG email

lists now have about 600 names and we continue to collect names for these lists.

While FCG's main aim is to promote the AMC in southwestern Connecticut, FCG has also worked to do this in a cost effective way. Our newsletter "The Hiker" was eliminated in 2007 because of the high cost of production and because we are able to achieve the same results by using Internet technology. Many of our speakers now present for no fee and we have controlled our other costs carefully.

In addition to having a wonderful committee, FCG enjoys the support of many other volunteers who are always willing to help out in many ways. FCG Co-Chairs David Roberts and Tom Carruthers wish to thank all of them for their contribution to FCG's success.

FAIRFIELD COUNTY GROUP COMMITTEE:

Darcy Witham
Fiona Nicholson

Lorraine Cronson
Al Puches

Paul Garbarino
Eleanor Sasso

Tom Carruthers – Co-Chair
David Roberts – Co-Chair



Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Committee

Thanks to committed leaders, we scheduled the following 35 events in 2008: 17 flatwater trips, 4 sea kayaking trips, 2 instructional days, 1 interchapter event in Canada, 10 pool sessions and on-land programs about water trails.

Among all these, Bob White led overnight camping trips on the Connecticut River and the Norwalk Islands. He also led a multi-day interchapter canoe camping trip at La Verendrye, a Canadian wildlife refuge. His beautiful photographs greatly enhance our webpage and we are very appreciative that he continues to be our committee's webmaster. Our e-mail list for flatwater increased to 119 and for sea kayaking to 57 members.

This year we did several trips in venues new to us, including Bruce Ross's trip on the Farm River and Tom Ebersold's trips on the lower Housatonic, Ash Creek in Fairfield, and the Great Meadow Salt Marsh & Lewis Gut in Stratford. These were all fun to explore!

Barry Gorfain did an excellent job at the canoe/kayak instructional. We practiced boat control and strokes, wet exits, rescues, and towing.

Due to popular demand, we did two trips on the Norwalk River. With publicity from the Norwalk River Watershed Association to raise awareness of conservation issues, we forged ahead even though stormy skies threatened.

Participation in on-land events included having a table at REI, the Collinsville Canoe & Kayak demo days and at the North Cove Outfitters demo weekend in Chester. Jean was at the New Member Day dinner and paddles were scheduled for the New Member Day event and AT Day.

On June 1, we paddled the Menunketesuck River in Westbrook/Clinton, a river which Lisa Spencer introduced me to a few years ago, and which she enjoyed that day as well. I deeply regret that she will not be with us in 2009, and we will instead do this paddle in her memory and to honor her life, a life engaged in protecting the waters and forests she cherished, so that we may all continue to enjoy them. Let us gain in strength from her example and remember her by continuing her efforts. We will miss you Lisa.

FLATWATER/COASTAL PADDLING COMMITTEE:

Barry Gorfain

Lisa Spencer
(In memoriam)

Robert White

Jean Trapani - Chair

Membership Committee

The total count for CT-AMC membership as of November 1, 2008 was 8431.

Throughout 2008, the Membership Committee sent informational pamphlets to welcome our new Chapter Members, including flyers for the New Member Day Potluck Dinner, AT Day and the Annual Gathering. The new member package is currently being updated to provide an even better introduction for new members to the Chapter's extensive range of activities and to provide new members with the information they need to become actively involved.

With the assistance of volunteers from our various activity committees, new members were offered an array of outdoor opportunities on New Member Activity Day, September 20, including hikes, a paddle, an introduction to rock climbing, trail work, and the Chapter's Hut trip to the White Mountains. Northwest Camp sponsored a successful New Member event on September 13. On September 27, the Program Committee hosted our Annual New Member Day Potluck Dinner. Both the Activity Day events and Potluck Dinner were well attended by new and prospective members.

Fiona Nicholson, with the assistance of Peg Peterson, actively and effectively recruited new members at FCG events. Marilyn Atwell efficiently handled our Membership in a Bottle ("MIB") program. Jim Scheef, our Webmaster, made on-line memberships and MIB sales a reality. Dave Cullen ably coordinated the recognition of 25 year and 50 year members. Betty Robinson assisted with questions pertaining to the Membership Roster, including confirmation of the current membership status of activity leaders.

In 2008, the Committee Co-Chairs responded to numerous and varied e-mail and phone inquiries, introduced potential members to CT-AMC, helped new members get their bearings and addressed membership-related questions.

Although our membership has slightly declined in number in 2008, our Chapter remains one of the strongest in the Club in terms of membership renewal and retention. We have much to be proud of and owe many thanks to all of our members who spread the word about the rewards of being a CT-AMC member.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Marilyn Atwell
Peg Peterson

Dave Cullen
Betty Robinson

Fiona Nicholson

Beth Bryan Critton – Membership Co-Chair
Joanne Shortell – Membership Co-Chair

Mountaineering Committee

It really only takes one word to describe the Mountaineering Committee's year...wow! We did more training, went more places, climbed more crags and had more fun than ever. Here's our year in review:

Recreation: We began the winter with our annual Season Opener trip to the White Mountains, New Hampshire; participants climbed ice in Tuckerman Ravine and Crawford Notch. Locally, we continued our regular weekly gym climbing program while waiting for ice to form in Connecticut. We subsequently sponsored several ice climbing outings in Connecticut as well as weekend ice climbing and mountaineering trips to the White Mountains and the Adirondacks, New York.

Spring brought warmer temperatures and the restart of our weeknight and weekend rock climbing program at Connecticut crags. Thursday-evening top rope climbs were extremely well attended. At the height of the summer, when the days were longest, as many as 18 climbers would participate. This was augmented through the summer by day trips to New York (Gunks) and Massachusetts as well as weekend trips to the Adirondacks, Acadia, Maine, and the White Mountains.

Education: We sponsored a number of training sessions that introduced club members to our activities or enhanced the climbing and safety skills of our committee members. Winter season programs included: Introduction to Ice Climbing (two sessions) and Introduction to Winter Mountaineering. Committee members also participated in New Hampshire chapter's Glacier Travel and Crevasse rescue program. In addition to our Introduction to Rock Climbing Class, which drew participants from New York and Massachusetts, we sponsored an expanded list of education programs during the spring that included: Top Rope Anchor Workshop, Intermediate Climbing, Lead Climbing, Lead

Climbing Anchors, and Self Rescue (high angle rescue). These education programs were enhanced through weekly sessions where “graduates” could practice their skills. The emphasis on education resulted in a significant expansion of the committee’s ability to sponsor multi-pitch climbing trips.

Conservation: The committee sponsored several glass and trash removal efforts at one of our favorite climbing areas. We have also been an active participant in preliminary discussions regarding a “town meeting” of Connecticut climbers to discuss issues regarding: access to cliffs, use of fixed-anchors, and the establishment of bolted sport climbing routes.

Our 2009 Objectives: The committee has four goals for the coming year: First, we will continue to introduce new climbers to our committee through introductory courses, weekly activities, and our participation in Chapter initiatives such as New Member Day and AT Day.

Second, we will work to enhance our ability to sponsor multi-pitch ice climbing trips. Our focus on education in 2008 resulted in a doubling of the number of multi-pitch rock leaders in our committee. We’ll be attempting to achieve a similar result for multi-pitch ice climbing.

Third, we will work to further “raise our game” in rock climbing. This past season a number of our members advanced their skills through the range of intermediate level climbs. We will be seeking to support and encourage participants as they transition into advanced level climbing.

Fourth, we intend to be active in “working” access issues with other Connecticut climbing organizations.

Our Thanks: The committee could not have accomplished so much without the support of all the volunteers who gave of their time, their expertise and their boundless enthusiasm. It is they who made 2008 such a “wow!”

MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE:

<i>Mike Adelson</i>	<i>Sandy Bartell</i>	<i>Vicki Cain</i>
<i>Ron Curtis</i>	<i>John DeAngelis</i>	<i>Maja Duszakiewicz</i>
<i>Rebecca Ford</i>	<i>Skip Frey</i>	<i>Dominick Galletti</i>
<i>Jere Meredith</i>	<i>Art Morenz</i>	<i>Carol Morenz</i>
<i>Gustavo Nava</i>	<i>Carole Phelan</i>	<i>Russ Sherwood</i>
<i>Mark Sondeen</i>	<i>Steve Wall</i>	<i>James Wolff</i>
<i>Gary Zempel</i>	<i>Paula Zimbrian</i>	

Gini Kramer – Co-Chair
Tim Linehan – Co-Chair

Newsletter

The AMC in Connecticut, published four times this year, reaches almost 7000 households.

With the welcome addition of Maggie Grayson to the newsletter team, we have added a quality and experienced writer and a much need ally to the editing department. Thank you Maggie!

The overall outcome of each letter is always a group effort and all submissions and comments were greatly appreciated. The plan to bring in more participants for upcoming events and recruiting old and new members alike to try something new and keep themselves involved throughout the year is the goal.

The addition of a winter supplement letter hopefully added to winter activity participation and prepared our members for the spring season.

Advertising was limited this year. Pequot Museum has been a loyal advertiser and will continue to be so for the year 2009. They do find satisfaction publishing with us. Hopefully other advertisers will find the same with repeated efforts.

Maggie Grayson – Newsletter Co-Editor
Darcy Witham – Newsletter Co-Editor

Northwest Camp Committee

This year the Northwest Camp (NW Camp) Committee elected Sue Ives as their new Camp Registrar. The cabin/camp registration telephone number is 203-266-6374. Sue accepts reservations and inquiries only between the hours of 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., Monday thru Friday. She promises to return calls as quickly as humanly possible with the understanding that she is a volunteer and not a paid staff person.

The results of our first NW Camp questionnaire have been tabulated. The questionnaire was handed out from our tabletop exhibit before and after the CT-AMC Annual Gathering on December 1, 2007. Special thanks to Paul and Sue Ives and John Rek who helped staff the table and interview respondents. The conclusions, in brief, are as follows: Many members have not stayed at NW Camp. Members that have stayed have had a GREAT (just short of OUTSTANDING) experience. Many respondents

knew volunteers ran the Camp, agreed with current costs with the understanding they could increase but had very little knowledge of the uniqueness of the watershed area the cabin sits on top of. A majority of people responding did not know that only 0.5 percent of old growth are remaining in the eastern United States and believe it is very important to hike or camp in an undisturbed [as opposed to fragmented] old growth native hemlock forest [such as NW Camp]. Surprisingly, almost everyone asked responded favorably to being familiar with Leave No Trace (LNT) ethics. When asked to list any workshops that might be of interest if held at NW Camp, a majority responded as follows: Leave No Trace (2), Trail Maintenance (2), Outdoor Cooking Weekend Workshops (2), Wildlife (2), Trail Design, Stone work (steps), SOLO Advanced First Aid, Leadership, Ridgerunner Training, Maps & Compass, GPS, Rare Species, Mycology, Bog Habitats, Birds, Trees and Winter Camping. One also suggested a New Year's Day hike up to cabin. All in all, 23 responded that they wanted to learn more, 18 requested to be notified of Committee events and 5 expressed interest in committee membership. The NW Camp Committee will use this very important data to help shape future plans and policies.

The NW Camp Committee met on February 26, 2008 at CFPA Headquarters. Five new members were added to the Committee (now 26 total) and a new Caretaker was elected. Ryan Christensen volunteered for the two-year term and will be responsible for running workparties (along with other duties) in the spring and fall at the cabin. Two subcommittees have been established. Tom McGrath chairs the Composting Outhouse subcommittee and the NW Camp Trails subcommittee is chaired by John Hicks.

In June the Committee presented a \$100 check to the much-appreciated Ridgerunner Program and received a preliminary OK from the Torrington Health District for placement of a conceptual mouldering privy on the property at NW Camp.

The Committee organized an 8-mile hike as part of New Member Day on Saturday, September 13, 2008. The Fall Workparty consisted of many tasks including moving three cords of firewood, staining a picnic table, replacing the old log bridge leading to cabin and a Rapid Bioassessment of wadeable streams.

With the help of subcommittee Chair and Scout Leader Tom McGrath, the mouldering privy will be installed by BSA Troop 162 of Columbia, CT as part of an Eagle Scout project. The newly designed privy will help reduce our human footprint on this very diverse and sensitive area. The Cabin sits on top of the Schenob Brook Watershed, which according to the Berkshire Nature Conservancy is the most diverse watershed east of

the Mississippi River. Camp users are strongly encouraged to practice LNT principles while visiting NW Camp.

“We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.”

*Aldo Leopold,
Sand County Almanac*

See our updates on the Chapter’s NW Camp Committee home page at:
www.ct-amc.org/nwcamp/index.shtm

The following events are planned at NW Camp for 2009:

- Winter Weekend - February 27 -29, 2009
- Spring Workparty- Saturday, May 2, 2009
- Meteor Shower/Mycology Hike –Saturday, August 15, 2009
- New Member Day – Saturday, September 19, 2009
- Fall Workparty – Saturday, October 17, 2009

2008 NW CAMP COMMITTEE:

*June Charette
Chuck Doll
Merri Fox
Paul Ives
Donal Klein
Trent Link
Tom Nichols
Jim St. Amand*

*Keith Charette
Jim Edwin
John Hicks
Joni Kafka
Ken Kostak
Tom McGrath
Al Puches
Paul Thoma*

*Alice Combs
Alecia Emrich
Nicole Ives
Craig Kennedy
Carol Langley
Brandon Neupaver
John Rek
Ron Zlotoff*

*Rod Parlee - Chair
Ryan Christensen - Caretaker
Sue Ives - Registrar*



Program Committee

The Program Committee organizes the Spring Dinner, New Member Potluck Dinner, and the Annual Gathering. Running these events involved finding locations, making reservations, making and putting up signs, publicizing the events, finding speakers, setting up tables, and submitting event write-ups for *AMC Outdoors*, and Newsletters, etc.

The Spring Dinner took place on Saturday, April 19 at the Cheshire Grange. The Grange members prepared and served a choice of roast beef or vegetarian lasagna. The food was excellent, as always, at the Grange. Following the dinner, guest speaker Michael Tougias spoke about decision-making under pressure, the subject of his book, *Fatal Forecast*, a true story about disaster and survival at sea. Everybody loved Michael's presentation. The night was topped off with a book signing.

The New Member Potluck Dinner was held on Saturday, September 27 at the Prospect Congregational Church Hall, a new location for us this year. The facility was perfect for this event, and we will use it again for next year's dinner. Following the potluck dinner, founder of Beyond Limits Adventure Travel, John Sarbo, presented a slideshow entitled *Provence, Hiking/Exploring France*. The audience really liked this presentation, and some of them expressed interest in doing this trip.

The Program Committee is gearing up for the November 15 Annual Gathering. The event will be held at the MountainRidge Events Facility in Wallingford. We have a full afternoon of workshops and committee/sponsor exhibits. There will also be a book sale, silent auction, social hour, dinner, business meeting, and a very special guest: Sam Williams, who is flying here all the way from England to tell us his story of how he rowed solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

On Monday, May 26 Program Committee Member Ellen McGuire died at the young age of 53 after a long illness. Donations in Ellen's memory may be made to the Shoreline Greenway Trail, where a Memorial Brick will be inscribed with Ellen's name.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

Jennifer Decker
Lori Stethers

Frank DeFazio
Wilda Wyse

Wilford Parker

David Bellemare – Program Chair

Trails Committee

The Chapter Trails Committee is responsible for the maintenance and management of the Appalachian Trail (AT) and its side trails in Connecticut, and the adjoining public lands, in partnership with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the National Park Service (NPS). Our accomplishments this year included:

- Cleared numerous blowdowns following several severe thunderstorms in early summer.
- Coordinated with the NPS to ensure the Trail was protected during filming of a feature movie on location.
- Provided guidance and input on the siting of several cell phone towers within the AT viewshed.
- Updated and reprinted 25,000 “Welcome to the Appalachian Trail in Connecticut” brochures.
- Completed trail hardening and streambank erosion control project at the Macedonia Brook crossing. This project involved the movement and installation of tens of tons of stone and gravel.
- In conjunction with ATC, commissioned Sharon Audubon to study critical grassland habitat which supports a number of rare species, and develop management recommendations.
- Agreed to participate with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) “Weed It Now” invasive species control program. TNC used professional contractors to remove invasives in Sages Ravine, Bunker Hill, and Rte. 41 areas.
- Another successful “Give A Day to Trails” saw over 50 participants go out on 4 different projects.
- The Student Conservation Association (SCA) summer crew completed substantial improvements in Sage Ravine area.
- Successful summer ridgerunner season, with no major incidents.
- Longtime Trails volunteer Paul Palmer retired from his position of Natural Heritage Monitoring coordinator.
- Due to two generous donations, a helicopter was used to airlift building materials into Riga shelter. This operation moved over three tons of materials in half an hour, saving hundreds of hours of volunteer effort.

Parties to improve the Trail go out nearly every weekend. Please consider coming with us soon.

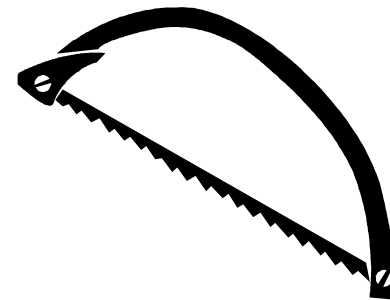
TRAILS COMMITTEE:

*Denise Badger
Phil Capaldo
Ted Cowles
Henry Edmonds
Ian McCunn
Peter Passeck
Brian Sears*

*Dick Blake
Doug Christie
Walt Daniels
Harlan Jessup
Elaine LaBella
Bob Poitras*

*Hugh Broughel
Hugh Cobrain
Birge Dayton
Gene Grayson
Paul Palmer
Walt Rinehart*

Dave Boone – Chair



Webmaster/Technology Committee

2008 Accomplishments:

- Participated in a club task force to bring electronic distribution to all chapter newsletters.
- Created a tutorial on how to “opt-in” to electronic newsletter distribution on our chapter website.
- Implemented a new chapter phone line.
- The new website design was extended to more committees. Two committees with large existing websites, Whitewater and Young Members, were totally redesigned with the existing information rearranged into a new structure. Northwest Camp and Trails were updated to an interim design, bringing a common theme to the chapter website.
- The automatic activity lists were extended to Whitewater and Young Members as they are now using the AMC system to announce their events.

New Website Design

The new website design was expanded to both Whitewater and Young Members. In addition I expanded the menu structure to include Membership and more options to make the site easier to use.

Chapter Newsletter Electronic Distribution

Printing and mailing the chapter newsletter is one of the largest expenses for all of the club chapters. Early this year AMC created a task force headed by Dale Geslien, our Regional Director, to study this problem. AMC has chosen a system from Kintera for their newsletters like The AMC Insider, the Conservation Action Newsletter (aka: CAN), etc. This system is now integrated with the AMC membership database. The task group was charged to determine how the Kintera system could best be applied to electronic distribution of chapter newsletters. My participation was to represent our chapter. With systems professionals representing several chapters, the group hammered out a good set of requirements. All of this is now implemented and Connecticut was one of the first chapters to send out an electronic newsletter notification. Over time we are able to move to a fully formatted email newsletter like those from CAN, The Maine Woods Initiative, etc. Please “Opt-in” to receive your future chapter newsletters electronically. The “how to” is on our chapter website at www.ct-amc.org/OptIn.

Chapter Phone Line

Our chapter has maintained a phone line for many years mainly to pass out information about East of the River Tuesday and Thursday hikes. After reviewing the cost of the old phone line, I searched for a lower cost, more flexible alternative. Three possibilities were presented to the Executive Committee by email during the summer gap between meetings. The committee voted electronically to adopt a system from Ring Central. The new chapter phone line is 1-866-576-6994 and is toll-free from just about anywhere, has more features and costs less. So far there are options for Tuesday and Thursday East of the River hikes, chapter information, Membership, and the Conservation Committee.

2009 Goals

1. Purchase web-editing software for the committee page maintainers to make their job easier and more consistent.
2. Complete the website design expansion to Conservation and Mountaineering.
3. Continue to help AMC improve the Activities Database system.
4. Find and implement a new calendar program that can be updated by each committee.
5. Improve integration with the AMC Activities Database system to make finding activities easier.
6. Expand utilization of the chapter phone line as appropriate.

Committee Page Maintainers

I want to thank those who maintain the sections of the Web site devoted to specific committees:

<i>Aimee and Keith Santeler</i>	Conservation
<i>Kristin Violette</i>	Education
<i>Robert White</i>	Flatwater
<i>Carole Phelan</i>	Mountaineering
<i>Mark Schappert</i>	Whitewater, Young Members

All other committees are maintained by your webmaster.

Jim Scheef – Webmaster

Whitewater Committee

In 2008 the Whitewater Committee started out with pool sessions in Middletown and in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Whitewater sponsored successful trips to Canada, New York, Vermont, Maine, and other states. Participants attended our annual trip to the Ottawa Kayak School that consisted of instruction for beginners to expert kayakers.

The Whitewater Committee sponsored pool sessions, lake sessions and on the river instructional sessions to get more participants interested in whitewater.

We have had three new leaders come on board this year.

In October we held our annual Leader Appreciation Day. At the Leader Appreciation Day a Whitewater Committee member, Pattie Vaughn, won a trip to the Ottawa Kayak School. Dana Warner, won the leaders only door prize of a \$100 gift certificate for Zoar Outdoors.

This year we purchased new spray skirts for some of the kayaks that will be used for pool sessions, lake sessions and on the river instructional sessions. We increased our number of instructional sessions to help get novice kayakers on the river sooner.

The Whitewater Committee would like to thank all of our sponsors who contributed to making the Leader Appreciation Day a success.

The Whitewater Committee would also like to thank the Forster family for its continued support.

WHITEWATER COMMITTEE:

Webb Carnes

Christian DeGraaf

Robin Pleshaw

Dana Warner

Ed Chase

Paul Edwards

David Shoup

Patti Vaughn

Larry Cook

Jim Kilkenny

Barry Smith

Mark Schappert – Co-Chair

Dennis Wigg – Co-Chair

Young Members Committee

We have had another great year of activities and socials (11). Our list has swelled to 396 members. We have also continued organizing hikes covering all the Connecticut state parks. Our yearly holiday and summer picnic socials were well attended and enjoyed by all.

We are also actively seeking new hike and social leaders so we can continue to offer a wide range of activities throughout the state and beyond.

Our leaders this year, followed by the number of hikes led:

<i>David Bellemare (9)</i>	<i>John Crist (1)</i>
<i>Darron Kannenberg (10)</i>	<i>Ana Ketch (1)</i>
<i>Nina Levenduski (9)</i>	<i>Erik Madsen (4)</i>
<i>Mirela Postelnicu (1)</i>	<i>Chris Rees (2)</i>
<i>Mark Schappert (10)</i>	<i>Bill Wheeler (10)</i>

Jamie Howland - Co-Chair
Christopher Rees - Co-Chair



Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee's charge is to fill any open chair or co-chair positions with qualified volunteers. We are always on the look out for folks who are willing to give their time to AMC. There are several open positions on the 2009 Executive Committee as well as a vacancy on the Nominating Committee. Please consider volunteering to fill one of these spots. One doesn't need to be an "expert" to be a committee chair. Executive Committee members are always on hand with support and guidance.

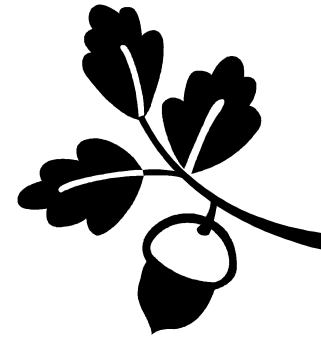
NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Barbara Beckerman

Jeri Jaminet

Bruce Laroche

Patricia Huff - Chair



Nominations for the 2009 Executive Committee

In accordance with the Chapter Bylaws, the Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of candidates:

Chapter Chair	<i>Leo G. Kelly</i>
Chapter Vice Chair	<i>open</i>
Secretary	<i>Carol Hassett</i>
Treasurer	<i>Al Puches</i>
Backcountry Editor	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Rick Merritt</i>
Bicycling Co-Chair	<i>Wayne Tursi</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Jamie Lee</i>
Conservation Co-Chair	<i>Andrew May</i>
East of the River Co-Chair	<i>Steve Braciak</i>
East of the River Co-Chair	<i>open</i>
Education Chair	<i>Dale Geslien</i>
Excursions Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Fairfield County Co-Chair	<i>Tom Carruthers</i>
Fairfield County Co-Chair	<i>David Roberts</i>
Flatwater/Coastal Paddling Chair	<i>Jean Trapani</i>
Member at Large	<i>Dave Bellemare</i>
Member at Large	<i>Maggie Grayson</i>
Membership Chair	<i>Beth Bryan Critton</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Sandy Bartell</i>
Mountaineering Co-Chair	<i>Gini Kramer</i>
Newsletter Co-Editor	<i>Maggie Grayson</i>
Newsletter Co-Editor	<i>Darcy Witham</i>
Northwest Camp Chair	<i>Rod Parlee</i>
Program Chair	<i>open</i>
Trails Chair	<i>Dave Boone</i>
Webmaster/AMC <i>Outdoors</i> Liaison	<i>Jim Scheef</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Mark Schappert</i>
Whitewater Co-Chair	<i>Dennis Wigg</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Jamie Howland</i>
Young Members Co-Chair	<i>Christopher Rees</i>
Regional Director	<i>Dale Geslien</i>

50-Year Members

Congratulations and best wishes to the following Connecticut Chapter members who we are honoring for their 50 years of membership in the Appalachian Mountain Club! They have been invited to attend the Annual Gathering and banquet as guests of the Chapter.

Mr. Ross Lanius of North Haven, CT

Mr. Ronald Perkins of Middletown, CT

Mr. Thomas Wall of Mansfield Center, CT

