

**Appalachian Mountain Club
Berkshire Chapter**

**2010
ANNUAL REPORT**



Report of the Chapter Chair

This has been another exciting year for the Berkshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Our Chapter continues to build on the strength and foundation of all the volunteers who have contributed so much in the last 81 years. The Berkshire Chapter continues to provide a wide variety of outdoor activities, programs, and trainings to our members led by the volunteer leaders who maintain a high standard of skill, safety, and commitment to the Chapter.

This Annual Report highlights the hard work and efforts of the volunteer Executive Committee. It is the talented and dedicated members of the Executive Committee who help make the Berkshire Chapter successful. Our membership can thank this group for the wide variety of activities, events, and programs that help create the positive Berkshire Chapter spirit.

I encourage all of our members to get out and enjoy the many activities that our Chapter sponsors. Try something new, come to a Chapter event, join us at an Executive Committee meeting, or share your ideas and energy for new projects. The year 2011 promises to be terrific with new initiatives in the area of conservation, a revised web page, and more opportunities for leadership training and development, to name just a few. Our activity leaders are busy planning another year full of exciting outdoor recreation opportunities.

As 2010 has come to a close, I would also like to thank all of our members for their support during these past two years that I have served as Chapter Chair. It has been a very rich and eventful time filled with many wonderful experiences and friendships.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deborah Levine
Berkshire Chapter Chair, 2009–2010

Appalachian Trail Committee

The AT Committee had another active and productive year with approximately 100 volunteers participating in one capacity or another over the course of the year. Indeed, some volunteers serve in multiple roles. Volunteer hours are still being collected so current year data is not yet available. That said, there were over 6,000 volunteer hours in 2009 and similar or greater hours are anticipated in the tally of 2010 hours. Below is some information on the major areas of our activities.

Trail Maintenance: A full roster of volunteers was maintained throughout the year with little interruption. Some trail sections required extensive brushing due to lush growth from more than usual sunlight reaching the forest floor. This is the second year with these conditions caused by the ice storm of 2 years ago. AMC teen crews continued to make significant contributions to our efforts in several important areas, such as Jug End and Mt. Greylock.

Trail Land Monitoring: Roughly 20% of the boundaries were maintained consistent with our 5-year maintenance program. An inventory of missing monuments has been created for the National Park Service's use and long range planning. Special Use Permits were reviewed and renewed on schedule. One permit was cancelled when the farmer lost access to the NPS property. Work continued with the Park Service Ranger on incursions in the Dalton/Hinsdale area.

Trail Facilities: The Glen Brook and Wilbur Clearing shelters were rehabilitated. The Shelter Adopters program was reinvigorated and all overnight sites now have active oversight and a coordinator. A kiosk upgrade project is well underway and should be completed before the end of 2010.

Open Areas and Vistas: The active management of open areas and vistas continued to expand, with open areas at Hubbard Brook and Goose Pond Rd. joining the list of areas being actively managed.

Upper Goose Pond: The cabin was opened in mid May and closed in mid October with caretakers assigned throughout the period, this being the second year with fulltime coverage after Labor Day. It was another active year at the cabin with heavy use by hikers. In April, the Committee took over responsibility for the George Cabin (so called). In accordance with NPS wishes, the privy and cabin were demolished. The boathouse has been repaired and secured as a tool and equipment shed. The metal bed frames, mattresses, and miscellaneous household goods left behind have been removed (a very significant undertaking!). Significant additional work remains to restore this area to a natural state.

Our volunteer efforts continue to be supported by the ATC with Adam Brown from the Kellogg Conservation Center (KCC), by the AMC with Regional Trails Coordinator Matt Moore, also at the KCC, and by the Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation with their project and Ridge Runner support lead by Becky Barnes.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Pelletier
Massachusetts AT Management Committee Chair

Berkshire Exchange Committee

The *Berkshire Exchange* continues to be published three times per year instead of quarterly. Release dates are approximately late February for winter/spring, early July for summer, and late September for fall.

In 2010 the Berkshire Exchange Committee closed about \$1100 in the black. This is again mainly because of not publishing a separate winter edition. Also there are more subscribers to the e-newsletter than there were in the previous year. This is mainly because Joy St. changed the default preference for all new members.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jon Hanauer
Berkshire Exchange Publisher

Canoe & Kayak Committee

Our Committee continues to offer trips in four categories: quiet water paddling (including canoes and kayaks), whitewater paddling for canoes and kayaks, sea kayaking, and whitewater rafting.

We had another successful year of quiet water trips, including three overnights and a number of day trips. Rudy Julian continues as coordinator of our quiet water program. Although the number of trips was reduced some this year, we are encouraged that some new folks are indicating interest in joining our group of leaders.

Our major instructional effort is the Stroke and Rescue Clinic led by Marjorie Bannish and Tom Galvagni. This offering primarily supports beginning and intermediate Sea Kayakers. Our Committee continues to offer full financial support to leaders who are willing to take the SOLO Wilderness First Aid course. We also offer financial support for paddling training programs that provide support to our leaders.

The whitewater program continues to offer class 2, 3, and 4 trips for kayaks and a few open canoes. The number of trips offered each year is steadily dropping due to a decrease in the number of leaders offering whitewater trips.

Our rafting program offers excellent trips for folks with limited paddling experience at a very reasonable cost compared to usual commercial rates. We are thankful for Al Howcroft's continued effort as the coordinator of our rafting program.

We have a fleet of rental boats stored at Andrew's Greenhouse in South Amherst. The inventory of the boats is included in the Ferry Tales newsletter each year. Our Committee is thankful that Andrew Cowles continues providing the space for the storage of our 20 rental boats.

Our Committee cooperates with the larger AMC paddling community through the Inter-chapter Paddling Committee. Connie Peterson is an active participant representing us on that committee.

Respectfully Submitted,
Charles Camp, Connie Peterson, and Rudy Julian
Canoe & Kayak Committee

Membership Committee

With Chapter membership at about 3,000, this year is comparative to the year previous.

Although the Membership Chair seeks to provide opportunities to promote the AMC and the Berkshire Chapter to people who are interested in joining, we have been concerned about retention of current members given economic turns. Events have been similar to years past, such as the annual potluck in March. Consideration is also given to events that welcome new members and promote ongoing participation in the Chapter.

MIBs are still available and were recently discounted to match online new member pricing. Chris Ryan continues to provide timely updates and retains this commitment to the Chapter. His efforts are very much appreciated.

The Annual Members' Potluck, held every year in March, was a big success. It's Not About the Hike was presented. Old and returning members heavily populated this function.

The Membership Committee looks forward to another year of promoting the Berkshire Chapter and welcoming new members. After two years of serving as Membership Chair, I will be resigning in this capacity on November 6, 2010.

Respectfully Submitted,
Diane Furtek
Membership Committee Chair

Public Relations Committee

In 2010 I have continued to send releases and event notices to daily and weekly publications in our region for membership meetings, awards received, National Trails Day, and the Fall Annual Meeting. I have created an “Appalachian Mountain Club – Berkshire” group on Facebook and posted AMC events. Publicity seeks continuity with the AMC Berkshire website and, therefore, I send notices and reports I have posted on the Facebook “wall” to our Website Committee as well.

Additionally, I have had requests for information from other organizations, and seek to help with publicity in that vein. This year, one of the personnel from Public Affairs at Westover Air Reserve Base spoke at length to Pat Fletcher, and produced a good article for AF Reserve members on the local hiking opportunities, with the M-M Trail in particular.

In the next year, I hope to continue this general publicity to promote local outdoor opportunities in western Massachusetts and to illustrate the importance of the AMC in the region and in New England.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sabine Prather
Public Relations Committee Chair

Training & Education Committee

2010 – Looking for new growth

2010 was another good year for the Training & Education Committee! This year, eight new leader candidates were educated in the training held in April. At least seven completed leader training at our October training. Congratulations to all our new leader trainees for completing the training; we’re looking forward to assisting them with their co-leads and bringing them on board as active trip leaders! As always, a special “thank you” to our existing leaders who dedicate their time and talent to the Chapter by helping out our new co-leaders.

Our collaboration with the Worcester Chapter continues to strengthen the quality and popularity of the programs we produce. This year we shared Leader Training and a Beginning Backpacking series. There were some attendees at the introductory session, and each backpack trip was filled to capacity with a mix of intro session participants and those interested in learning how to use the gear they already have. We remain very motivated by this success, and plan to offer the series again in spring 2011. As a result of these successful programs, we will continue to combine forces and share the benefits

through 2011. As always, we welcome participants interested in leadership, and leaders looking to refresh their skills or share their talent by teaching their skills to others.

In April 2011 I will be stepping down as Training & Education Chair. I am looking for a replacement who will maintain the relationships and high quality programming I have brought to the Chapter for the past four years. I promise my shoes aren't that big! Even if you are not a leader, if you have the passion and desire to teach others you might find that this job is right for you. I am willing to assist in the transition to help the new T & E Chair along, to learn the ropes and develop their stride.

We are proud of the goals achieved this year and continue to focus on high-quality leadership trainings. Our trip leaders have excellent training and trip participants notice the difference.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Fogarty
Training & Education Committee Chair

Website Committee

It was another quiet year for the Website Committee. Again there have been no major crises to resolve. The only problem is that our web host has discontinued the acceptance of Comcast-hosted email accounts for use as forwarding accounts from our email aliases. This would be tit-for-tat since Comcast has frequently rejected email from our web host.

While there was much discussion of changes to the look of our website, 2010 has seen only minor revisions. Much work was done by the webmaster in laying out the look and "boiler plate" in accordance with the Website Ad-hoc Committee's design for a new website. The content has not been moved, as yet, and so the new site has not gone live.

With the resignation of the Website Content Editor the webmaster took over the job of keeping the news items up to date and modifying webpage content, as required.

It was also requested of the webmaster that he set up a forum to be accessed by the Executive Committee for communication and sharing of reports, etc. The forum is available but no time has been set aside for the demonstration of features or training, but it is expected that this will occur soon.

The Website Committee's total budget for 2010 was set to \$100 but has not been spent. As stated in previous years, license fees for our domain names (amcberkshire.org, amcberkshire.net, and amcberkshire.com) have been

previously paid for multiple years, and since Dreamhost offers free web hosting to certified nonprofit organizations no other expenses were incurred.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Bergstrom
Webmaster & Website Committee Chair**

Past Chairs of the Berkshire Chapter

1929-30	Edward K Allen	1967-68	Charles L Kirkpatrick
1931	Joseph F Partenheimer	1969-70	Norman E Aubrey
1932	Edwin W Gantt	1971-72	Forrest E House
1933	Donald E Temple	1973-74	Margaret Rose
1934	Howard M Buffinton	1975-76	William T Cushwa
1935	Malcolm B Ross	1977-78	Walter L Haynes
1936	Donald McClench	1979-80	John D Shuttleworth
1936-37	John Dickson	1981-82	Kathryn E Burnett
1938	Horace E Allen	1983-84	S Alberta Stutsman
1939	William K Buxton	1985	John Pritchard
1940	Eugene E Durst	1986	Florence Mertz
1941	Maynard O Saunders	1986-87	Edward N Lewis
1942-43	Parke W Farrar	1988-89	Paul Evans
1944-45	Warner B Sturtevant	1990-91	Sue Lewis
1946-47	Carl O Chauncy	1992	Jean Armitage
1948-49	Harold T Daugherty	1993	William Kopel
1950	Heinz J Sherbow	1994-95	Thomas J Leary
1951-52	Ellis H Pritchard	1996-97	Christopher J Ryan
1953-54	Byron Chauncy	1998-99	Kathryn B Leary
1955-56	George W Alderman	2000-01	Thomas Senuta
1957-58	John A Saunders	2002-04	Gary L Forish
1959-60	Sidney F Law	2005-06	Rob Robertson
1961-62	Phyllis M Sears	2007-08	Jon M Hanauer
1963-64	Edith M Libby		
1965-66	Garrison Householder		