

Chapter Chairs Message Come Out And Play!

(Under The Red Felt Crusher)

By Chapter Chair, Sharon Foster

Greetings Appies,

Fall is in the air. It's my favorite season, cooler clearer days and nights, foliage, fresh apples and no bugs. I will be out there enjoying it as much as I can and I hope you will join us as well. We have a full schedule of activities planned for the fall including hiking, cycling and paddling trips. Not sure where to start, join us for new member's orientation on the 3rd Wed of the Month before our Monthly Potluck & Program at the Northboro Historical Society. See the website or Outdoors Magazine for specific details.

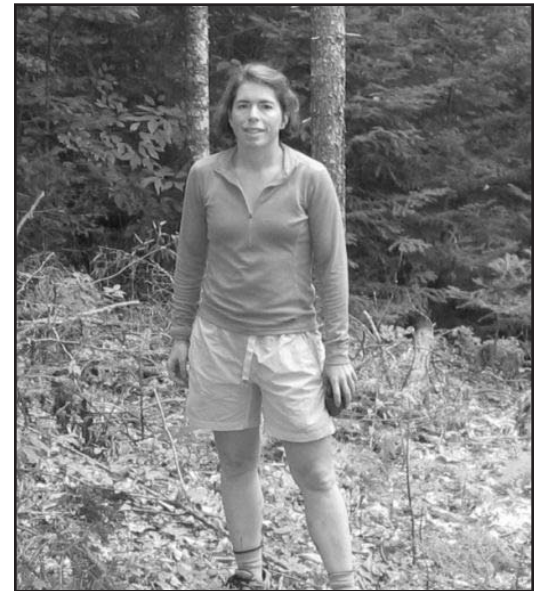
I realize for some people the arrival of fall means winter is also approaching. What better way to pass the winter than to get out and play in the snow! Are you a 3-season hiker who has considered winter hiking but didn't know where to start?

Join us for our winter hiking series. The series starts with a workshop on Nov 6th. During this workshop we will share tips and techniques to help get you started. Workshop will be followed by a series of winter hikes gradually progressing in difficulty as the season progresses. We will have two tracks one for those of you who would just like to do below tree-line snowshoe hikes and another for those interested in climbing 4000 footers in winter.

Fall also means our **Annual Meeting** is coming up. Mark your calendars for Sat. Nov 15th. Come learn what your chapter has been involved with over the past year, meet the volunteers that make it all happen and have a fun night all. We will have dinner, dancing, a short program on the new Maine Woods Shelter (see article later in this issue) and a special guest, Andy Falender, the Executive Director of the AMC.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the nominating committee for identifying candidates for all open positions. Once again in 2009 we will have a full committee.

Annual Meeting also means its time to recognize our volunteers. The Chapter's highest honor is the "**Appie of the Year**". This award is intended to recognize a volunteer who has made a significant contribution



Sharon Foster, Chapter Chair

to the chapter over the past years, someone who contributions to the chapter and/or club have made a difference.

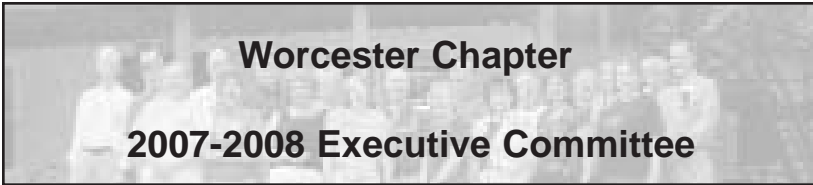
If you know someone who is deserving of this recognition please consider nominating them for Appie of the Year. Please send me a short note or email with your nominee and why they should be Appie of the Year by October 25th. Nominees will be voted on at our Executive Committee Meeting in October with the winner announced at the Annual Meeting.

Finally, you can help the chapter in our efforts to decrease our carbon footprints and save money at the same time by receiving your copy of Wachusett Views electronically. Learn how you can sign up on page 2.

I hope everyone had a great summer. See you out there.

Sharon





**Worcester Chapter
2007-2008 Executive Committee**

Sharon Foster Chapter Chair 978-562-4494
sharon_foster2@yahoo.com

Steve Ciras Vice Chair 508-769-9351
worcamchiking@yahoo.com

Bill Zahavi Treasurer 508-335-8343
b.zahavi@gmail.com

Michele Simoneau Secretary 508-756-3778
michelesimoneau@msn.com

All Committee Members can be found at amcworchester.org

Congratulations! Volunteers of the Month

June - Tim Smith
July - Malcolm Chamberlain
Aug -Steph Kiemeg

If you know of a volunteer leader (who is not on the Executive Committee) that you would like to recognize for there contributions please send an email to Sharon Foster (sharon_foster2@yahoo.com) by the last Monday of the month, winners are selected at our monthly EC Meeting.

Receive Wachusett Views Electronically

There are many reasons to read Wachusett Views online:



1. Read it sooner, as soon as the new version is available online you will receive an email notifying you that Wachusett Views has been posted and directing you to the site. In order, to keep mailing rates affordable we must use bulk rate mail. It can take weeks or longer for the post office to deliver.
2. Its environmental friendly, if you switch from snail mail to electronic delivery and view ing, you will save trees and the energy needed to convert them into paper.
3. Costs, printing and mailing costs for the newsletter are by far the chapter's largest expense, by using electronic distribution we will be able to put our resources to other better uses.

How do I sign-up?

Go to www.outdoors.org/membercenter and update your email address with the AMC. You can choose either email notification or paper copy.

What if I do nothing?

If you choose not to register online you will continue to receive your mailed copy of Wachusett Views, but why not at least give it a try online. You can change your preference at any time.

THE HIKING CORNER

Explore Your Inner Winter Hiker

Pat Lambert, Hiking Chair

Ever wondered what it is like to view the winter wonderland from a mountain top but don't know where to start?

Then this workshop is for you!

Despite the stories you've heard or read about hikers getting caught in hazardous conditions and spending a night on the trail unexpectedly, you can hike safely in winter. We'll review hike preparation, proper gear, hydration, nutrition, making good decisions and more.

This workshop will be followed by a graduated series of hikes from December to March. Priority for participation in this series will be given to workshop participants.

Date: November 6, 2008

Time: 7:00 – 8:45 PM

Location: Westborough Public Library, 55 West Main St., Westborough, MA

Register with Pat Lambert,
plambert119@yahoo.com, 508-366-6164
(Before 9 PM)

AMC Worcester Chapter

2008 Annual Meeting, Dinner & Social

Saturday, November 15, 2008



Please join the Worcester Chapter for our annual meeting and social. Meet your Chapter's Leadership Team, learn what we have been up to and socialize with friends, old and new.

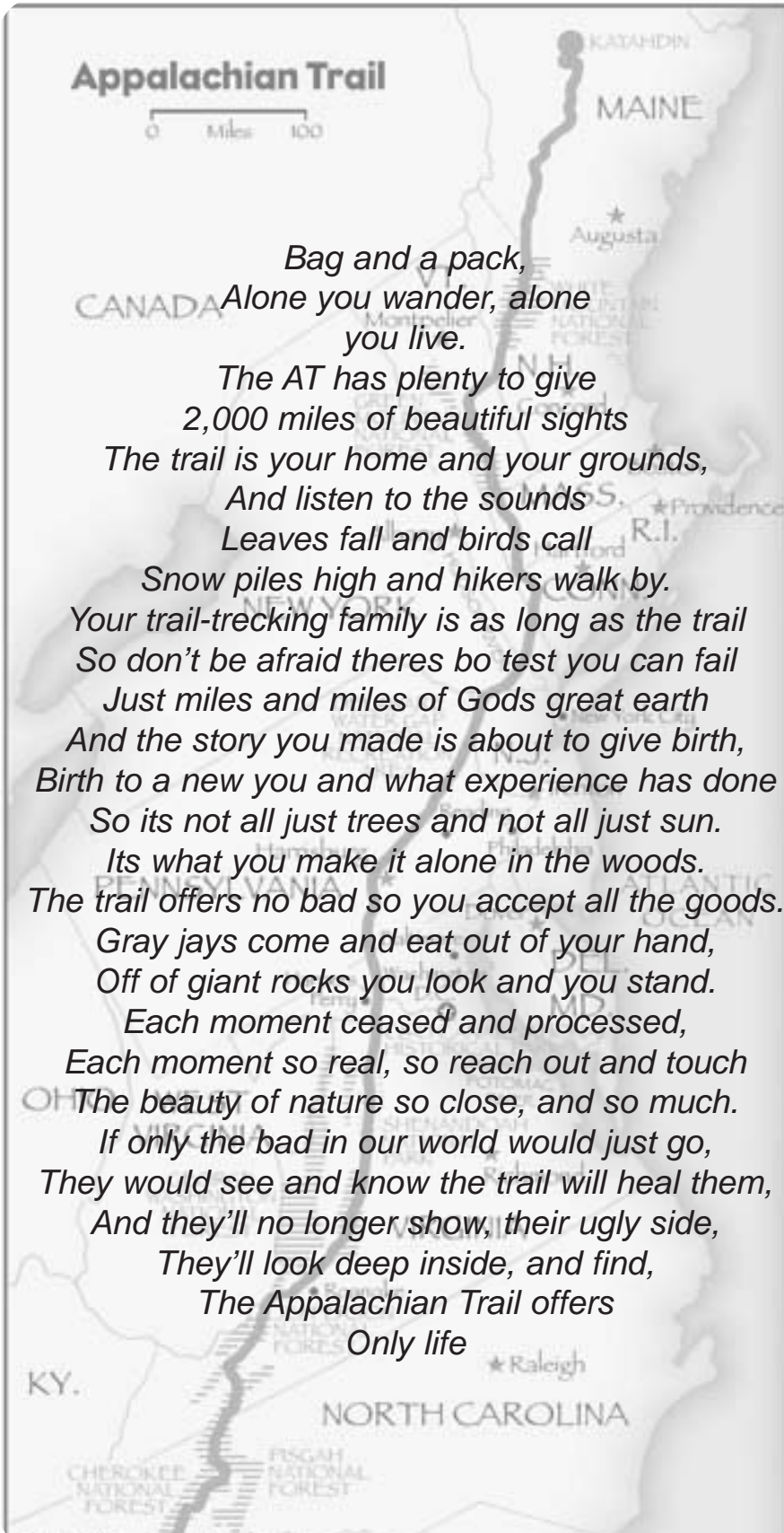
Dinner and Annual Meeting followed by dancing to The Insiders. Register online at www.amcworchester.org

Healing Trail

UPCOMING EVENTS

By: Russell Condon

Russell Condon is from Ayer Middle School.
He is participating in a mountain classroom



*Bag and a pack,
Alone you wander, alone
you live.
The AT has plenty to give
2,000 miles of beautiful sights
The trail is your home and your grounds,
And listen to the sounds
Leaves fall and birds call
Snow piles high and hikers walk by.
Your trail-trekking family is as long as the trail
So don't be afraid theres bo test you can fail
Just miles and miles of Gods great earth
And the story you made is about to give birth,
Birth to a new you and what experience has done
So its not all just trees and not all just sun.
Its what you make it alone in the woods.
The trail offers no bad so you accept all the goods.
Gray jays come and eat out of your hand,
Off of giant rocks you look and you stand.
Each moment ceased and processed,
Each moment so real, so reach out and touch
The beauty of nature so close, and so much.
If only the bad in our world would just go,
They would see and know the trail will heal them,
And they'll no longer show, their ugly side,
They'll look deep inside, and find,
The Appalachian Trail offers
Only life*

Reconstruction work continues on the Pine Hill Trail

Date: 11/01/2008 - 11/02/2008

Reconstruction work continues on Pine Hill Trail at Wachusett Mountain. Join in setting rock steps, structures for drainage and waterbars, setting scree walls for trail definition. Join experienced leaders to learn the fundamentals of safely moving rock, trail stabilization and treadway protection. Learn the mechanical advantage of moving rocks with a grip hoist and highline system. Tools and training available, bring lunch, water, and work gloves. Meet at Wachusett Mountain. Visitors Center, 8:30 to 4:00.

Leader: Steve Crowe 508-450-1091; sunshineturf@110.net

Thanksgiving Celebration in the Whites

Date: 11/28/2008 - 11/30/2008

Annual Thanksgiving Weekend Hut Trip @ Zealand Falls Hut (NH)! Join us for a weekend of hiking & great food. Meet Fri. AM and hike into Zealand Hut, opt. afternoon hike to Thoreau Falls. Sat. Hike to Mt Zealand. Incl. 2 nights lodging (self-service), 2 breakfasts, [Fri] Spanish omelet & [Sat] turkey dinner. Cost \$89 members; \$98 non-members. Please reserve by Oct 27th, payment in full req. to reserve spot. Ltd. to 12.

Leader: Gary Fitzgerald 617-504-2436

Co-Leader: Steve Ciras 508-769-9351

Trip Difficulty: Intermediate

From The Ashes of the Worcester Chapter Lodge

By Steve Ciras

Photo's by Steve Ciras and John Grote

In the early part of the 1900's, the Worcester Chapter of the AMC opened a new lodge. For decades, this lodge provided a meeting place and activity center for the Worcester Chapter members until it was destroyed in 1993 by an arsonist. For the next several years, a core group of members poured their hearts and souls fighting legal battles in an attempt to provide for the reconstruction of The Lodge. It was finally decided that it was not feasible to rebuild the shelter.

The property was sold and with the help of "Joy Street" an endowment was created to be used to support the AMC mission as specifically earmarked by the Worcester Chapter. Over the past several years, these funds have been used to provide education to our members, provide mountain classrooms to children who would not otherwise have the opportunity, provided aide to Boy Scouts in the attainment of Eagle Scout, provided funding for several conservation and cleanup efforts and many other initiatives to spread our mission throughout New England.

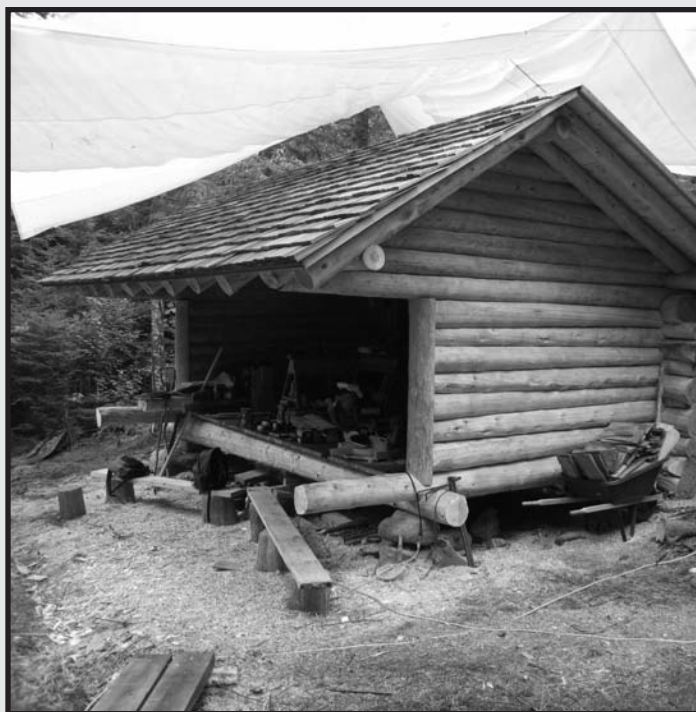
The Maine woods are one of the last undeveloped private areas of the United States. At the turn of the 21st century, lumber companies sold thousands of acres of the woods to private investors who planned to use the land for private development. The land which was expected to remain pristine was threatened with urban sprawl destroying thousands of natural trout lakes and ponds, pushing out moose and other wildlife and threatening recreational areas including the last 100 miles of the Appalachian Trail known as "The 100 Mile Wilderness".

This land is likened to the White Mountains over 100 years ago. Recognizing the immediate need for action, the AMC purchased over 37,000 acres of land known as the Katahdin Iron Works property, now permanently protected as part of the Maine Woods Initiative. Along with this purchase, the AMC acquired Little Lyford Ponds Camps, Chairback Camps and Medawisla

Wilderness Camps, former hunting and fishing camps that have undergone various upgrades and are available as AMC Destinations.

In the middle of this wilderness is a small pond named Trout Pond which is a short distance from the Appalachian Mountain Trail and is part of the trail system being developed by the AMC. The AMC and the Maine Chapter of the AMC was looking for help in constructing a hiker's shelter on the shores of this pond. The Worcester Chapter was approached for help and seeing the opportunity to participate in this preservation, donated \$10,000 of endowment funds. With a 100% match from the Kresge Foundation the funds provided for not one, but two shelters the first of which was to be built along Trout Pond.

Early this summer construction commenced. Not wanting to be left out of the fun, a group of Worcester Chapter members including Deb Herlihy, John Grote, Gary Fitzgerald and myself made the eight hour journey to meet up with members of the Maine Chapter to begin construction of the shelter. Included in the group from Maine were Gerry Barnical and Ronald Staschak, former Worcester Chapter Members who took great interest in the construction. The shelter is being constructed under the supervision of Ken King of Mountain Meadows



The Shelter

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BOOTS IN THE WATER CLEANUP

By: Claude Guerlain

On September 13, 2008, Worcester Chapter's conservation committee met several of its goals by teaming with Organization for the Assabet River (OAR) for their 22nd annual river cleanup. The conservation committee attempts to make connections with existing groups to bring our volunteers and expertise, thereby building strength with numbers. We find our time is better spent assisting those who already have "boots in the water," so to speak.

The headwaters of the Assabet River lie within our chapter's boundaries in the town of Westborough, and flow 31 miles through eight communities, including Northborough, Berlin, Marlborough and Hudson. The Assabet joins the Sudbury River to form the Concord River 31 miles downstream. Nathaniel Hawthorne said of the Assabet: "A more lovely stream than this has never flowed on earth, except to lave the interior regions of a poet's imagination." OAR, founded in 1986 to revive and protect the river, helped get four miles designated under the federal wild and Scenic Rivers program.

After a week of cold damp, Saturday dawned gently with a warm breeze and only a touch of autumn in the late summer sun. Each town's OAR organizer, led by Julia Khorana and Amanda Davies, selected the target cleanup sites. This year they decided to concentrate efforts and have Westborough team up with Northborough, and Hudson with Marlborough,. Thirty volunteers congregated in Northborough, including 16 members of Westborough High School's National Honor Society members who were donating community service hours. Everyone picked up a map, trash bags, OAR t-shirts, AMC Volunteer vests, gloves and a "Clean up Your Assabet" water bottle.

Teams of four fanned out to 8 different starting points on the Assabet or its feeder tributaries. In past years, Khorana explained, low water levels in September made river cleanups easier. Her concern this year was that higher river levels fed by July's rains might hamper efforts. Although the river was running four inches above average and faster than normal, each team found a way to be successful. Some scoured the banks, others walked downstream in waders. Kayaks were the preferred method to get to hard-to-reach spots. One gentleman reported that where the river was narrow, he got a good workout just trying to stay in place to clean litter washed into a strainer formed by low-hanging branches.

Two hours later we reported back to Northborough leader Maggie Kovsky. At least 20 construction-strength large bags of soggy litter were collected. Over donated pizzas and sodas, satisfied volunteers related their most unusual finds of the day – floor tiles, a bag of disposable diapers, a toilet and several beach balls. Someone even literally threw a kitchen sink into the Assabet!

During the past two years, Worcester Chapter has also teamed up for conservation efforts with the Regional Environmental Council, the Greater Worcester Land Trust, the Northborough Trails Committee, Breakneck Hill Conservation and Massachusetts Wildlife.



Worcester Chapter volunteers Claude Guerlain and Scott, Michael and John Karpuk participate in the 22nd annual OAR river cleanup



Worcester Chapter
Appalachian Mountain Club
5 Joy Street
Boston, MA 02108

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Joint Leadership Training w/Berkshire Chapter

Date: 10/25/2008 - 10/26/2008

Whether you'd like to become a Chapter leader, or just want to improve your outdoor skills, you're invited to attend. Training emphasizes group dynamics, leaders' responsibilities, trip planning/management, weather emergencies, incident/accident scene management, leader awareness, and decision-making. \$25 fee covers day training, and materials. Overnight lodging available for \$18/night. Advance payment requested. Existing leaders attend at no charge.

Activity Category: Leadership Training, Instruction (Skills)

Location: Noble View Camp

Region: Massachusetts, Berkshires

State: MA

Country: USA

Leader: Debora Herlihy 508-380-1193 (before 8PM)

3rd Wednesday EVERY MONTH

Social Potlucks

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Status: Open. Wednesday Social & New Member Orientation. 7 PM. Northboro Historical Society, 50 Main st., Rt.20. Bring dish to share. New members/visitors welcome. Registration for new member orientation(6:30).With Jean McInerney at 508-753-2639 or jemcinerney@verizon.net No registration required. Leader: Fred Mezynski, fmezynski@yahoo.com, 508 853-6098; Co-leader: John Nieman, jhnatlc@verizon.net, 508-835-3352

Want to Share the Drive?

If you are looking to carpool to your AMC trip (either as a passenger or driver),

please use AMC's Rideshare Board.

<http://appalachia.outdoors.org/bbs/categories.cfm>

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