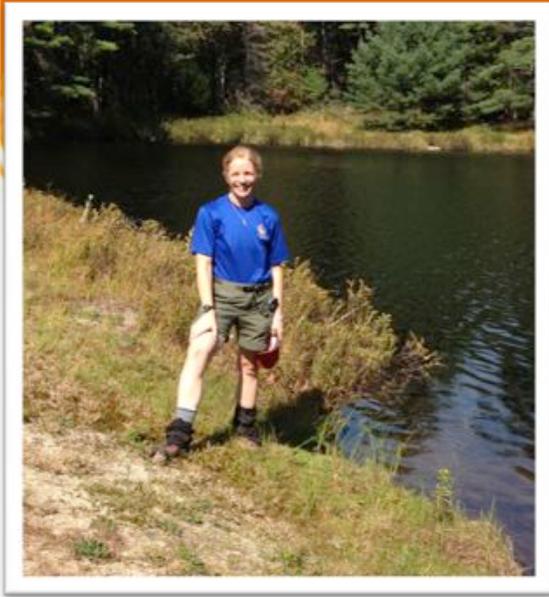


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The Wachusett Views

News from the Worcester Appalachian Mountain Club



From the Chapter Chair: Pat Lambert
Autumn: A Season of Beginnings

Autumn has arrived with warm, rather than hot days, and cool nights. Perfect weather for recreating and sleeping! Harvest time for the garden: watermelons, potatoes, loads of tomatoes (making a big batch of tomato sauce is on my "to do" list for today). Snow peas and salad greens are still producing and we'll even have some pumpkins for Halloween!

I was honored to be able to once again participate in the "Flags on the 48" event. With thanks to our Past Chair, Steve Ciras, our Chapter raised the flag on East Osceola on Sept. 8 to honor the memories of those who died in the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. The hardships we face and the sacrifices we make on a daily basis pale in comparison to those who perished not knowing why and to those who love them and have continued their lives without them. This annual remembrance gives me pause and helps me to keep things in perspective.

As I look forward to the upcoming season of activity, I'm excited to be out on the trails on a regular basis, helping with the Pine Hill Trail Reconstruction project on Nov. 3-4, and seeing our members who want to try winter hiking for the first time at our workshops on Nov. 7 & 14.

"Under the Red Felt Crusher"

Pat hiking the
Wapack Trail
on the
First Day of
Autumn

Congratulations of our Vice Chair, Charlie Arsenault, for completing his 48 4000'ers today. Way to go Charlie!

Save the date for our annual meeting on November 10th at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Westborough. Details will be posted to the Web and sent in the mail to our Chapter members.

If you want to know what our Chapter leaders have in store for you this autumn, check out our upcoming Chapter trips at <http://amcworchester.org/> and click All Upcoming Events.

As always, be safe, have fun, and get out on the dance floor!



Pictures Courtesy of Nancy Cahn



AMC WORCESTER FAMILIES VACATION AT THREE MILE ISLAND

By Karen Clark-Hoey

This August, our AMC Worcester Families Group took 4 families to spend a 4 day midweek on Three Mile Island (TMI) in beautiful Lake Winnepesaukee, NH. It was Week 8 of the camp's summer season and our group enjoyed all of the amenities of the island's full service season, including private docks at our cabins and delivery of our bags and packs to our docks. We stepped back in time to enjoy lazy summer days swimming, lounging, diving from the floating platform, exploring adjacent islands and making use of the island's fleet of boats including sailboats and kayaks. Reveille calls for meals at the main lodge, served family style, were memorable not only for the delicious locally grown fare but also for the great conversations with other campers, most whom have been coming for Week 8 to TMI for generations and some from as far away as London, England!

The evenings are particularly special on Three Mile Island. Steeped in 100+ years of camper tradition were the talent shows, music jams, and waterfront storytelling by island old-timers that captivated us until well after sunset when we each made our lighted way to our cabins.

Staying at the northernmost tip of the island, two of our families boated back each night by the light of the moon passing the bonfires that dotted the shoreline and enjoying the campfire songs that filled the cool night air as we rowed on by.

This trip marks a first in two ways. It was the first Worcester Families trip during the full service summer season to TMI and the first time that TMI has granted permission for a chapter group's midweek stay. We thank them for accommodating us and for their tremendous island hospitality and helping to orient our families to the island.



AMC Adventure Travel - Yellowstone National Park

By BARBARA DYER

In August, 16 participants from the AMC set out to explore the front and backcountry of Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming. I was proud to be one of the new Adventure Travel leaders guiding the group to an area where I once worked within the world's first and most famous national park. My summer of fun after graduating college turned into a dream to be able to be submerged in such wilderness where thousands of bison roam free, grizzly is a common fear, and hundreds of unique thermal features are visible throughout the park. Waterfalls and wildflowers decorate the wilderness, where the scarring of the burned areas of the park will remain visible for many years to come.

Our journey began in the quaint and lively western town of Bozeman Montana. Where most tourists only spend a few days visiting the park, we spent an entire week within the park boundaries. We enjoyed the must see geysers, but also day hiking in the backcountry where fewer than 5% of the visitors explore. Some places we hiked to were beautiful mystic and fairy falls, Riddle Lake-a bear managed area often closed, remote Pebble Creek also with grizzly encounters, Elephant Back mountain

overlooking glistening Yellowstone Lake, and popular Mt. Washburn at 10,243 ft. Our lodging consisted of cute cabins located in several popular areas of the park at Old Faithful, Lake, and Roosevelt where we ate primarily in the cafeterias. Along our journey we saw all types of birds, elk, moose, bear, wolves, bison, and so much more. The wildlife is abundant and caution is a must!

As a new Adventure Travel leader, I was mentored with a popular leader, Roger Scholl. We both have spent a lot of time in the park and it was such a great experience to be able to share our journeys with the members. If you are interested in becoming an Adventure Travel leader, the annual AMC training is coming up in November. Share your experiences and adventures with the members and become a volunteer leader. You may look in the magazine or online and see all the great trips listed dreaming about going on one, so make this your year to travel!





PINE HILL TRAIL RECONSTRUCTION

By **STEVE CROWE**

Reconstruction work continues on the Pine Hill Trail at Wachusett Mountain. Join the trail workers for reconstruction and trail hardening work which consists of setting rock steps, building rock structures for drainage and waterbars, and setting scree walls for trail definition.

Depending on the day, the trail workers will be splitting rock, quarrying rock with high line systems, or building the trail treadway itself. Come join these experienced leaders and learn the fundamentals of safely moving rocks, trail

stabilization, and treadway protection. Learn also the mechanical advantage of moving rocks with a grip hoist and highline system. This is a tremendous opportunity to be involved in a local project that will impact our trails for decades. Tools and training are available.

Register with Steve Crowe: 508-450-1091 or steve@SunshineLandscapingCo.com

Dates for 2012 this year include:

September	29 and 30	Sat and Sun
November	3 and 4	Sat and Sun



Please also consider helping out these groups with their trail reconstruction and management projects.

- The Mid-State Trail Committee
- The Trustees of Reservations - Bay Circuit Trail
- The Blackstone Canal Conservancy
- The North Quabbin Trails Association

If interested, please Contact Steve Crowe at 508-450-1091 or steve@SunshineLandscapingCo.com

Photos: George Fardy

What is Northern Pass?

By Julie T Higgins- Conservation Chair

Many of us spend much of our free time recreating in New Hampshire. Like me I am sure you have driven by signs that say “Stop Northern Pass”, “Live Free or Fry”, or “Stop the Towers”. After seeing such signs I did some further research and found out what Northern Pass was, why people were opposed to it and what AMC position was on the Pass. I am writing to share what I have found and also provide links so you can further research this controversial conservation topic and make your own decision.

Northern Pass is a proposed high voltage power line 180 miles long and with proposed towers of 90-135 feet. The project is sponsored by Hydro-Quebec, which is a Canadian

government for-profit company. The pass will be bringing Canadian Power into the US market at lower costs than current domestic options.

The power line will travel through over 31 different NH communities, which 28 of the communities have already publically opposed the project. The power line would not only go through towns but also through the Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge, the White Mountain National Forest, and across the Appalachian Trail. Many of the towns benefit from the WMNF and the AT through tourism and these towers would disturb or destroy the views as well as the damage or destroy the protected areas which people have worked hard to protect.

The AMC has officially opposed the project. On March 16, 2011 AMC published an article stating why they oppose the project it was written by Director of Research Kenneth Kimball. In the article Mr. Kimball questions the science behind the project, how clean the energy would really be and the permitting process. In addition, he questions the completeness of the Hydro Quebec permitting application. Many will benefit through lower energy costs but with all projects of

this nature there are trade-offs. The AMC has filed against the project with the department of energy. AMC has also filed a motion to intervene in the permitting process.

I hope you all will further research and make a decision for yourself about the Northern Pass. Below are some links to help you decide.

<http://www.outdoors.org/about/newsroom/press/2011/amc-northern-pass-testimony.cfm>

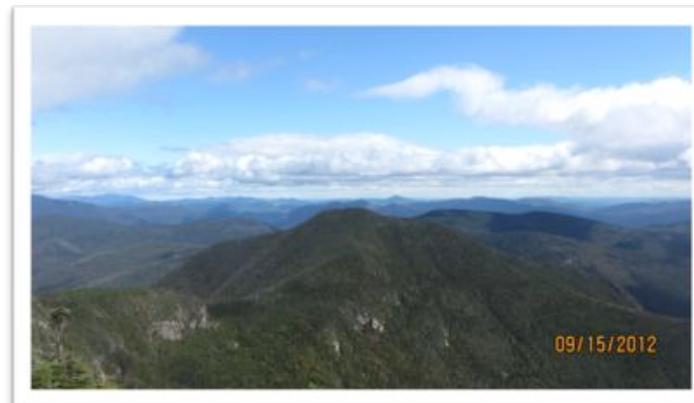
<http://www.livefreeorfry.org/>



Worcester Chapter would like to thank the following individuals who have been nominated to serve on the Executive Committee of our Chapter.

2012-2013 Executive Committee

Chapter Chair	Pat Lambert
Vice-Chair	Charlie Arsenault
Treasurer	Bill Zahavi
Secretary	Debi Garlick
Past Chair	Steve Ciras
Bicycling	Colleen McLaughlin
Chapter Youth Program	Barbara Dyer
Communications	Nancy Cahn
Conservation	Julie Higgins
Education	Christine Fogarty
Endowment	Paul Saulnier
Families	Karen Clark-Hoey
Hiking	Dana Perry
Historian	Michele Simoneau
Leadership	Deb Herlihy
Membership	Sharon Whalen
MidState Trail	Ed Faron
Paddling	Dave Cole
Skiing	John Gau
Social	Margaret Paynich
Technical Climbing	John Grote
Third Wednesday	Fred Mezynski/ John Neiman
Trails	Steve Crowe



View of East Peak Mount Osceola
Taken From Mt Osceola

If you have any questions regarding how to service on the Executive Committee, contact Steve Ciras at worcamchiking@yahoo.com

Editor, Nancy Cahn. All newsletter submissions should be sent to njcahn@charter.net. We reserve the right to edit for length and content. All contributions are welcome. Winter deadline December 15th.