AMC President Andy Falender to Retire

AMC President Andy Falender will retire in January 2012 after nearly 23 years as first executive director and more recently president of the Appalachian Mountain Club. The search for a new AMC President is well under way and on track for having a new President in place around the start of the new year. For details on the search for a new President, see www.outdoors.org/presidentsearch.

AMC invites you to celebrate the achievements of President Andy Falender at our Annual Meeting, Saturday evening, January 28, 2012 at the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston. To register for this event, visit www.outdoors.org/FarewellAndy.

August Camp 2012, Whistler, B.C.

By Sharon Bonk

Registration for the 2012 August Camp opens January 1, 2012, and continues until all places (64/week) are filled. AMC’s venerable August Camp will be celebrating its 125th anniversary in Whistler, British Columbia, home of the 2010 Winter Olympics. For the past seven years, August Camp venues have been in the western US and Canada.

Last year we were in Beaverfoot Valley between Golden and Field B.C., west of Yolo National Park and east of Glacier National Park, site of the accompanying photo.

I have been privileged to attend camps focused on Mt. Rainier NP, Northern Cascades NP, Yellowstone NP, and Yolo NP in British Columbia. Because of the size of the August Camp operations, August Camp is always located near but not in a national park. Please see August Camp 2012 to continue.

2012 Chapter Officers

As a result of elections held at the chapter Annual Meeting on November 17th, Stacey Michon continues as Chapter Chair; Arthur Fontijn as Vice Chair; and Sharon Bonk as Treasurer. Cliff Prewencik is our new Secretary, taking over from Kathleen Helfrich who held the post so ably during the last term. Thank you all for your service to this club!

New Year’s Day Hike & Potluck

Sunday, January 1, 2012, is the chapter’s annual New Year’s Day Hike, Potluck Luncheon, and Chapter Meeting. We will meet at 10 AM at the home of Dee and Frank Wind, 1400 Sunset Rd, Castleton, N.Y. (close to I-90 Exit 10) to drop off food and caravan over to Schodack Town Park for some hiking or – think snow! – skiing/snowshoeing. The luncheon will start at 1PM, followed by a short business meeting to kick off the year. For indoor activities only, come around 12:30 to help set out the food. To RSVP and for details and directions, call the Winds at (518) 758-1781 or email them at We_tell@verizon.net.

Trails To Enjoy, But Also To Monitor

By John Tifft

This is the first in a series of articles designed to inform Mohawk-Hudson AMC members about local trails and areas that our chapter has committed to monitor and maintain in concert with other organizations.

The first trail that I will report on is the Long Path, sections of which pass through Thacher Park. One is immediately struck by the fact that based on the sections’ location within Thacher Park, a number of different organizations are committed to their maintenance, including The Friends of Thacher and Thompson’s Lake State Parks; the Albany Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club; the Mohawk-Hudson AMC; and the Thacher Park staff.

The Long Path (as opposed to the Long Trail of Vermont) now runs from the George Washington Bridge, through part of the Shawangunk Mountains, through the Catskills and currently ends in the village of Altamont, New York. The Long Path was conceived originally by Vincent J. Shafer in the early 1930’s and received much public support in 1933. Please see Trails To Enjoy to continue.
Mohawk Hudson Chapter Outings
Jan — Feb — Mar 2012

All activities require advance registration: Please contact the Leader for information about hike difficulty, meeting time and place, carpooling, and hike updates due to weather or trail conditions.

Check out our chapter web site at www.amcmohawkhudson.org for detailed descriptions and updates of outings. There, you can join our Yahoo group for e-mail updates on outings, and like us on Facebook.

January 2012

Sun 1/1 – New Year’s Day Potluck and Snowshoe See New Year’s Day Hike & Potluck article for a description. To RSVP, and get details and directions, please call Frank or Dee Wind at (518) 758-1781 or email them at We_tell@verizon.net.

Fri-Sun 1/6 to 1/8 – Vermont Weekend (Cross-Country Skiing & Snowshoeing) Sold out weekend trip to Weston, Vermont for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the Green Mountain National Forest. Leader: Randy MacDonald (518) 766-7675 (before 9 PM); randy04415@yahoo.com

Sun 2/18 – Windham High Peak, Catskills (Snowshoeing, B-3-B) 7 miles 1800’ ascent, 3524’ elevation. Snowshoes and crampons required. Moderately-paced trail hike. Bad weather (or driving conditions) cancels. Contact Leader Ken Hubert to register for time and meeting place. (718) 463-5675 (after 3 PM); hikeleader3500@yahoo.com

Sat 1/14 – Dyken Pond, Rensselaer County (Snowshoeing, C-3-C) Dyken Pond Environmental Education Center, at height of the Rensselaer Plateau, has 6+ miles of trails to explore. No warming hut so be prepared with hot chocolate and a lunch. Come to leader’s house afterward for hot chocolate. Leader: Sharon Bonk (518) 674-0042; sboqc@ mindspring.com

Sat 1/14 – Pine Cobble & East Mts., No. Berkshires (Snowshoeing, C-3-B) Snowshoe or hike, depending on conditions, over two small mountains near Williamstown, MA. Great views of nearby Mt. Greylock. 4.2 miles, elevation gain 1,340 ft. Leader: Julian Hadley (518) 753-4898; julianhdfl@gmail.com

Mon 1/16 (MLK Holiday) – Moreau State Park (Snowshoeing, C-3-C) We snowshoe around the lake, a 3-mile distance with minimal elevation gain. We follow nature trails. Leader: Gerry Weber (518) 758-7189; gww@fairpoint.net

Mon 1/16 (MLK Holiday) – Notchview Reservation, Windsor, MA (Cross-Country Skiing (Nordic), B-3-C) This Trustees of Reservations property, part of the Hoosac Range, is at an elevation of 2000’, so there should be snow on the 30km of groomed intermediate and novice trails. $12 fee for non-members; warming lodge with space for gear storage. Snowshoeing alongside ski trails. Insufficient snow will cause leader to consider another skiing location, possibly Prospect Mt. Leader: Sharon Bonk (518) 674-0042; sboqc@ mindspring.com

Wed 1/18 – Schenectady County Forest (Cross-Country Skiing (Nordic), C-3-C) Join us for an easy cross-country ski at the Schenectady County Forest. It is one of the highest spots in Schenectady County, about 1300 feet. This is a commercial ski area, so the trails are groomed and there is no admission fee. There is a big loop around a pond, and some side trails. The trails are well marked, and probably already tracked by some other people. Please let us know you are coming. Bring snack, water, and small pad or bag to sit on eat if you wish. Those interested can come to our nearby house afterwards for hot soup. Leader: Will Crowther and Co-Leader: Nancy Crowther (518) 688-0531; nancy@crowther.org

Wed 1/18 – Mt Greylock, Berkshires, MA (Snowshoeing, B-3-B) We take the Cheshire Harbor trail up to the summit of Mt Greylock. It is a seven mile round trip with an ascent of 1930 feet. There is a shelter on top where we can eat our lunch. Hoping for good weather and lots of snow. Leader: Gerry Weber (518) 753-7189; gww@fairpoint.net

Sat 1/21 – Thacher Park South, Helderbergs (Snowshoeing, B-3-B) We’ll snowshoe through this section of Thacher Park and sample some of the trails there, including part of the Long Path. There are a few short steep sections, as well as some gradual uphill areas. We’ll meet at 8:30 AM at Elm Ave. Park and Ride or if you wish, at 9A at the Paint Mine Picnic Area. The hike should last about 3 to 4 hours; bring a lunch if you like. If there’s enough interest, we may have a midwinter hot dog or hamburger cookout after the hike at the Paint Mine Picnic Area. Leader: John Tiff fjtiff2@nyicap rr.com; (518) 439-5686.

Save paper and ink!
- Print only pages 2 and 3 that contain the dates of interest and upcoming outings
- Under Print Properties, try print quality of “Draft”
February 2012
Fri 2/3 – Moonlight Ski/Snowshoe, Poestenkill, NY (Cross-Country (Nordic) Skiing & Snowshoeing, C-3-C) It will be nearly a full moon, and with Pineridge’s lighting and bonfire on the trail, it will be possible to do approximately 3-4 miles of easy skiing before returning to the hut for snacks and drinks. $14 use fee. Equipment rental is available. Bring snacks and beverages to share. Reservations required by January 30. Co-Leaders: Stacey Michon, smichon125@gmail.com; and Sharon Bonk, sbogc@ mindspring.com
Sat 2/4 – Blackhead, Catskills (Hiking, B-3-A) From Big Hollow Road we’ll journey 3 miles ascending 1700 ft to the summit of Blackhead. Depending on winter conditions and the group, we may include Blackdome and some other treasures along the way. Blackhead peak is a required winter hike for those working on their Catskill 3500. Register with Leader David Koehler d2 david121@gmail.com (preferred) or (917) 613-2043.
Sun 2/5 – Windham High Peak, Catskills (Snowshoeing, B-3-B) Distance: 7 mi. Elev: 3524′ Moderately-paced hike. Registration period is Feb. 5 – 11; please contact Leader: Bob Ricketson (518) 943-5223; bobrick@mhcable.com
Sun 2/19 – Southwest Hunter & Hunter, Catskills (Snowshoeing, A-3-B) 9 miles with 2225′ ascent 3740′ and 4040′ respective elevations. Bad weather or driving conditions cancel. Snowshoes and/or crampons required. Moderately paced bushwhack and trail hike. Contact Leader Ken Hubert to register, and for time and meeting place. (718) 463-5675, (518) 827-7327 (weekends); hikeleader3500@yahoo.com

March 2012
Sat 3/10 – Thacher Park North, Helderbergs (Hiking, B-3-B) We’ll hike through this section of Thacher Park and sample the Long Path and the Fred Schroeder Memorial Trail. There are a few short steep sections as well as a few gradual upsills. We’ll meet at 8:30 AM at the Elm Ave. Park & Ride in Delmar. The hike should last about 3 to 4 hours, with a break at a site with a view from the escarpment. Bring lunch if you wish. Leader: John Tiff. jtiff2@nycap.rr.com; (518) 439-5686
Sun 3/11 – Cornell & Wittenberg, Catskills (Hiking B-3-B) Moderately-paced trail hike. Snowshoes/crampons required. Bad weather/driving conditions cancel. 7 miles RT with 2850′ ascent 3860′ and 3780′ elevations. Contact Leader Ken Hubert to register, and for time and meeting place. hikeleader3500@yahoo.com; (718) 463-5675 after 3:00 PM; (518) 827-7327 weekends.
Sun 3/11 – Graham & Balsam Lake, Catskills (Hiking, B-3-B) Distance: 8 mi. Ascent: 2040′ Elev: 3723′, 3868’ Moderately-paced hike and bushwhack. Registration Period: Mar. 4 - 10. Please contact Leader: Bob Ricketson; bobrick@mhcable.com; (518) 943-5223
Sat 3/17 – Snowy Mtn., Adirondacks (B-3-B) Let’s hike up a mountain that is just 101 feet short of being 4000 feet. The distance is 7.8 miles and the ascents is 2106 feet. At the summit, there is a fire tower. Afterwards, we can go to Stewart's to get free ice cream. Remember to wear green! Contact Leader Kevin Cox at (518) 279-4839; mmdoug1@nycap.rr.com.
Welcome New Members

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<tr>
<th>Mr. Averill</th>
<th>Carl Ashby</th>
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<tr>
<td>William Boulette</td>
<td>Donna Bourgault</td>
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<td>Jason Burlingane</td>
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<td>Kristina Cappucciti</td>
<td>Ms. Carlson</td>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Cedar</td>
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<td>Jeffery Chase</td>
<td>Mr &amp; Mrs D’Allaird</td>
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<td>Huge Dunseath</td>
<td>Thomas Ebert</td>
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<td>Dennis Graham</td>
<td>Dawn Hamilton</td>
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<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Hayashi</td>
<td>Ms. Johnson</td>
<td>Karen Kaczmar</td>
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<td>Paul Krebs</td>
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<td>Karen Monk</td>
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<td>Ms. Oxenberg</td>
<td>Gregory Pattison</td>
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<td>Jane Pack</td>
<td>Mathew Phillips</td>
<td>Mr. Piasecki</td>
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<td>Heath Piester</td>
<td>John Reyes</td>
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<td>Mr. Schumer</td>
<td>Marcy Steinberg</td>
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<td>Cheryl Winter</td>
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Autumn Leadership Workshop

Seven future AMC hike leaders received a day of training on Saturday, November 19, 2011, given by Wally Herrod, who has been leading hikes for over 40 years. Topics included accident scene management, trip selection and publicity, role of the leader, liability, equipment selection, and decision-making. Participants learned that the three goals of any trip are fun, safety and reaching or accomplishing an objective.

Three people were representing the Berkshire Knapsackers, while the other four were members of our chapter. The training was conducted in the comfort of Art Fontijn’s living room. Art elected to stay with us through the day as well, and was the perfect host.

To earn a fleece Hike Leader jacket, the Mohawk Hudson leaders need to advertise and co-lead two chapter trips, turn in their trip waiver forms, and provide a trip report to the website.

Attendees were: Michelle Filiault, Sue Snyder, Maureen Daley, Erin Woodsome, Martha Waldman, Cliff Prewencki, and Jeff Carden.

November 2011 – Landis Arboretum Walk

A Word From Our Chapter Chair

I’d like to thank the entire executive committee for the excellent job they have done this year. Their hard work has kept our chapter running smoothly. This has been a year of change for us, the biggest one being the transition of this newsletter from print to electronic format. Many thanks to our wonderful newsletter editor, Chris Simson, who took over and spearheaded a smooth transition with fantastic results. Our new electronic format allows us to provide our members with more content. Look for more features and articles in future issues. Remember that you need to sign up with the member center to receive notification when new issues come out. Instructions can be found on our web site.

Also, thanks to our Conservation Chair Mary Folsom, for organizing programs on Leave No Trace, Climate Change, and Hydrofracking. These are important issues that our organization has a responsibility to help educate our community about. Look for more conservation programs in 2012, including a screening of the film Carbon Nation this spring (see below). Our Trails Chair John Tifft works on coordinating maintenance and oversight for our sections of the Long Path, as well as for several local preserves. Trail maintenance is a continuous struggle, and I encourage everyone who uses our local trails and preserves to give back by signing up for one of John’s outings. Mary and John will be key in our efforts this year to support AMCs Vision 2020 local conservation initiative.

I also want to remind you about our annual New Year’s Day snowshoe and potluck. The potluck will be held at the home of chapter members Frank and Dee Wind, a big thanks to them for their hospitality. This is always a fun event and a chance to catch up with friends and enjoy some great food. Finally, winter is here and it’s time to get out and enjoy it. We have a lot of fun trips coming up, including a moonlight ski trip and hikes at all levels. Check our web site for the latest details.

See you out on the trails!

Stacey Michon

AMC Presents Film: Carbon Nation

Mark your calendars to attend an AMC-sponsored screening of the movie, Carbon Nation, on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at the East Greenbush Library, 10 Community Way, East Greenbush, N.Y. Event is Free and open to the public. (http://www.eastgreenbushlibrary.org).

The approximately 84-minute film aims to move past the gloomy consequences of global climate change to clean energy and green technology solutions that every American can participate in to slow the pace of climate change. For more about the film, visit the film’s web site at http://www.carbonnationmovie.com.
August Camp 2012, continued: There will be 4 one-week sessions, July 14 through August 12. Campers can register for one- or two-week sessions. The all-inclusive price of $950/week includes transportation to and from the Vancouver airport, transportation to hikes, and three meals/day. Tents and cots are provided. The main focus of the camp is hiking, with expert AMChike leaders who rotate among A, B, and C level hikes each day, but there are usually opportunities for other activities such as river rafting or kayaking. For details about the 2012 camp and registration, see the website http://www.augustcamp.org.

Trails To Enjoy, continued: During the 1960’s and 1970’s, construction proceeded as far north as the Catskills, and in 1987, construction through the Catskills was completed. In the 1990’s, after the Long Path North Hiking Club was formed, trail building continued through Schoharie and Albany counties. The trail is blazed with aqua green colored markers. The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, based in Mahwah, New Jersey, now oversees the maintenance of the Long Path along with many other trails.

Historically, our club has helped maintain Section 33 of the Long Path. This section runs north from the intersection of Stage Rd. and Rte.443, through the property of Warren “Mike” Willsey (a generous and very involved participant in the maintenance of the Long Path in our area), and then follows roads up to the Beaver Dam Road. From Beaver Dam Road, the Long Path goes through Thacher Park in a generally downhill direction, including the famous Indian Ladder trail, and ending in the parking lot adjacent to the Park Office.

Just recently the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, with the consent of the Long Path North Hiking Club, appointed David Esmond and me as contact persons for the adjacent Section 34 of the Long Path. In the past, the LPNHC has been responsible for Section 34, but due to demands for continued maintenance of Long Path sections further south, the club is now willing to cede this section to our chapter.

Section 34, described in the Long Path Guide as 7.5 miles long if one goes north all the way to Altamont, begins in the parking lot at the north end of the Indian Ladder trail. Following the aqua green blazes leads to the back of the Park Office to where the trail enters the woods. After about a mile, the trail begins to parallel the Helderberg Escarpment. There are several escarpment views here, and after the last view the trail remains on state property and turns on a generally northwest route and ends at the Old Stage Road parking area. Both the NYNJ Trail Conference and the Thacher Park site web sites have maps of Long Path Sections 33 and 34; the NYNJ Trail Conference site also maintains an up-to-date electronic guide to the Long Path. Newly revised maps may also be obtained for a nominal fee at the Thacher Park Office or its Nature Center.

Thacher Park is one of the premier park and recreation areas of our region. It features over 30 miles of hiking, mountain biking, and winter cross country skiing, snowshoeing, and snowmobiling trails. These include the recently named Fred Schroeder Memorial Trail in memory of Fred Schroeder. He and his wife were generous benefactors of what is now the Emma Treadwell Thacher Nature Center. The Nature Center offers interesting and interactive exhibits of the park’s topography and wildlife, and – in conjunction with the Friends of Thacher and Thompson’s Lake State Parks – many public nature programs for children and adults. The nearby Thompson’s Lake State Park is a popular summer recreational and camping area.

The Friends of Thacher and Thompson’s Lake State Parks organization has voluntarily and enthusiastically embraced and carried out its mission to help preserve and maintain this distinctive and exciting area. If you’re looking for someone within this organization with the most familiarity with the park and with current trail conditions, contact Jim Schaller at jims.2999@yahoo.com.

I invite Mohawk-Hudson chapter members to visit Long Path Sections 33 and 34, enjoy the trails, and help with their maintenance by reporting any concerns about the trail to me at jiffit2@nycap.rr.com or to David Esmond at daviddesmond@nycap.rr.com. Of course, you may also report concerns directly to the Thacher Park staff or to the Friends of Thacher and Thompson’s Lake State Parks.

It is important to note that if you do volunteer work of any kind at Thacher Park, you must file a form with the Thacher Park Office. You can get the form from our web site: http://www.amc.mohawkhudson.org/thacherpark_volunteerform.pdf, or contact the Thacher Park Manager’s Office at (518) 872-1237. The Friends of Thacher and Thompson’s Lake State Parks and the director of Thacher Park have indicated that they would welcome our help on future trail work projects, possibly this coming Spring.

I’ve scheduled several cross country skiing and/or snowshoeing hikes in Long Path Sections 33 and 34 in the coming months (see Outings on Sat 1/21 and Sat 3/10) to encourage chapter members to become more familiar with them. See you there!

Links to sites referenced in Trails To Enjoy:
NYNJ Trail Conference: http://www.nynjtc.org (maps, info)
Friends of Thacher & Thompson’s Lake State Parks: http://friendsofthacherpark.org/ (info)
New York State Parks: http://www.nysparks.com (info on all NYS Parks)

October 2011 – Trail Work, Cole Hill State Forest
Energy Savings: We Can Make a Difference

Faith Salter, Chapter Coordinator of the Appalachian Mountain Club headquarters, traveled from the Boston area on October 26, to educate chapter members about Climate Change and what we can do about it. Faith pointed out that, even if we are cynical on man-made climate change, we can certainly contribute to cleaner air by lowering our carbon footprint, and save money in the process. Her talk focused on some of the many simple ways we can save energy without disrupting our lives, such as replacing incandescent bulbs with energy-saving bulbs, increasing home insulation, and keeping fewer devices in “standby” mode.

Faith discussed several energy-saving devices, and recommended several web sites for more information, and the resources that AMC provides for us.

One of the most interesting devices is a “smart” power strip. The “Smart” power strip, available from many hardware store, is a surge protector that will automatically turn peripherals off when a master device is turned off. One outlet on the strip is designated the “master”. You plug your main device (e.g., your computer or TV) into the “master” outlet. When you turn off that device, power is automatically turned off on the “slaves” (e.g., your printer, DVD player, or game board). The “Smart” power strip also has designated outlets for devices that need to remain on (e.g., cable converter/DVR box).

Web sites Faith mentioned include the Union of Concerned Scientists (http://www.ucsusa.org/) which contains a wealth of information. Also: http://www.climatechoices.org/ a project of the Union of Concerned Scientists explains the impact of Global Warming on the Northeast and California. “Lose your excuse” http://www.loseyourexcuse.gov/index.html#/index has games and projects to educate children about climate change and conservation.

Among AMC’s resources are the Conservation Action Network (CAN), which provides regular email updates on conservation issues, and the AMC climate change speakers’ resources, which can provide speakers trained on Climate Change who can talk to local schools and community groups. To sign up for the CAN, go the AMC main web site (http://www.outdoors.org/), click on the Conservation tab, then click on “Take Action”. AMC members can contact Faith (fsalter@outdoors.org) to arrange a Climate Change speaker.

After the talk, Faith conducted an interactive workshop, in which audience members brainstormed ways to save energy, and to communicate advantages of saving energy to those around us, such as family, friends, and faith-based and community organizations.

Faith ended the presentation with an entertaining rap video called “Take Aim at Climate Change”. Check it out at: http://www.passporttoknowledge.com/polar-palooza/whatyoucando/taacc/.

A Cycle Across the US

The chapter Annual Meeting featured guest speaker Rich Vertigan who gave a great illustrated account of his cross country cycle trip. Vertigan, an accomplished hiker and cyclist from Schenectady, had previously completed many of the northeast’s cycling and hiking challenges.

Supported by Adventure Cycling Association’s guides, maps, and network of cyclists, Rick’s trip started by dipping his wheel into the Pacific Ocean at Seaside, Oregon on July 4, 2010, and ended with dipping his wheel in the Atlantic in Rehoboth, Maryland, 4046 miles and 97 days later on October 8. Vertigan followed the Adventure Cycling Association’s Lewis and Clark route up the Columbia River Gorge, continuing into Montana, then following the ACA TransAm route to Kansas, the Katy Trail in Missouri. Other routes that he used were the Great American Passage in Pennsylvania and Maryland and the C & O Canal into Washington DC.

His blog at http://norockingchairforme.blogspot.com/ has photos from the trip as well as useful links for others contemplating similar ventures

Atticus Was a Hit!

On October 15, AMC hosted an information table at a Schenectady County Public Library event featuring Tom Ryan, author of Following Atticus: Forty-eight High Peaks, One Little Dog and an Extraordinary Friendship.

Tom’s comments were engaging and humorous; Atticus, now 9 + years old, won us all over every time he snuggled into Tom’s neck. The event was a success with over 200 people in attendance, and some additional publicity for the AMC.

Energy Savers: DIY Home Energy Audit

http://www.energysavers.gov – You can easily conduct a do-it-yourself home energy assessment (also known as a home energy audit). With a simple but diligent walk-through, you can spot many problems in any type of house. When assessing your home, keep a checklist of areas you have inspected and the problems you found.
AMC’s Vision 2020

Following much hard work and extensive input from AMC chapters, individual volunteers and members, staff, and AMC’s Board of Advisors, AMC has launched Vision 2020, a plan encompassing four strategic initiatives to guide us in the coming decade:

1. **Build a Vibrant and Diverse Community of 500,000 Constituents** including more families and young professionals. We will develop local partnerships that broaden our diversity and reflect our region, and build communities online that reach new audiences.

2. **Help 500,000 Kids Get Outdoors** giving them transformative outdoor experiences available through AMC’s Youth Opportunities Program, our destinations near urban areas and “close to home” family activities through our chapters and local partnerships. We will make our huts and lodges even more inviting to families. AMC will advocate for local, state, and national policy in support of getting young people outside.

3. **Lead Regional Action on Trails, Land Protection, and Engaging Youth in Conservation** by protecting and maintaining 2,500 miles of trails, protecting an additional 2 million acres from development, and growing our river and waterway expertise and involvement. We will build our capacity to offer professional trails assistance to other organizations and expand teen trail crew opportunities. We will offer opportunities for our constituents to reduce their recreation-driven carbon footprint.

4. **Broaden the Impact of AMC’s Maine Woods Initiative on the 100 Mile Wilderness** by building on our experience and perspective as a land owner in Maine to make our Maine lodging and program operations financially self-sustaining, support local economic development, and protect 800,000 additional acres. Look for more recreational opportunities that promote the 100-Mile Wilderness region as a world-class destination for outdoor recreation.

To learn more about AMC’s strategy for the next decade, visit [http://www.outdoors.org/Vision2020](http://www.outdoors.org/Vision2020).

**AMC Adventure Travel Trip Openings**

AMC's Adventure Travel volunteers create, plan and lead domestic and international trips fostering a dynamic and active group environment. Each trip is unique but all strive to fulfill AMC's mission of promoting stewardship and appreciation of the natural world. For complete information about AMC's Adventure Travel program go to [http://www.outdoors.org/adventuretravel](http://www.outdoors.org/adventuretravel).

A sample of upcoming 2012 trips:
- April 14-26 – Nepal
- April 21-29 – SE New Mexico
- April 28-May 13 – Hawai‘i
- May 2-13 – Italy
- May 19-26 – Ireland

If you have any questions about AMC's Adventure Travel program or would like information about becoming an Adventure Travel leader, contact Colleen Yout at cyout@outdoors.org or (617) 391-6596.

**New AMC Publication**

The Appalachian Mountain Club is pleased to announce the release of the **AMC Guide to Outdoor Digital Photography**.

Written by professional photographer Jerry Monkman, this book is designed for outdoorspeople eager to expand their photography skills, or experienced photographers looking to hone technique shooting adventure and nature subjects. Monkman serves as coach and guide each step of the way, from packing gear and finding inspiration to taking great shots and editing photos in the “digital darkroom”.

AMC Guide to Outdoor Digital Photography features fundamental techniques and concepts that every outdoor photographer needs to know. Using easy-to-follow instructions, case studies, and expert advice, Monkman covers essential gear and gear safety, telling stories with photos, the special challenges of shooting in different conditions, perfecting composition and exposure, processing images using editing software, and the ever-important undertaking of keeping those digital photographs organized and safe.

This must-have guide will expand your creativity and your skill set as you head out on your next adventure with camera in hand. Inside you’ll find:
- Accessible techniques for new and experienced photographers
- Comprehensive coverage of the photography process
- Tips and advice for shooting in all conditions, weather, and seasons
- Crisp, large, full-color photographs
- Digital darkroom techniques
- Case studies with detailed explanations
- Digital resources appendix

Jerry Monkman is a conservation photographer whose nature and adventure photographs have appeared in magazines and books around the world, including National Geographic Adventure, Outdoor Photographer, Audubon, Men’s Journal, and National Wildlife. His work can be found at [www.ecophotography.com](http://www.ecophotography.com).