An Open Invitation to Our Membership

An exciting new venture is coming our way: the chapter Trails and Conservation committees are developing a partnership with Hollyhock Hollow Sanctuary that, with your help, will provide improved public visibility for the Sanctuary and opportunities for our chapter to fulfill our trail and conservation missions.

We have set aside two days which we urge you to attend:

- Saturday, September 29th is Trail Preparation Day – we will work to clear and re-mark the Sanctuary’s trails.
- Saturday, October 27th will be an “open house” celebration of the Sanctuary’s new map and refurbished trails.

See Addition for September 2012 (page 2) for details about the Trail Prep Day, and check our web site for the open house events.

Why Hollyhock Hollow Sanctuary?

During the course of a friendly conversation with Fred Realbuto of the Sanctuary’s management team, an idea emerged that a continuing relationship with Hollyhock would prove fruitful for both our chapter and the Sanctuary. It was apparent from the conversation and subsequent surveys of the grounds that the Sanctuary is a wonderful asset for local hikes and nature study, especially for young families.

The grounds were willed by Dr. Robert Rienow and his wife Leona Train Rienow to the Audubon Society of New York to be kept forever wild. Dr. Rienow was a pioneer in the 60’s and 70’s in sounding the alarm about the need to take preventative measures to better preserve our environment. He wrote many books on the subject, and also had a big part in putting together a fifteen-part series on PBS in the early 70’s about the impending environmental crisis. In taking on this project, we are helping to carry forward the mission that Dr. and Mrs. Rienow envisioned for Hollyhock Hollow Sanctuary. For more history, see the Western Slope, Spring 2012 issue.

Our first project together will be to create a digital map to replace the Sanctuary’s current map, and re-mark some of the trails. To obtain funding for the new map, markers, and signs, John Tifft, Trails Committee Chair, and Mary Folsom, Conservation Committee Chair, applied for and received a grant from AMC. AMC Mohawk Hudson Chapter member Jean Andre Lavender, and Hollyhock supporter Dan Driscoll are in the process of putting together a map of the Sanctuary. We plan to complete the project by October 27th.

Join Us at the Annual Meeting & Meet AMC’s President John Judge

We are pleased and excited to have John Judge, AMC’s new president, as our guest speaker at the chapter’s annual meeting on Thursday, November 15 at the Century House in Latham. John has been president since January and has provided energetic direction and leadership in all areas of AMC’s vision statement, especially programs for urban youth. His bio can be found on the AMC website at http://www.outdoors.org/publications/outdoors/2012/fieldnotes/john-judge-new-amc-president.cfm.

We have chosen the Century House for its fine reputation for group dinners, its central location, and its unique program in support of the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York, Enjoy One Share One.

For each dinner purchased, Century House donates one meal to the food bank; http://www.rfbneny.con/the-community/the-century-house. By attending our annual meeting you will also be supporting the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York! See Annual Chapter Dinner & Meeting for more information.

Leadership Training Saturday November 10

This is your chance to become qualified to lead our members in the hike of your choice, be it an area or mountain that you’ve discovered and want to share, or a more familiar hike that appeals to you personally.

Topics will include selection and rating of trips, planning, gear, publicity, liability concerns, and decision-making. Also included will be a focus on first aid and emergency wilderness response. Open to members of other AMC chapters. Class size is limited to eight, so sign up early. No fee for Mohawk Hudson chapter members; $25. fee for non-members to defray expenses.

Training will take place at the residence of John Tifft from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.. A homemade soup and drinks will be provided. Refrigerator space will be available for your lunches. For details and to register, please contact John Tifft at (518) 439-5686 or jttift2@nycap.rr.com. See also Leadership Workshop listing.
**Mohawk Hudson Chapter Outings October–November–December 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 our chapter web site at www.amcmohawkhudson.org for detailed descriptions and updates of outings. There, join our Yahoo group for e-mail updates on outings, and ‘like us’ on Facebook.

*indicates one of Wally’s Hikes as listed in the Summer 2012 Western Slope.*

**Addition for September 2012**

**Sat 9/29 Trail Work at Hollyhock Hollow Sanctuary** Help clear existing trails and/or put up trail markers. We will gather at the Sanctuary parking area at 8:30 a.m. The trails are easy to hike and the work will be physically easy to moderate in intensity. The length of time needed for this work is indeterminate at this time, but we would appreciate any amount of time that you may be able to contribute. Please wear appropriate clothes for trail work, including gloves and boots, and bring any cutting tools that you may have. Gas powered weed whackers are allowed if you wish to bring your own. Hammers to nail up trail markers would be helpful. Please contact John Tifft at jtiff2@nycap.rr.com or (518) 439-5686 for more information, directions, and to register.

**October 2012**

**Fri 10/5 – Greenport Conservation Trail, Hudson, NY C-3-C (Hiking)** Easy and moderate hikes in a Columbia Land Conservancy property just north of Hudson NY. We will walk a series of loops in woodlands and meadows with views of the Hudson and the Catskills. Approximately 5 miles. Leader: Sharon Bonk (518) 674-0042 or sbogc@mindspring.com.

**Mon 10/8 – Harlem Valley Rail Trail Cycle Dutches/Columbia NY (Bicycling)** From Millerton to Wassaic Metro North station and return. Circa 22 miles RT. Meeting places: Millerton, parking lot near bike trail at 10 a.m. – OR – Schodack Park and Ride 8:30 a.m. Leader: Sharon Bonk, (518) 674-0042 or sbogc@mindspring.com.

**Sun 10/14 – Blackhead Range B-3-A (Hiking)** Distance: 7.5 miles Ascent 2760’ Elevation: 3940’, 3980’, 3940’ Rain (or threat of) cancels. A moderately paced trail, through hike (shuttle). Contact leader to register for time and meeting place. Leader: Ken Hubert (718) 463-5675 (After 3 PM), (518) 827-7327 (Fri & Sat) hikeleader3500@yahoo.com.

**Fri-Sun 10/19-10/21 – AMC’s 2012 Fall Gathering Hosted by the New York-North Jersey Chapter at the Greenkill YMCA Retreat Center in Huguenot, N.Y. Everyone is invited to this club-wide event which will include hiking, biking, paddling and many more activities in the Catskill Mountains. For details, please see the AMC Outdoors magazine (September/October issue) or visit the NY-No J Chapter’s website at http://www.amc-ny.org/fall_gathering_2012.**

**Sat 10/27 – Hollyhock Hollow Sanctuary Open House** Come enjoy the trails and celebrate the completed work. Just south of Albany in Selkirk, N.Y. Stay tuned to the chapter web site for details. Contact is John Tifft (518) 439-5686.

**November 2012**

**Sat 11/10 – Leadership Workshop** A daylong leadership workshop will be held in Delmar, N.Y. Topics will include selection and rating of trips; planning; gear; publicity; liability concerns; decision-making; and more. Open to members of other AMC chapters. Class size is limited to eight, so sign up early. No cost for Mohawk Hudson Chapter members; others a nominal $25.00 to help with Chapter expenses. Contact John Tifft (518) 439-5686 or jtiff2@nycap.rr.com for more information and to register.

**Wed 11/14 – Indian Kill Preserve-Glenville C-3-B (Hiking)** We will walk some of the beautiful trails of the lovely woodlands of the Indian Kill Preserve. The trails are fairly easy but there are some steep places and some wooden steps. We will walk for two to three hours depending on group’s desires. Bring lunch and water. If conditions are icy or rainy we will cancel. Please reply to let us know you’re coming and to get directions and carpooling information. Leader: Nancy Crowther and Co-Leader: Will Crowther (518) 698-0531 (no calls after 9 p.m.) or nancy@crowther.org.
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Thurs 11/15 – Annual Chapter Dinner & Meeting Join us for social hour starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Century House, 997 New Loudon Road/ Rte 9, Latham, N.Y. Dinner at 6:15 p.m. Guest Speaker is new AMC President, John Judge. Brief meeting and election of officers will follow. $30.00 per person. Please make checks payable to AMC Mohawk Hudson and send by November 6 to the Treasurer: Sharon Bonk, P.O. Box 464, West Sand Lake, N.Y. 12196.

December 2012

Sat 12/1 – Fifth Peak, Bolton Landing B-3-B (Hiking) Wally’s List This is one of the first hikes I did with the chapter. It was led by Wally on a crisp December day, and we had wonderful views of Prospect Mt, Tongue Mt Ridge, the peaks on the east side of Lake George, and of course the beauty of Lake George itself. Fifth Peak is part of the Tongue Mountain Peninsula. The hike will be approximately 5 miles RT with a 1500’ elevation gain. Be prepared for possible winter conditions. Leader: Sharon Bonk 518-674-0042 sboqc@ mindspring.com.

Sat 12/8 – Black Mountain Loop B-3-B (Hiking) We will climb to summit and make a loop around to see two ponds along the way. The distance is 7 miles and 1046 feet ascent. Leader: Kevin Cox (518) 279-4839 (no calls after 9 p.m.) mmcdoug1@nycap.rr.com.

The chapter also offers weekday outings that do not appear in the schedule above.
- The Midweek Hikers invite you to hike with them on Wednesdays. For more information about this group and/or to join our e-mail list, contact Gerry Weber at (518) 758-7189 or gww@fairpoint.net
- The Hiking at a Relaxed Pace (HARP) group hikes on Thursdays or Fridays. For more information and/or to join our e-mail list, please contact Frank or Dee Wind at (518) 458-1781 or weball@verizon.net

To receive e-mail notification of updates to published trips, please join our Yahoo group. When you access this link, enter your Email Address, and click the Request Confirmation Email button. You will receive confirmation of your request, and future e-mails of trip updates.

Hike Ratings

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<th>Distance</th>
<th>AA = + 13 miles</th>
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<tr>
<td>A = 9 to 13 miles</td>
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<td>B = 5 to 8 miles</td>
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<td>C = under 5 miles</td>
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Leader’s Pace

1 = very fast pace, 2.5 mph or faster
2 = fast pace, 2 to 2.5 mph
3 = moderate pace, 1.5 to 2 mph

Terrain

A = very strenuous
B = strenuous
C = average

“Like Us” on Facebook

Click the “facebook” image at left to view the chapter Facebook page.

Once on our Facebook page, click the “Like” image (shown at left) to “like” our page: if you have a Facebook account, you’ll be asked to log in. Else, you’ll have to set one up in order to “like” our page.

While on our Facebook page, check out energy-saving tips that we can all use.

Dyken Pond Survival Skills Workshops

Sun 9/30 – Wild Edible Plants

Sun 10/14 – The Magic of Fire

These six-hour workshops in Grafton, N.Y. are open to all, but space is limited. Cost is $20; $15 for members. To register (required), contact Dyken Pond at (518) 658-2055 or dykenpond@fairpoint.net.

Officer Nominations for 2013

In accordance with the Chapter by-laws, the Nominating Committee presents the following nominations for the year 2013: Arthur Fontijn, Chair; Mary Folsom, Vice Chair; Sharon Bonk, Treasurer. The position of Secretary is open.

Our by-laws provide that any five Chapter members desiring to place additional candidates in nomination may do so by sending to the Secretary post-marked no later than ten days before the Annual Meeting a nominating paper stating the office to be filled, the proposed candidate’s name, and written verification of consent from the nominee to serve if elected. As this position is currently vacant, please submit to Martha Waldman, 8 Barker Street, Albany, N.Y. 12205.

Our annual meeting and election is scheduled for November 15, 2012 at the Century House in Latham, N.Y. (See the listing for Annual Chapter Dinner & Meeting.) Nominating Committee members are Gerry Weber, Dee Wind, Martha Waldman, and Evelyn Dutur.

Call for Chapter Volunteers

Secretary: Serve as an officer of the executive committee, attend and take minutes at bi-monthly and quarterly meetings.

Social Chair: A new function to help organize quarterly meetings and possibly other social events.

For more information about either of these opportunities, please contact Arthur Fontijn, (518) 477-7992 or fontia@verizon.net.

New Year’s Hike/Snowshoe & Potluck

Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 6, 2013 and plan to attend the chapter’s annual hike/snowshoe, potluck luncheon, and meeting to ring in the New Year. (Due to several requests, we’ve moved this event from New Year’s Day to the first Sunday of 2013.)

Details will be forthcoming on the web site and in the Winter 2013 issue of On the Western Slope, due end of December 2012.

Weekend Trip to Vermont

Join the AMC Mohawk Hudson Chapter from Friday, February 1 through Sunday, February 3 for a weekend in Vermont. Snowshoe in the Green Mountain National Forest, and cross country ski at Wild Wings Ski Center.

We will be staying at the Colonial House Inn and Motel in Weston, Vermont. Costs is $179, to $216. ppd $235. to $272. ppso, and includes 2 breakfasts, 2 trail lunches and 2 dinners, all taxes and gratuities. Contact Leader Randy MacDonald 518-766-7675 before 9 p.m. randy04415@yahoo.com.

“Flurry of activity at 6 AM” by Christina Han, Connecticut Chapter. Winner of the “AMC in Action” category in the 2011 AMC Photo Contest.
A Word from Our Chapter Chair

It has been an eventful summer and we have many ideas in store for the fall. To begin, Stacey Michon decided to go back to school while continuing to work full time. That pretty well takes up her day and she had to give up her Chapter Chair duties. This resulted in my stepping up to Chapter Chair, and Mary Folsom to Vice-Chair. We thank Stacey for her many efforts on behalf of our Chapter.

The summer bustled with various hiking, biking, and paddling trips, and seasonal activities continue at full blast. However, we can only offer as many trips as our volunteer leaders provide. As leaders retire for various reasons, new leaders must take their place. Please consider becoming a volunteer leader by attending our annual one-day leadership course to be held on November 10th in Delmar, N.Y. Check the November Outings list for more information.

There were a couple of major successes in the areas of conservation and trails in recent months. First, several conservation organizations, which our chapter encouraged AMC to support, persuaded Governor Cuomo to add 60,000 acres to the Adirondack Preserve. The land would otherwise have come on the open market. This will offer untold new opportunities for our favorite activities.

The second feather in our cap comes from the collaboration by our Trails and Conservation committees with Hollyhock Hollow Sanctuary. This family-friendly, educational, and recreational area, located just south of Albany, is geologically interesting and has a good variety of trails, but needs an updated map, improved marking, trail clearance, and informational displays. We are planning a trail-clearing event on September 29th and I urge anyone who can to volunteer on that day. An open house celebrating the refurbished trails will follow on October 27th.

The social highlight of our fall will be our Annual Chapter Meeting on November 15 at the Century House Restaurant in Latham. We are very pleased to have AMC’s new President, John Judge, as our event speaker. We hope to impress upon him how vibrant this Chapter, the AMC’s smallest, is and to see many of you there as a confirmation. Any of your friends who may be interested in our type of activities would be most welcome.

Enjoying the great out of doors and helping to preserve it; that is what we are all about!

Arthur Fontijn

Welcome New Members

Stephen A. Adams  Mr. Clary & Mrs. Reichmann-Clary  David Coleman
Margaret Cipperly  Dan D’Angelico  Matthew Daynard
Mr. Cowart  Theresa Gabriel  Jehu Gordon
Christi Freinberg-Trufas  Ms. Kennedy  Mr. & Mrs. Kivlen
Lenora Grillo  Marion MacPherson  William Marsh
Mary Krackeler  Alice Platt  Mr. Paxton
Nancy Mattus  Ms. Reed  John Ripley
Ms. Penniman  Martha Schroder  Thomas Shanahan
Sean Roddy  Susan Sheltier  Nancy Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Shaughnessy  Lenora Grillo  Mr. Vitali-Wolff
Susan Sokalski  Ms. Kennedy  Ms. Reed
Jessica Wenger  Mr. & Mrs. Shaughnessy  Judith Wolfe

Welcome New Members

Ms. Arndell  Matthew Daynard
Ms. Kennedy  Jehu Gordon
Mary Folsom  Mr. & Mrs. Kivlen
Mary Krackeler  William Marsh
Nancy Mattus  Mr. Paxton
Ms. Penniman  John Ripley
Sean Roddy  Thomas Shanahan
Mr. & Mrs. Shaughnessy  Nancy Smith
Susan Sokalski  Mr. Vitali-Wolff
Jessica Wenger  Judith Wolfe

Please Join Us for the Annual Chapter Meeting

Chapter Annual Meeting

Thursday, November 15, 2012
Century House
997 New Loudon Road/ Rte 9, Latham NY
Speaker: John Judge, AMC President

5:30 PM  Social hour (cash bar) in the Tavern
6:15 PM  Dinner in the East Room
Brief business meeting / election of officers

MENU:  Green Salad; Choice of chicken, steak or vegetarian; Chocolate Torte
$30.00/person

Checks, payable to AMC Mohawk Hudson, should be sent by November 6 to
Treasurer: Sharon Bonk
PO Box 464, West Sand Lake, N.Y. 12196.
Enter the 2012 AMC Photo Contest

AMC’s 18th annual photo contest begins on September 4th. This year’s Grand Prize winner will receive a spot in an upcoming photography workshop and an accompanying stay at an AMC destination.

Winners of the “Kids, Families, and Adults Outdoors,” “Scenics and Nature,” “AMC in Action,” and “People’s Choice” categories will receive great outdoor gear prizes from Outdoor Research, Tubbs Snowshoes, and other manufacturers.

For complete rules and entry instructions, visit www.outdoors.org/photocontest. Entries will be accepted until November 15th, with the winners appearing in a spring 2013 issue of AMC Outdoors.

Discover the Adirondacks

AMC Books is pleased to announce the release of Discover the Adirondacks, a new four-season guide. This new, easy-to-use guide features 50 of the best hiking, biking, and paddling opportunities available in the largest designated park in the contiguous United States. From hiking in the High Peaks to biking in the Southeastern Mountains, to remarkable lake and river paddles, the day trips included here reveal perfect wilderness experiences for first-time visitors and veteran explorers alike.

Inside You’ll Find

- 50 hiking, biking, and paddling trips for all abilities
- At-a-Glance Trip Planner to help you find the trip that’s right for you
- Detailed in-text maps and trail descriptions
- GPS coordinates for trailheads and parking lots
- Summaries of trip time and difficulty ratings
- Essays on nature and history of the region

To purchase, please go to the AMC web site at http://amcstore.outdoors.org/.

Fly Fishing in Maine

At the Chapter’s summer picnic at Thacher Park, member Brad Mohr told Sharon Bonk that he joined AMC for the opportunity to fly fish at Little Lyford Ponds near Greenfield, Maine. Brad attended a fly fishing workshop at Gorman Chairback in the buggy days of June 2012 and forwarded this short promo video to Sharon. Credit is due to videographer, Kelly Cicero, who worked hard to edit, craft, and polish this little gem. Don’t miss the amazing loon sequence, filmed at Mountain Brook Pond! Here’s the link:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kkL-1Qh_HYE&list=UUHBU-8Y9L4X_msEXxB-vrA&index=1&feature=plcp

August Camp

By Nancy and Will Crowther

Even though we are long-time AMC members, we had never been to August Camp, AMC’s annual camping and hiking expedition in the west. We decided to try it this year, when it was held in Whistler, British Columbia. We joined forces with Sharon Bonk and decided to go for Week 2 of the four week camp, from July 21 through 28. The camp is all set up for you, with fixed tents for two, cots, porta-potties, shower stall to use with sun showers, and fully equipped off-the-grid kitchen for use by the crew. We were picked up at the airport, and the crew provided all the food and cooking, with no chores assigned to the campers. The food was very good – even picky Will liked it!

Each day there were several organized hikes, one or more at each level A, B, and C. We were pleasantly surprised to find many choices at the C level – we had been worried about keeping up. The hikes were among beautiful mountains, woods, lakes, rivers and waterfalls, and were led by experienced pre-assigned hike leaders. One day we chose to go on a kayaking expedition down the River of Golden Dreams, and another day we went with a group who rented mountain bikes and rode the paved bike trails around Whistler. We were pleased to be challenged to do more hiking than we had thought we were able to do. One day we did an 11 mile round trip, 3000 feet of gain hike to beautiful turquoise Lake Garibaldi. The last day we climbed Stawamus Chief in Squamish, a huge granite dome 2300 feet high, with stone steps, ladders, granite slabs, and chains to hold onto in some places.

All in all it was a wonderful week.

Share Your Photos Through AMC’s Social Media

When you’re outdoors on an AMC chapter trip, do you bring along your camera? If so, share your adventures with us! We’re always looking for great images of people recreating, wildlife, plants, and landscapes for our Facebook Page and Twitter feed.

Send images (and captions/photo credit information) from your chapter’s latest hike, paddle, volunteer trail day, bird watch, or other adventure to AMC’s Social Media Associate, Josh Lake, jlake@outdoors.org. Please note that images shared may be used on any of AMC’s social media pages and that you must have permission from all identifiable people in photographs before sharing the image with us. Thank you!
Conservation in the Fall

As the weather cools, and we start turning on the heat, remember that setting your thermostat a couple of degrees lower, and wearing an extra layer of clothing can reduce your carbon footprint and save money too.

Fall is election season. AMC cannot support any party or candidate, but asking where candidates stand on conservation issues lets them know that you think conservation is important. Here are a couple of examples to inspire you:

- “What would you do to increase energy conservation and efficiency in (area served)?”
- “Do you support the bi-partisan Shaheen-Portman Bill introduced in the US Senate?”

(http://ase.org/efficiencynews/advocates-call-senate-vote-shaheen-portman-energy-efficiency-bill)

Farewell Friend & Thank You

Chapter members bid farewell to Wally Herrod, past chapter chair and long-time hike leader over the course of several events in August, some photos of which appear here. Wally and his wife, Barbara, moved to Wisconsin to be nearer to family.

AT Signage, Bascom Lodge at Mt. Greylock

July 2012 – Ashulwillticook Rail Trail, Hoosic River Valley, MA

August 2012 – Pioneer Bridge at Eagle Lake in the Adirondacks

August 2012 – Huyck Preserve, Rensselaerville, N.Y.

August 13, 2012 – Mohawk Hudson Chapter Members at Bascom Lodge