



On the Western Slope

A Word from Our Chapter Chair



To begin, I wish all of you a Happy, and especially a physically active, New Year. The Chapter can help you in reaching both of these goals by providing many outings in good company. This issue shows

you a good selection of trips at a number of levels and for several wintry activities. Last year many snow events turned into hiking trips, which can be as enjoyable in winter as at any time. What the season will bring this time we'll have to find out. The lack of snow may have been a fluke. Else, it may have been one of the increasing number of manifestations of the climate change the world is experiencing, commonly attributed in large part to mankind releasing large quantities of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. This leads us right to Conservation, a subject of increasing importance to the AMC and to our Chapter. Here there is much we can do in our living habits and in expressing our concerns to our representatives and within other organizations we personally may support. The Chapter will continue to present speakers and movies, sometimes with conflicting opinions, to help educate ourselves about both global and local aspects of conservation, in the widest sense of the word. Our April 8 potluck speaker deals with an uncommon and controversial aspect of this topic, the re-introduction of predatory animals into their former habitat. I urge you to already reserve the date for what may result in a lively discussion.

As I write this the calendar shows that we are still in the last days of fall, and what a fall it has been for the Chapter! There were the major activities around our turning Hollyhock Hollow from a somewhat run-down nature preserve into an attractive park, especially, but not only, for family outings. If you haven't been there since work was completed at the end of October, I recommend you pay a visit, admire the signage, use the excellent new map, and appreciate the cleared trails. At critical times it was hard to attract enough volunteers for this work, but personal appeals did the job; a useful lesson that we plan to heed for future events. Then there was our Annual Dinner, which provided us with the chance to personally meet the new AMC president, John Judge, and hear his plans for the Club.

Our future success will depend on the willingness of you, our members, to volunteer. Recent turnover has left us with openings for new blood and fresh ideas, in Executive

Committee and outdoor leadership positions. The e-comm urgently needs a Publicity Chair (see job description in this issue). We would love to offer more outings, led by more leaders, with more participants. Taking an active role in the Chapter will enhance your personal AMC experience, and a higher percentage of active members would enrich the Chapter as a whole. We could especially benefit from younger leaders. If you have some ideas about what you would like to contribute, or like to learn more, please feel free to call or mail me. I'd love to get your thoughts.

I hope to meet many of you at our January 6 New Year's celebration. Till then,

Arthur Fontijn

New Year Hike, Potluck & Meeting

Please plan to attend the chapter's annual hike/snowshoe, potluck luncheon, and quarterly meeting on Sunday, January 6. Please note the new date.

We will meet at the home of Frank and Dee Wind in Castleton at 10 a.m. to drop off food items. Then we'll carpool to Schodack Island State Park for a short hike or snowshoe/ski (depending on conditions), led by Art Fontijn and Myra Fedyniak. The luncheon will start at 1 p.m., followed by a short business meeting. For just the indoor portion, come around 12:30 p.m. to help set up the food.

For details, directions, and to coordinate the food you'll bring, please call the Winds at (518) 458-1781 or email them at we_tell@verizon.net.

To register for the outdoors activity, please contact Art Fontijn at (518) 477-7992 or fontia@verizon.net.

First Day Trips

AMC's leaders will offer First Day events on January 1, 2013 as part of a nationwide celebration of state parks. Plan a trip or plan to attend. Whether you are on foot, snow shoe or on the water, it's a great way to start the New Year. All trips are listed at <http://activities.outdoors.org>. If you will be in some other part of the country, you can still enjoy a First Day trip by visiting <http://www.americasstateparks.org/first-day-hikes>.

Also Note: New Hampshire Instructional X-Country Skiing Weekend registration is due by January 6th. Please see page 4.

***** Happy Holidays To All! *****

Dates to note:

Jan 6	New Year Chapter Hike/Potluck/Quarterly Meeting
Jan 14	Exec Committee Meeting, EGTL
Jan 26-27	AMC's 137th Summit (Annual Meeting)
Feb 1-3	Chapter Weekend in Vermont
Feb 4 week	AMC Volunteers for WAMC Fund Drive, Albany, N.Y.
Mar 18	Exec Committee Meeting, EGTL

Save the date:

Mon Apr 8 Spring Quarterly Meeting, Christ Luthern Church, Albany, N.Y.
Sept 27-29 Chapter Fall Outing, Highland Center, Crawford Notch, N.H.

Mohawk Hudson Chapter Executive Committee

Arthur Fontijn, Chapter Chair

(518) 477-7992; fontia@verizon.net

Mary Folsom, Vice Chair & Conservation Chair

(518) 465-5425; mfolsom@aol.com

Sharon Bonk, Treasurer

(518) 674-0042; sboqc@mindspring.com

Chris Grossman, Secretary

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Jeff Carden, Webmaster

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Kevin Cox, Outings Chair

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John Tiff, Trails Chair

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Martha Waldman, Membership Chair

(518) 869-5109; martha829r@aol.com

Christine Boucher, Newsletter Editor

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Myra Fedyniak, Social Chair

(518) 321-3107 myra.fedyniak@yahoo.com

Open: Communications & Publicity Chair



<http://www.amcmohawkhudson.org>

Save paper and ink!

- Print only the **Dates to note** and **Chapter Outings** on pages 2 and 3
- Under Print Properties, use print quality of "Draft"

Mohawk Hudson Chapter Outings January – February – March 2013

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, join our Yahoo group for e-mail updates on outings, and 'like us' on Facebook.

January 2013

Sun 1/6 – Chapter Quarterly Meeting, Hike and Potluck (Hiking)

Join us for our annual January hike/snowshoe/ski at Schodack Island State Park, potluck luncheon and a brief meeting. To register for the outdoors activity, contact Art Fontijn at (518) 477-7992 or fontia@verizon.net. For directions and to coordinate food for the potluck, call or email the Winds at (518) 758-1781 or we_tell@verizon.net.

Sun 1/6 – Windham High Peak, Catskills B-3-A (Snowshoeing)

1800' ascent to 3524' elevation. Moderately-paced trail hike. Snowshoes and crampons required. Bad weather (or driving conditions) cancel. Contact L to register for time and meeting place. No public transportation. Leader: Kenneth Hubert (718) 463-5675 after 3:00p.m.; or (518) 827-7327 on weekends. hikeleader3500@yahoo.com

Wed 1/9 – Schenectady County Forest C-3C (Skiing – Cross-Country (Nordic))

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 not a commercial ski area, so trails are not 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 likely already tracked by some other people. Please let us know you are coming, and we will give meeting time (morning) and place. Bring snack, water, and small pad or bag to sit on to eat if you wish. Those interested can come to our nearby house afterwards for hot soup. Bad weather cancels; if no snow we can hike there. Leader: Nancy Crowther (518) 698-0531 nancy@crowther.org Co-Leader: Will Crowther.

Sat 1/12 – Hunter Mountain, Catskills B-3-A (Snowshoeing)

We plan to hike up Hunter using the Becker Hollow Trail at a slow to moderate rate. After recovering and having lunch we will reward ourselves and take

advantage of the Colonels Chair Ski Lift going down. With enough participants we will be able to spot our cars to cut off about 2 miles of road walking. Leader: John Tiff (518) 439-5686 (NCA 9 p.m.) jtiff2@nycap.rr.com
Co-Leader: Jean Laverdure jaz111e@yahoo.com

Wed 1/16 – XC Skiing (Skiing – Cross-Country (Nordic))

It's the beginning of the season so get in shape at a groomed area. Snow levels will determine whether we go to Pine Ridge in East Poestenskill or to Notchview Reservation in Windsor MA. The latter had great snow in early January last year! Both are fee areas, have warming huts, and a place to stow your gear and eat your lunch. Leader: Sharon Bonk (518) 674-0042 (NCA 9 p.m.) sboqc@mindspring.com

Wed 1/23 – Dyken Pond B-3-C

(Snowshoeing) We can explore 6 miles of trails by using the interlacing loops. With fresh snow we will find many animal tracks. No significant elevation gain except on the drive up to Dyken Rd. Leader: Sharon Bonk (518) 674-0042 (NCA 9 p.m.) sboqc@mindspring.com

Fri 1/25, 6-9 PM – Moonlight Snowshoe/X-C Ski at Pine Ridge, E. Poestenkill

Pine Ridge will have moonlit and lighted trails and a bonfire for skiers and snowshoers. \$10 fee. Bring snacks & refreshments to enjoy in the lodge after skiing or snowshoeing. We will meet at Pine Ridge at 6 p.m. Please contact leader before Friday so she can call in reservations to Pine Ridge. Leader: Sharon Bonk, sboqc@mindspring.com, (518) 674-0042

Sat Sun 1/26-1/27 – AMC's 137th Summit

The AMC Summit (Annual Meeting) will be held in 2013 at the Four Points by Sheraton, Norwood Hotel and Conference Center in Norwood, MA. For information on speakers, meetings, workshops and registration / lodging, please see <http://www.outdoors.org/about/annualsummit/index.cfm>.

Wed 1/30 – Thacher State Park B-3-C (Skiing – Cross-Country (Nordic))

Join us for cross country skiing in Thacher State Park in Albany County. There are many nice trails, with good views. We can have our choice of flat or hilly trails. This is not a commercial ski area, so trails are not groomed and there is no admission fee. The trails are well marked, and probably already tracked by others. Please let us know you are coming, and we will give meeting time (morning) and place. Bring snack, water, and small pad or bag to sit on to eat if you wish. Bad weather cancels; if no snow we can hike there. Leader: Nancy Crowther (518) 698-0531 nancy@crowther.org Co-Leader: Will Crowther

February 2013

Fri-Sun 2/1/ to 2/3 – AMC Mohawk-Hudson Weekend in Vermont (Snowshoeing)

Join the AMC Mohawk Hudson Chapter for a weekend in Weston, Vermont. Snowshoe in the Green Mountain National Forest. We will cross country ski at Wild Wings Ski Center. We will be staying at the Colonial House Inn and Motel. Cost (\$179. to \$216.ppdo \$235. to \$272. pps) Includes 2 breakfasts, 2 trail lunches and 2 dinners, all taxes and gratuities. Contact Leader: Randy MacDonald (518) 766-7675 before 9p.m., randy04415@yahoo.com

Sun 2/3 – Panther Mountain B-3-A

(Snowshoeing) Moderately paced trail hike. Snowshoes and crampons required. Bad weather or bad driving conditions cancel. 6 miles with 1830' ascent to 3720' elevation. Leader: Kenneth Hubert (718) 463-5675 after 3:00 p.m.; or (518) 827-7327 on weekends. hikeleader3500@yahoo.com

Sat 2/9 – Section 24 of the Long Path B-3-B

(Snowshoeing) This section of the Long Path takes up where the northern border of the Catskills leaves off. There should be some good views with the leaves down. We will traverse this up-and-down section after spotting car(s) at the northern trail-head. Depending on the wishes of the group, we may ascend Mt. Pisgah, which continues for another two miles on Section 25 of the Long Path. For further information, please contact one of the trip leaders. Leader: John Tiffit (518) 439-5686 (NCA 9 p.m.) jtiffit2@nycap.rr.com Co-Leader: Jean Laverdure jalz111er@yahoo.com

Sun 2/10 – Grafton State Park B-3-B

(Skiing - Cross-Country (Nordic)) Approximately 4 mile loop using Spruce Bog Trail with a break for an optional walk up to the fire tower, continuing on part of the Long Pond Trail. Some hills, mostly forest and fire road. Skiing is dependent on the depth of snow. No groomed tracks. We may have to remove skis in some spots. Leader: Sharon Bonk (518) 674-0042 (NCA 9 p.m.) sboqc@mindspring.com

Sat 2/16 – Mt. Marcy AA-3A (Snowshoeing)

14.8 miles round trip, ascent 3166 feet via the Van Hoevenberg trail. Hopefully, it will be a clear day and we will be able to see the Green and White Mountains. Leader: Kevin Cox (518) 279-4839 (NCA 9 p.m.) mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com

Sun 2/17 – Indian Head and Twin

Snowshoe B-3-A (Snowshoeing) 7 miles with 2200' ascent. Elevation, 3575' and 3640'. Bad weather / driving conditions cancels. Snowshoes and crampons required. Moderately paced trail thru-hike (shuttle). Contact Leader to register, and for time and meeting place. No public transportation. Leader: Kenneth Hubert (718) 463-5675 after 3:00 p.m., or (518) 827-7327 on weekends. hikeleader3500@yahoo.com

Wed 2/27 – Featherstonhaugh State Forest C-3-C (Skiing – Cross-Country (Nordic))

Join us for an easy cross country ski in Schenectady County in Featherstonhaugh State Forest. We will do a big loop on both sides of Lake Road, skiing for two to three hours. This is not a commercial ski area, so trails are not groomed and there is no admission fee. The trails are well marked, and likely tracked by some other people. Please let us know you are coming, and we will give meeting time (morning) and place. Bring snack, water, and small pad or bag to sit on to eat if you wish. Those interested can come to our nearby house afterwards for hot soup. We will cancel if bad weather or not enough snow. Leader: Nancy Crowther (518) 698-0531 nancy@crowther.org Co-Leader: Will Crowther

March 2013

Sun 3/10 – Cornell and Wittenburg B-3-A

(Snowshoeing) Moderately-paced trail hike. Snowshoes/crampons required. Bad weather / driving conditions cancel. 7 miles RT with 2850' ascent. 3860' and 3780' elevations. Contact Leader to register, and for time and meeting place. No public transportation. Leader: Kenneth Hubert (718) 463-5675 (after 3:00 p.m. or (518) 827-7327 on weekends. hikeleader3500@yahoo.com

Sat 3/16 – Overlook Mountain B-2-B

(Snowshoeing) Overlook Mountain offers excellent views from the fire tower at summit and from exposed cliff views to the east. Total distance for the loop is 5.0 miles with an ascent of 1,400 feet (summit elevation is 3140 feet). Most of the hike will be along a fire road that ends at the Overlook Hotel ruins. Hike time with good conditions is approx. 4 hours with a lunch break at top. We will plan on using snowshoes if the conditions permit. Call co-leaders Frank or Mary-Sue Reed by Thursday March 14th for information. Leader: Frank Reed (518) 356-1036 (NCA 9 p.m.) marysuereed@verizon.net Co-Leader: Mary Sue Reed (518) 698-0531 (NCA 9 p.m.)

Wed 3/20 – Shawangunks Table Rocks Hike C-3-B (Hiking) We will hike in this little known area of the Mohonk Preserve, in the world-famous "Gunks" near New Paltz. We will take the Spring Farm trail through woods to Table Rocks, where there are interesting chasms and crevices among large slabs of conglomerate rock (which we will cross safely on the north side). Round trip distance about 5 miles, 640 feet total elevation gain, about 3 hours of hiking. Bring lunch and water. There may be a small parking fee. If there is snow and ice we will walk around the level carriage roads of Mohonk instead of going to Table Rocks. Leader: Nancy Crowther (518) 698-0531 nancy@crowther.org Co-Leader: Will Crowther

Sat 3/30 – Saturday, March 30, Harrier Hill Park to Greenport Conservancy, Hudson NY B-3-B

(Hiking) This will be a 5-6 mile hike on the newish Scenic Hudson Harrier Hill Trail in Stockport to the Columbia Land Conservancy in Greenport. We will have a few great views across the Hudson and several steepish hills. Be prepared for wet and muddy trails. Cars will be spotted at both ends of the trail. Afterward we will go to Hudson for some warming drink. Leader: Sharon Bonk, sboqc@mindspring.com, (518) 674-0042

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 we_tell@verizon.net

Leaders may post e-mail updates for any of their trips (published or not) via the chapter's Yahoo interest group. Please join our [Yahoo group](#) (it's free!) to receive the updates and connect to others.

Hike Ratings

Distance

- AA = + 13 miles
- A = 9 to 13 miles
- B = 5 to 8 miles
- C = under 5 miles

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



Welcome New Members

Edmund Alteri	Ronald Baker	Walter Berdan
Michael Bucek	Deanna Burtchell	Pedro Caban
Betty Cole	Mr. Dangler	Dennis Diakunczak
Cynthia Dudonna-Drake	David Fabiano	John Fetscher
Heather Field	Jonathan Gardell	William Gates
Steven Goldstein	Corey Goodrich	Thomas Green
Ms. Harris	Lucinda Huggins	Susan Johnson
Ms. Jones	Christine Jordan	Dylan Keenan
Marsha Kimmer	Elizabeth Kinney	Mr. & Mrs. King
Matthew Kohn	Padma Krishna	James Lamb
Henry Lamont	Tracy Lawrence	Ruth Loree-Houser
Wayne Macfarran	John Manzer	Tad Matley
Jeanne Michela	Paul Mintz	Salenda Murphy
Jill Peckenpaugh	Susan Raynis	Richard Regan
Mark Robinson	Louis Schuttig	Jonathan Shapiro
Steve Simone	Caitlin & Haley Sive	Linda Stadtlander
Henry Tepper	William Terheun	Ms. Toni
Sandra West	Laura Whalen	

Call for Chapter Volunteer

Communications & Publicity Chair – Our chapter executive committee has a vacancy for the position of publicity chair. This volunteer opportunity entails letting the chapter membership know about our events, by posting them on our Facebook page regularly, sending chapter-wide emails up to 12 times/year, and compiling publicity to be posted by our webmaster and published in the Western Slope.

It also involves publicizing the chapter to the “outside world”, by submitting information to local media outlets where appropriate, maintaining and updating our display boards, and getting representation for the chapter at community events when there is potential to attract new members.

At our chapter’s annual meeting AMC President John Judge challenged us to raise our membership from 788 to 1,000 by 2015. A creative and energetic publicity person could help us meet that challenge.

A level of comfort with computer is necessary, but you don’t need to be an expert. We can train you in use of AMC computer interfaces and our Facebook page. For more information about this opportunity, please contact Mary Folsom, (518) 465-5425; mfolsom@aol.com.

Spring Quarterly Potluck

Save Monday, April 8, 2013 for our Spring Quarterly Meeting, to be held at Christ Lutheran Church in Albany, N.Y. (across from Stuyvesant Plaza on Western Avenue).

Our speaker will be Christopher Spatz on the subject “Bring Back the Legend: Cougar Recovery in Eastern North America”. Please plan to join us!

N.H. X-Country Skiing Instructional Weekend

By Sharon Bonk

The *Naragansett Chapter* invites members of Mohawk Hudson to join them in a beginner/intermediate cross country skiing instructional weekend at the Sargent Center in Hancock, New Hampshire, south of Keene. The weekend is scheduled for February 1-3 with a back-up date of February 22-24 in the event of lack of snow cover on the primary weekend. The final decision is made by January 28.

Led by Christopher Shafer christopher.shafer@dem.ri.gov, the weekend includes skiing from your front door on Saturday and Sunday, Friday and Saturday lodging in heated cabins with private baths, three meals on Saturday, and two meals on Sunday in the Sargent Center Dining Hall.

Cost is \$160pp with non-refundable deposit of \$60 due by *January 6, 2013*. Contact Chris Shafer to register; details at <http://activities.outdoors.org/search/index.cfm/action/details/id/64999>.

The Sargent Center is owned by Boston University and run by Natures Classroom. For more information, please see: http://www.naturesclassroom.org/sargent/Sargent_school_index.htm.

Kendra Pratt and I attended this weekend two years ago. We had a good time. The people were friendly and the food and lodging were very good. It’s a good opportunity to get instruction without formal/fee classes. We combined it with skiing at a commercial center on Friday. Windblown, (<http://windblownxc.com/>) in New Ipswich, has nicely laid out trails with great views of Pack Monadnock Mountain.

Chapter Election Results

Arthur Fontijn and Mary Folsom were elected to Chapter Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. Sharon Bonk continues as Treasurer and Chris Grossman was elected as Secretary. Congratulations to all and thank you to the Nominating Committee and everyone who attended the chapter’s annual meeting and participated in the vote.



September 2012 – Friday Dinner at Joe Dodge Lodge, Pinkham Notch, N.H.



September 2012 – Sunday Hikers at the Red Bench Trail, N.H.

Annual Meeting with AMC's John Judge



On November 15, the chapter held its annual dinner and meeting at The Century House in Latham, N.Y. Elections were held (see results on page 4), and our speaker was new AMC President, John D. Judge.

Judge updated our group on AMC's Vision 2020, a trail map for the next decade. Vision 2020 appeared in the Winter 2012

issue of *On the Western Slope*, and has been refined significantly during Judge's first year at the helm. The strategic initiatives by which Judge will guide AMC are:

- Expand the Size, Breadth, and Strength of the AMC Community
- Get Kids Outdoors
- Lead Regional Conservation Action
- Realize the Larger Opportunity in Maine's 100-Mile Wilderness through AMC's [Maine Woods Initiative](#)
- Advance Excellence in Outdoor Recreation and Leadership Training

Read the details here: <http://www.outdoors.org/about/amc-vision2020.cfm>. Judge says that new materials are being developed to support chapter efforts to meet these goals, and pointed out that the Northeast is the largest mega region in the United States, with 70% of the population projected to be living in cities by 2050. Pair that with the fact that AMC is the oldest conservation organization in this region and there could be some interesting opportunities in the future.

Judge challenged our chapter to reach 1000 memberships by 2015 (we currently have 790 memberships), and introduced an intriguing idea to boost chapter membership: encourage local college students (of which we have many) to sign up for a 4-year 'college outing club' membership and move them to a full AMC membership upon graduation.

Additionally, Judge reported that sustainable facilities for tent camping are being added in N.H. and in the Berkshires, and that 2013 marks the 125th anniversary of the AMC White Mountain hut system – so if you'd prefer, visit a hut!

During a question and answer session, Judge reported that AMC's Fire Island facility had only some kitchen damage due to hurricane Sandy, but otherwise was alright. In answer to a question about the Northern Pass project to run electric transmission lines from Canada through the White Mountains of New Hampshire to urban customers in southern New England, Judge urged members to read AMC's Visual Impact Assessment that details the impact of this project on the North Country's most valuable asset – its scenery – and the effect it would have on the region's primary economy: tourism. Here's the link:

<http://www.outdoors.org/publications/outdoors/2012/fieldnotes/amc-studies-northern-pass-proposal.cfm>

Ann Finch, Barbara Samuels, Phil Vansantvoord, Arthur Fontijn, and Kevin Cox were the lucky winners of raffle prizes of books donated by AMC.

Success at Hollyhock Hollow

By Mary Folsom

Hollyhock Hollow Sanctuary was the scene of a rewarding work day, and an enjoyable celebration on September 29 and October 27 respectively. The Chapter cleared and marked trails at the Sanctuary, and posted directional and safety signs. Many who have hiked there since the new trail map and marking have lavished praise for the improvements. Members who worked on the project were Jean Andre Laverdure, GPS and trail work; and Trails Chair John Tiftt, and volunteers Jeff Carden, Arthur Fontijn, Dave Esmond, Chris Boucher and Mary Folsom.

The trail work culminated in an enjoyable celebration on October 27. We took advantage of the holiday and a play on words, to name our event "Hollow – een". In accordance with club goals, we made it a family celebration, which included attractions for all ages. A face-painting table, run by Lorraine McCann, was a big hit with kids and grown-ups. Some children came back more than once. Other kid-friendly features were the craft table coordinated by Patty Costa, and scavenger-hikes led by Martha Waldman. Other volunteers leading hikes and coordinating tables were Jean Andre Laverdure, Arthur Fontijn, Gerry Weber and Betty Nash.

The event also gave our chapter a wonderful opportunity to network with other local organizations with similar goals. Representatives from the following groups tabled with us or attended: Capital District Geocaching group, Northeast Cave Conservancy, Onesquethaw-Coeymans Watershed Council, and Mohawk-Hudson Land Conservancy.

November 15, 2012 – Scenes from Chapter Annual Meeting, The Century House, Latham, N.Y.



Farewell & Best Wishes

Sandy Andersen, past Communications and Publicity Chair is changing her life in some big ways in the new year: she's getting married and moving abroad! We will miss her and we thank her for all of her efforts on behalf of our chapter.

"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.

AMC Excursion to Big Bend National Park

By Sharon Bonk

Each year AMC runs many volunteer leader excursions across the US and abroad. This autumn I participated in a hiking trip to Big Bend National Park in far west Texas. The group included 14 AMC members from 9 chapters and two outstanding leaders, Marianne Page (NH) and George Schott (Connecticut).



Big Bend is a long way from 'anywhere' so there was a long drive to and from the park from El Paso. Big Bend has several ecosystems, the Chihuahuan Desert, Rio Grande

River bed and canyons, and the Chisos Mountains. We were based in the Chisos Basin, the center of the park, at the Chisos Mountain Lodge, the only housing within the park.



Most of our hikes were from the door of the lodge, including one to the top of Emory Peak. At 7852 feet, it is the second highest mountain in Texas. The trails were well graded making this ascent similar to a lesser Adirondack high peak but with lovely temperatures and no humidity. The highest peak in Texas is in Guadalupe

National Park, near El Paso. George hopes to include both peaks in the next trip he leads to Big Bend.

Our trip included a canoe trip through Boquillas Canyon of the Rio Grande with time for bathing in a hot spring. The only drawback of a trip at this time of year is that low river water precluded a rafting trip through the iconic St. Elena Canyon. We spent Halloween evening in Terlingua, an abandoned mining town with a new life as an aging hippy, off-the-grid type place, eating at the Starlight Theater Café.

Learn Outdoor Skills – Become an AMC Leader

AMC chapters offer over 7000 trips every year. You can improve your outdoor skills or even become one of these awesome volunteer leaders by attending a local chapter training. For a complete list of skills and leadership trainings, visit <http://activities.outdoors.org/search/index.cfm?act=12>. Meet great people. Get outdoors. Have fun!

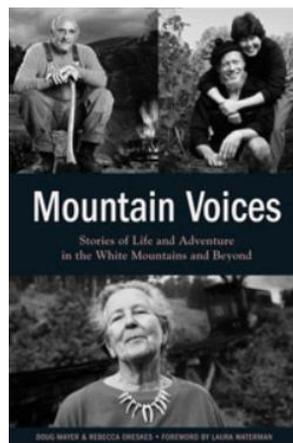
Share Your Photos Through AMC's Social Media

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!

New AMC Book

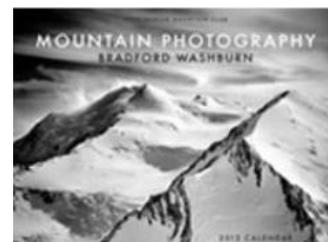
AMC Books has just released *Mountain Voices: Stories of Life and Adventure in the White Mountains and Beyond*, compiled and edited by Rebecca Oreskes and Doug Mayer. In this collection of interviews that have appeared in Appalachia, fifteen profiles capture fascinating stories of travel, adventure, and lifelong passion for nature, along with the spirit of the people who choose to live in the craggy, remote North Country. Over nearly two decades, authors Doug Mayer and Rebecca Oreskes have interviewed extraordinary people whose lives are intricately linked to New Hampshire's White Mountains.



In their own words, Brad and Barbara Washburn enumerate their groundbreaking mountaineering exploits, and Rick Wilcox discusses search and rescue efforts. Woodsmen like Ben English tell of their work on hiking trails, and George Hamilton recounts his career in AMC's high huts. White Mountain icons such as boot maker Karl Limmer and Ellen Teague of the Mount Washington Cog Railway offer accounts of

their esteemed careers in the mountains. Guy and Laura Waterman detail the development of their backwoods ethics philosophy. Historical photographs accompany each interview.

A perfect companion to the book is the new 2013 Mountain Photography Bradford Washburn calendar, full of spectacular images from Alaska, the Swiss and French Alps, and New Hampshire's White Mountains.



You can order the book and/or the calendar directly from the AMC at www.outdoors.org/amcstore or by calling (800) 262-4455.