

ANNUAL REPORT

Of the

Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter Appalachian Mountain Club

Annual Meeting - November 13, 1999



1999 Executive Board: Left to right; Bruce Dunham, Dave Williams, John Poirier, Muriel Thomas, Louise Desrochers, Connie Austin, Mary DuBois-Leeson, Nancy Wigley, Joey Gallus, Dexter Robinson, Mary Gravel, Linda Wells, Connie Peterson

CHAPTER CHAIR MESSAGE 1999

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the wonderful people who worked with me on the Executive Board for the past two years. They all gave a lot of themselves and their time to keep our chapter alive and growing! My thanks also goes out to anyone who led an activity, labeled the Breeze, helped at a social event, served on an AMC Clubwide committee, or attended a meeting to represent the AMC and the Southeastern Mass. Chapter. The enthusiasm of these people is boundless; it's what keeps our club going! To those of you who may have just joined the AMC, or who have been a member for a long time but have not been involved much, I encourage you to join in! Your help is always needed and appreciated.

Tonight we will elect a new slate of officers for the Executive Board consisting of some new members and some existing board members. Together they will work to keep all of our activities scheduled and keep the members informed. Some of the highlights of the past year include our Spring Fling, Summer Picnic, Winter Festival, Wilderness First Aid Course, Winter Hiking Series, Beginner Backpacking trips, Canoe and Kayak instruction, Snowshoe instruction, an increase in the number of biking trips, a new set of guidelines for hiking leader training, and lots of new members! The reports of the various committees in this Annual Report will tell you more.

Here's to another great year!
Louise Desrochers
Chapter Chair

Interview w/ new ch chair - Dexter
Disposing Service award
Interviews new chairs
Lee Hayes Bay Greenway
Burrhead
Sarazan - Brewster
cleanup + blocked
meeting mm

CONSERVATION

SPECIAL EVENTS:

There were two conservation cleanup hikes. The first, led by Nancy Wigley, was on March 21 at the Ryder Conservation area in Sandwich and the second, led by Harry Dombrosk, was on March 25 at Johns Pond Area in Falmouth/Mashpee. On April 21 there was a river cleanup canoe trip led by Ray Buchan on the Herring River in Bournedale.

The Coastsweep cleanup canoe trip on Sept. 18 led by Ray Buchan and Dave McGlone netted 40 lbs. of trash from the Dead Neck area of South Cape Beach.

Earth Day was observed on April 22. In collaboration with the Army Corp. of Engineers, our organization purchased a 12 ft. Linden tree and planted it at the Tidal Flats Recreation Area with help from cub scouts and girl scouts. I am happy to report that frequent waterings helped get the tree through the drought this summer and its looking good with leaf buds set for next Spring.

MEMBERSHIPS:

To foster and support conservation, the Executive Board voted to have memberships in the following organizations: \$60 - Trustees of the Reservation - a statewide nonprofit organization preserving historic and ecologically significant pieces of land in Massachusetts for public use. \$100 Taunton River Watershed Alliance - a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the river resources.

CONSERVATION PATCHES:

With appreciation and in recognition of their contribution to conservation, the following will be awarded conservation patches at the annual dinner on November 13:

Ray Buchan - for leading the coastal cleanup canoe trip on Sept. 18 on the Dead Neck area of South Cape Beach area and for leading the canoe cleanup trip on the Herring River in Bournedale on April 21.

David McGlone - For co-leading the above canoe trip which resulted in 40 lbs. of trash being collected and for helping collect and hauling away 18 bags of trash collected on the Johns Pond Hike on March 25.

Sharon Lowberg - for being actively involved with Cape Cod Clean Air and working toward getting Southern Electric to clean up their act at the Canal Electric Power Plant.

John Poirier - for the fantastic job he does with trailwork.

John Pribilla - for coordinating the Earth Day tree planting event at the Tidal Flats Recreation Area and for involving the cub scouts and the girls scouts in this conservation project.

Max Sarazin and Margo Fitsch - for their numerous phone calls to town officials regarding the blocked waterway in Brewster. This waterway was cleared on Oct. 21 by many volunteers which will enable the trapped herring to migrate to the sea.

HISTORIC LEGISLATION

A special thank you to Luke Leonard, conservation vice chairperson, for attending the Clubwide meeting in Sturbridge on January 30 and for attending with me the two hearings at the statehouse on June 16 and Oct. 25 regarding bills dealing with the Watershed and Wildlife Refuge at the Mass. Military Reservation.

I wish to thank the membership for giving me the opportunity to be involved in conservation issues. I felt privileged to represent our organization in support of a very historically important piece of legislation - that of setting aside 15,000 acres on the Upper Cape as a watershed and wildlife refuge and transferring control from the military to the Department of Environmental Management.

Nancy Wigley,
Conservation Chairperson

SKI COMMITTEE

The winter of 1999 was a very active season for the Ski Committee. A full schedule of winter trips took place which enable over 100 AMC members to participate in the sport of their choice including cross-country skiing, back-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating and downhill skiing.

A variety of trips was offered on each of the Holiday weekends throughout the season beginning with a New Year's Extended 5 day trip beautiful Mt. Washington Valley to an almost Spring Ski snowshow in Crawford Notch, New Hampshire. Accommodations ranged from an elegant B&B complete with hot tub under the stars to a rustic cabin with outdoor facilities in picturesque Wonalancet Valley, N.H. and included a cozy ski house with views of the Presidentials and a farmhouse in Western Massachusetts tucked away in the Berkshires.

Cross-country and snowshoe instruction was offered by leaders through out the season for beginners wishing to start a new sport and for intermediates seeking to improve their technique.

Many thanks go to Leaders Bob and Suzanne Scolimiero, Sarah Beard, Tom Waddell, Marilyn Dunn, Anne Chace, Bob Katchthaler in making it possible for so many AMC'ers to get out into the spectacular winter wonderland for great adventures on snow.

Mary DuBois-Leeson
Ski Committee Chair

TRAILS COMMITTEE

Participation in trail work events this past year has been very good. We had many newcomers this year, all were hard working and can be proud of their accomplishments.

This year we collaborated directly with the Friends of the Warner Trail. Jim Goyea of the Friends of the Warner Trail identified some areas that needed special attention. We installed posts with trail markers between Beach St. and Edwards St; this was a difficult area to follow the trail. The Town of Foxboro has acquired additional conservation land between the Lakeview Pavilion and Upper Dam Pond, this allowed us to relocate the trail to higher ground. The dam was also brushed back for the entire length.

Trails day at the Bentley loop was a huge success due to the hard work of the participants. With the additional brush cutters purchased last year four crews were able to brush out the entire Bentley loop beginning to end once again this year. We finished up the day with a cook out.

The spring and fall trips to Lonesome Lake were a great success. We had many new faces that I hope to see again. All the drainage was cleaned on the lower trail and around the lake and much of the upper trail. This fall our timing was perfect, we arrived at the trailhead as the last blast of hurricane Floyd was passing through. We braved the storm and arrived at the hut just in time for dinner. The next day half a dozen blow downs were cleared before most of the day hikers came through.

Thanks for all the hard work

John Poirier
Trails Committee Chair

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communication Committee is responsible for the publication of the Quarterly Chapter Newsletter. Our Newsletter is mailed on or about March 18th, June 18th, September 18th and December 18th. Each issue costs about \$740.00 to print and about \$330 to mail 2,400 copies to SEM members.

Many thanks to all the people who volunteered their time to put address labels on the newsletter every 3 months especially Dave Costa, Joanne Staniscia, Claire Braye, Barabra Hathaway, Nancy Bamford, Bob Wood, Dave and Barbara Williams.

A special Thank-you to one of the Southeastern Massachusetts Chapters Unsung heroes, ELSIE LAVERTY for organizing and hosting label sessions in her home every 3 months for the last 3 years.

Bruce Dunham
Newsletter Editor

CANOE COMMITTEE

The canoe season has officially ended and there is time to review the activities of the year. There were Trip Planning Meetings in various parts of the state in an attempt to coax out some new leaders and generate enthusiasm with a variety of trips: Easton in January, Centerville in February and Westport in May. A Training session was held for canoe and kayak at the YMCA pool in Barnstable at a minimum cost to participants as the issue of safety was of prime importance. The first trip was the end of March for experienced paddlers only and from that time on there were 2 trips scheduled weekly into November. Longer trips included an August, 5 day outing on Washburn Island, Falmouth, a September Adirondacks Wilderness Trip, New York, and a Columbus Day Weekend trip to the Saco River, Maine. A lot of paddling!

Many folks lead a trip or more and helped plan the year, but 6 stand out because of their outstanding participation and have well earned our thanks as well as a badge: Art Hart, Max Sarazin, Dave Shephard, Nancy Wigley, Dave Williams and Ed York. (It should be noted that Max lead 27 trips!!)

Thanks for a great year.

Muriel Thomas
Canoe Chair

TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Account:
Opening balance 12/17/99.....\$ 5,000.00
Income..... \$23,856.01
Total.....\$28,856.01

Expenses \$27,708.92
Checkbook Balance 10/31/99..... \$ 1,147.09
MMDA Account..... \$ 5,004.32

6 Month Certificate of Deposit..... \$ 5,000.00
9 Month Certificate of Deposit..... \$ 5,053.60
AMC Chapter Reserve Balance..... \$15,268.21
Total \$31,473.32

Joey Gallus
Chapter Treasurer

Membership Committee

New Members per month

November 1998.....	81
December 1998.....	65
1999	
January.....	28
February.....	25
March.....	156
April.....	87
May.....	61
June.....	74
July.....	39
August.....	43
September.....	37
Total.....	693

Total of Memberships As of November 1, 1998

Family.....	687
Individual.....	1300
Junior.....	45
Life.....	47
Senior.....	96

Total2,175

Total of Memberships As of September 1, 1999

Family.....	723
Individual.....	1356
Junior.....	25
Life.....	48
Senior.....	96

Total2,248

Since the first of November of 1998, seventy-one membership in a Bottle were sold and mailed to new members. 61 individual and 10 Family memberships. The chapter web site has continued to play a big part in our membership increase. Through the web-site, people just want to know more about AMC and its Chapters and activities.

Mary Gravel

BIKING COMMITTEE

For 1999, there were Tuesday night trips on Cape Cod and Saturday/Sunday trips. Fourteen leaders volunteered to lead these trips; including some substitute leaders. Those people are-- Alice Oberdorf, Elsie Laverty, Jim Kilpela, John Smart, Louise Desrochers, John Poirier, Blanche Grieg, Sheila Place, George Byron, Paul Ligor, Walter Morin, Connie Austin, Rich Iovanni and Tom Waddell. The number of participants ranged 3-23.

During the Summer, a pot-luck meeting of Bike leaders was held to discuss safety, screening of participants and group size.

Six leaders qualify for Bike Leaders Badges. They will be awarded at the Annual Meeting on November 13, 1999.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Austin

HIKING/BACKPACKING

1999 was another great year for hiking despite the hot dry summer. I am happy to report that we trained and qualified four new leaders this year! The chapter offered 119 hikes (11/14/98 - 10/1/99), 80 on Cape Cod and 39 local and Northern New England trips. These hikes attracted over 420 participants including 39 non-members.

I would like to thank the following people who volunteered to lead/co-lead hikes: Richard and Kristy Brech, Ray Butts, Dick Carnes, Anne Chace, Linda Church, Louise Desrochers, Bruce Dunham, Charlie Farrell, Rich Iovanni, Elsie Laverty, Jeff Lerman, John Pereira, Jerry Place, John Poirier, Steve Tulip, Bob Vogel, and Walter and Linda Wells. A special thanks to Walter Wells and Charlie Farrell who led or co-led 11 and 10 hikes respectively during this time and to Richard Brech who coordinated our family hikes. I would especially like to thank Janet Kaiser and Harry Dombrosk who offered Thursday and Sunday "soft" hikes, and to the many Cape Cod hike leaders.

The Hiking Committee continued to maintain and build the hiking program this past year. I am pleased to report that attendance at our hike planning meetings significantly increased this year with an average attendance of 14 people. Once again we offered a Winter Hiking/Backpacking series with a kickoff workshop that was attended by 26 people. In the Spring a three-season hiking/backpacking workshop was attended by over 30 people. We offered a mountain hiking series which culminated in a September hike of Mt. Washington and fascinating tour of the weather observatory. Perhaps the most significant achievement of the year was a complete update of the leadership requirements for hike leaders. I would like to thank Steve Tulip, Bruce Dunham, and Walter Wells who assisted in this challenging task.

Chapter Hut Night was a great success this year. The 28 participants enjoyed a warm and scenic fall weekend at the AMC Zealand Hut in the White Mountains with hikes to Mt. Hale, Zeacliff, and Thoreau Falls.

Best wishes to Walter Wells, the incoming Chair of the Hiking Committee. I have no doubt that with his dedication and enthusiasm he will continue our exciting and challenging program.

Dexter Robinson

Hiking Chair