

Southeastern Breeze

Spring Issue

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Leadership Training — There's Still Time! Come out to Borderland State Park on April 1st

Did you ever think about leading one of our hikes, bike rides, canoe or ski trips? Or about becoming a co-leader on a trip? Why not start now! April 1 is your chance to find out if it's for you. The chapter will be offering a **FREE** one-day leadership training course at Borderland State Park. The days activities will consist of lectures about how to organize and conduct a SEM AMC activity, as well as exercises for the students and several 'role plays' in which you will get to try out your new skills leading your fellow students.

AMC is a volunteer organization. The activities we offer are led by members who started out as participants, then decided that they too could lead an activity. Without these volunteers there would be no activities. Conversely, with new volunteers each year, we can offer more and more diverse activities. That's where you come in! If you've enjoyed participating in our activities and want to help others get that enjoyment; if you've watched other leaders and co-leaders, and said "I could do that"; if you just want to learn more about leadership so you can appreciate the activities more, this is for you.

Training will run from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., and will feature a Free Lunch.
Register with Bob Vogel, 238-7732 (6-9 pm) E-mail: rvogel@mediaone.net

Message from SEM Chapter Chair Dexter Robinson

Looking Forward into the New Millennium — Vision 2010

By the time you read this column, Y2K will be a distant memory. You may have wondered how this possibly could have affected the AMC other than their reservation system. Actually the club has been looking beyond 2000 to the year 2010 by preparing and finalizing a document entitled "A Vision for the Year 2010, Expanding Common Ground" or known simply as "Vision 2010".

This six-page document, drafted by the club leadership and staff with considerable input from chapter chairs and vice-chairs, provides a framework for where the club resources will be applied and for measuring accomplishments. Three key strategic objectives are laid out in the document:

- * Engaging the public: Model environmental education facilities
- * Engaging our members: Conservation and Recreation
- * Building our resources: People and Support.

A few examples of activities to support these

objectives include offering high quality education, conservation and recreation programs to people of all ages and experience; securing additional protection of the most endangered and threatened landscapes and watersheds in the Appalachian region; and launching efforts to attract and retain younger members.

"Vision 2010" has already started to have an impact since we are expected to relate chapter goals and funding requests to it. At the recent club Annual Meeting, I presented some of our chapters goals to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

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My First AMC Hike: A new program to get you started

No, AMC isn't only about hiking. But if you haven't tried it yet, here's your chance...

Starting this spring, we will be offering several local hikes under the banner of a new chapter program called "My First AMC Hike!" These hikes are specifically aimed at two audiences: New members who wonder how to get started hiking with us; and members who read the listings each month and always say "One of these days..."

The hikes in this new series will be structured a bit differently from most other chapter hikes. We will start with a relatively easy loop hike of three miles or so over level or only slightly rolling terrain, to make the trip as accessible to the membership as a hike can be. During this shorter, less strenuous portion of the hike, we will provide information about the SEM Chapter, how we run our hikes, hiking equipment, etc.

At the conclusion of this 'easy' loop, those wishing to may continue on for an additional four miles or so at a faster pace more challenging terrain, where available.

We hope this approach will help introduce more of our members to an activity that is so enjoyable to so many.

So, don't just read about the chapter's hikes. If you haven't yet hiked with us, check out the Hiking and Backpacking listings for more details about how to go on **MY FIRST AMC HIKE!** But call and sign up early, because one problem is that AMC hikes often do fill up, leaving those who hesitate sometimes out in the cold.

Bob Vogel, Education Chair