



The Southeast Breeze

The Newsletter of the Southeastern Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club | November 2018

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Eighteen hikers—plus Sonny—turned out for the Oct. 25th Autumn Peak Hike at the Arnold Arboretum in Jamaica Plain. The 4 to 5-mile hike included two hills with wonderful vistas, spectacular fall foliage, and "the explorer's garden." More photos on page 7. *Photo by Ken Cohen*

SEMers turn out for Annual Meeting & Dinner

By Paul Miller SEM Communications Chair

As just one indication that our AMC Southeastern Mass. Chapter is doing just fine, thank you, almost 120 SEM members and their guests turned out for our 2018 Annual Meeting & Dinner at the beautiful Bay Pointe Club in Buzzards Bay on November 2nd. This was a new venue for us, since we've managed to outgrow most of the previous facilities we've used for this annual event. This is a good thing, even if it does make a little extra work for our already hard-working Membership Committee.

As usual, a social hour with cash bar and free appetizers preceded the business meeting. This gave everyone a chance to schmooze with members whom they may not have hiked, paddled, biked, or skied with recently, and to meet some of our newer members.

Barry Young, outgoing Chapter Chair, kicked off the blissfully short business meeting with some upbeat comments about the health and vitality of the chapter. Barry highlighted the fact that, for the first time in many years, we have *almost* a full [slate of officers](#) lined up for the coming year. (Anyone out there interested in serving as Chapter Vice Chair?)

(Continued on page 3)

View from the Chair: The Challenge of 'FG19'

Let me begin my first "View from the Chair" with a note of appreciation to you, our AMC Southeastern Mass. Chapter membership, for your confidence and support in electing me Chair of your Executive Board. And I especially thank Barry Young for his past leadership of the chapter and personal guidance. Barry patiently brought me (more-or-less) up to speed these past nine months while I served as Vice Chair. It is an honor to serve this chapter and work with such a fine Executive Board.



I was spurred to join AMC after learning about and hiking with the SEM's Thursday hiking group ten years ago. It's been a great "ride" ever since. I've had the opportunity to develop my hiking and leadership skills, lead hiking trips, serve a couple of stints on the Board as a committee chair, be a trip leader for AMC Adventure Travel, and now serve once again on the Executive Board. Over those years I have come to love this chapter, its members, its volunteers, and the contributions it makes to the overall AMC community.

Looking ahead, 2019 will be a once-in-a-decade challenge for the SEM. In addition to continuing to offer a variety of outstanding hikes, bike rides, and paddles, and serving our community with trail work and conservation initiatives, it is our chapter's turn to host AMC's annual Fall Gathering next October, which we've started to refer to as "FG19." This event draws 200-plus attendees from all 12 AMC chapters for a weekend of outdoor activities, educational workshops, and cross-chapter socializing. Your Executive Board has already begun planning for FG19 and you can expect regular progress updates as the new calendar year progresses. In the meantime, save the date October 18-20, 2019 for FG19.

Hope to see you out and about outdoors, of course. And don't forget to keep checking our activity listings on the AMC [ActDB trip database](#) to find an SEM activity that appeals to you.

Thanks!
Len Ulbricht,
AMC-SEM Chapter Chair

2018 Executive Board

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Vice ChairOPEN
SecretaryAnn McSweeney
TreasurerPatty Rottmeier
Past Chapter ChairBarry Young
Biking ChairBernie Meggison
Biking Vice ChairOPEN
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Cape Hiking Vice ChairCathy Giordano

Communications ChairPaul Miller
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Education Vice ChairSue Svelnis
Hiking ChairGeorge Danis
Hiking Vice ChairOPEN

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Paddling Vice ChairLuther Wallace
Skiing ChairJeannine Audet
Skiing Vice ChairBarbara Hathaway
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Trails Vice ChairWayne Anderson

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Webmistress..... Cheryl Lathrop
The Breeze Editor.....Mo Walsh
Blast Editor.....Marie Hopkins

Contact chair@amcsem.org
if you are interested in any
OPEN positions



Social time before the meeting. *Photo by Dave Selfe*

AMC-SEM Annual Meeting & Dinner

(Continued from page 1)

Then the members voted in the new slate of officers, including new Chapter Chair Len Ulbricht. Len has already served on the SEM Board in multiple capacities, including Chapter Vice Chair, Education Chair, and Membership Chair. He is also a very active SEM hike leader. Obviously, Len brings a tremendous amount of experience and dedication to the Chair position, which bodes well for the chapter in the coming years.

Next, Chapter Secretary Ann McSweeney presented the [2018 SEM Annual Report](#), prepared by the Communications Committee with input from our activities chairs. Patty Rottmeier presented the Treasurer's Report, which indicates the Chapter's finances are in good order.

Our guest Faith Salter, AMC Director of Volunteer Relations, commented on the recent move of the headquarters staff from the traditional (and very cramped) building on Joy Street on Beacon Hill to spacious new digs in City Square in Charlestown. Faith said she often uses the SEM as a role model for other AMC chapters, including some much larger ones. Thank you Faith! She also brought us up to date on the important AMC Youth Opportunity Program, which over the years has helped get many thousands of young people outdoors, including many from inner city neighborhoods who might otherwise never have an opportunity to do so. AMC provides leadership and loaner equipment for YOP activities.

After our buffet dinner served by the Bay Pointe Club's gracious staff, Joe Keogh—last year's SEM Distinguished Service Award recipient—presented this year's DSA Award to Maureen Kelly. Maureen has indeed served the chapter in a distinguished manner over the years as Chapter Chair, Vice Chair, Conservation Chair, four-season hiking and backpacking leader, organizer of multiple SEM Open House events, and all-around amazing person. For other awards, Jane Harding, Cape Hikes Chair and Cathy Giordano, Cape Hikes Vice Chair, presented a service award to Robin McIntyre; and Mike Woessner, outgoing SEM Hiking Chair, presented service awards to George Danis, Paul Brookes, and Paul Miller.



Joe Keogh presents the 2018 SEM Distinguished Service Award to Maureen Kelly. *Photo by Barry Young*

After Membership Chair Sandy Santilli and Vice Membership Chair Ellen Thompson raffled off a bunch of AMC guidebooks and headlamps, Len introduced our distinguished guest speaker: Carl Wirsen, Jr., from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. In his fascinating and eye-opening presentation, "The Deep Sea," Mr. Wirsen showed how new technologies, such as deep diving submersibles and autonomous underwater vehicles, are helping advance our understanding of the deep sea environments and what this means for us land-dwelling creatures.

All in all, it was a great evening. If you didn't make it this year, you might want to consider joining us at next year's SEM Annual Meeting & Dinner.

(More photos on page 4)

New hiking series launched: the Weekend Local Hikes

By George Danis, Hiking Chair

SEM has a rich history of offering hikes based on a common theme. Examples include Red Line, White Line, Thursday morning, Full Moon, Introduction to Hiking, Winter Hiking, and the Spring Conditioning series. I'm pleased to announce the latest iteration of this program—the Weekend Local Hikes series.

The local hikes series is designed to offer an option to people who are looking for a local hike but are unable to attend the other programs which take place during weekdays. While there are numerous weekend hikes listed in the ActDB many of these are in the Whites or western Mass and therefore require a long drive to reach the trailhead. This series will offer an option that does not require a lot of advance planning (carpooling, overnight stay, etc.) and is more open to last minute decisions.



The program is entirely leader run with a calendar of available dates and planned events listed on the SEM web site under the hiking committee. The dates are listed in a spreadsheet and can be accessed by all SEM members. The goal of the spreadsheet is to present a “snapshot” of planned hikes and

available dates. Leaders can post a hike and people looking for one can quickly scan the spreadsheet to find one that appeals to them. Full hike details will still need to be listed in the ActDB – the spreadsheet is simply a convenient place to get an idea of what has been planned.

This is a new program that relies on leaders to access and post their hikes on the spreadsheet as well as in the ActDB. As a new program it may take some time to really take off but I also think this is a great addition to our other series and one that fills a need. All leaders are encouraged to use the spreadsheet as part of their hike planning process. The Thursday series has had great success with this approach and I believe we can build on that success with this new program.

SEM Annual Awards (Continued from page 3)



Robin McIntyre, left, accepts the Cape Hikes Service Award from Jane Harding & Cathy Giordano. *Photo by Barry Young*



Paul Miller, left, George Danis, and Paul Brookes accept the Hiking Committee Service Award from Mike Woessner. *Photo by Barry Young*



Len Ulbricht (left) introduces Carl Wirsén from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. *Photo by Paul Miller*



The winter series workshop was an amazing event, with a large group of participants fully engaged and eager to learn and share their own experiences. With a diverse group of instructors, this workshop was very informative and kept everyone engaged. *Photo & caption by Dio Gonçalves*

Winter hiking series workshop

By George Danis, Hiking Chair, and
Dio Gonçalves, Communications Vice Chair

On Saturday, November 3rd, forty-one “hardy” participants gathered for the 2018 Winter Hiking Workshop held at the Bourne Community Center. The group consisted of both people with some experience hiking in the winter and those who were new (and intrigued) by the idea of trying something different.

This program is a staple of the Hiking Committee and generally attracts a large audience, but this year’s program may well have set a record for attendees! The participants represented a good mix of SEM members and attentively listened to and engaged the presenters with questions and discussions about clothing, food, hydration, etc. The presenters were experienced winter hikers and were eager to share their knowledge with the group.

An integral part of the program is a series of four winter hikes for which classroom participants are given priority placement. The hikes are designed to introduce newcomers to the joys and issues associated with hiking in the winter. The hikes become increasingly challenging in terms of altitude and likely conditions and culminate

with an overnight stay at a White Mountain hut (Carter Notch). The issues associated with hiking include proper clothing, food, and hydration, as well as equipment needed to safely enjoy a day outside when weather conditions may include snow, ice, wind, and cold temperatures. In true SEM tradition, the attendees warmly embraced the prospect of being outside under these conditions!

The classroom session is conducted by experienced four-season hikers who are eager to share their experience and love of winter hiking with anyone willing to listen. Many thanks to Paul Allen, Leslie and Ken Carson, Maureen Kelly, Anne Duggan, Eva Borsody-Das, and Suzie Schobel for their enthusiastic and knowledgeable presentations that thoroughly engaged the audience.

A note from the workshop participant By Dio Gonçalves

For those who think that hiking is over when winter arrives, you missed our Introduction to Winter Hiking Workshop this year with a great deal of information, including proper clothing, equipment, heat management, physical conditioning, and—most important—hydration and nutrition.

Need an excuse to eat a few extra calories? Well, winter hiking is what you need. With the cold weather, your body needs extra calories to keep your body warm. Therefore, you can afford to have some extra calories to keep your body going. Equally important is hydration. Your body needs extra water, as well, so it is very important to hydrate even more than during the summer months. A tip from the workshop: The best way to truly hydrate is to drink plenty of water the day before, so your body is hydrated before you begin your hike.

If you missed our 2018 Winter Hiking Workshop, plan to attend the next one available. It is a great workshop and a must if you are planning to start winter adventures. Always do your research when planning your winter hikes. Share your planning with someone at home, and plan to check in when you arrive back in your vehicle. As always, be safe and enjoy the great outdoors.



(Continued on page 7)

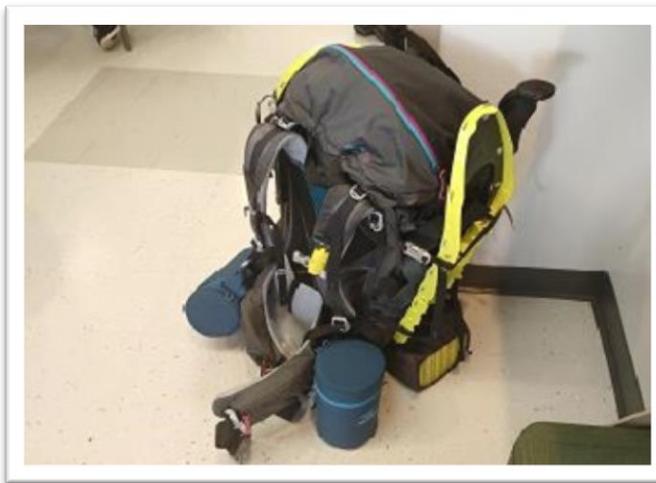
ClipArt Photo

Winter Hiking Workshop

(Continued from page 6)



Layer, layer, layer is Rule #1 for clothing when hiking, especially in the wintertime. Heat management is crucial during winter months. Rule #2 is NO COTTON! It's important to wear material that will not hold moisture and will dry quickly, such as merino wool, polyester, nylon, etc. A tip from the workshop: It's better to begin your hiking on the cooler side, as you heat up quickly and you can always add more layers. *Photo & caption by Dio Gonçalves*



Be ready to carry more weight. In addition to the extra clothes you should always bring, winter hiking will add a few items to your pack, but who doesn't enjoy trying new gear? I sure do. During this workshop we were able to see some interesting gear such as microspikes, crampons, and snowshoes. Having the appropriate gear is always important, but during winter conditions it can be the difference between life and death. *Photo & caption by Dio Gonçalves*

Volunteer at AMC's lodges, huts, campsites, and more!

Our volunteers are passionate about helping people enjoy the outdoors and learn about the natural world. The AMC has a variety of volunteer opportunities based at our Outdoor Program Centers, including **Information Volunteers**, **Volunteer Naturalists**, **Program Volunteers**, and **Volunteer Alpine Stewards**.

Information Volunteers welcome hikers and overnight guests, orient them to the facility, and offer advice about nearby hiking trails, outdoor gear, and activity programming. Depending on location, they may also lead nature walks and evening programs, assist with retail sales, or help guests with boats and paddling equipment. Information They serve at six AMC backcountry huts, at Hermit Lake Shelters, and at AMC's Mohican, Harriman, Pinkham, Highland, Cardigan, and Medawisla lodges.

Volunteer Naturalists provide outreach during self-designed presentations, activities, and nature walks. Throughout their stay, Volunteer Naturalists also offer trail advice, answer natural history questions, and promote the Junior Naturalist program. Naturalists can offer a variety of programs over a few days, or focus on just one or two topics; they can gear their programs toward kids, adults, or both.

Program Volunteers lead short guided hikes or nature walks, interact with guests using hands-on educational displays at "Table Talks," and lead other outdoor/nature activities. These "Walk-on Programs" are free and open to the public; participants often include novice hikers and families with children. Program Volunteers serve at Pinkham and Highland.

Volunteer Alpine Stewards provide outreach education to help protect the fragile alpine ecosystem on Franconia Ridge and Mt. Washington. Stewards engage with hikers about Leave No Trace principles, alpine ecology, trail conditions, and backcountry safety. Stewards also collect data for AMC's Mountain Watch and perform light trail maintenance.

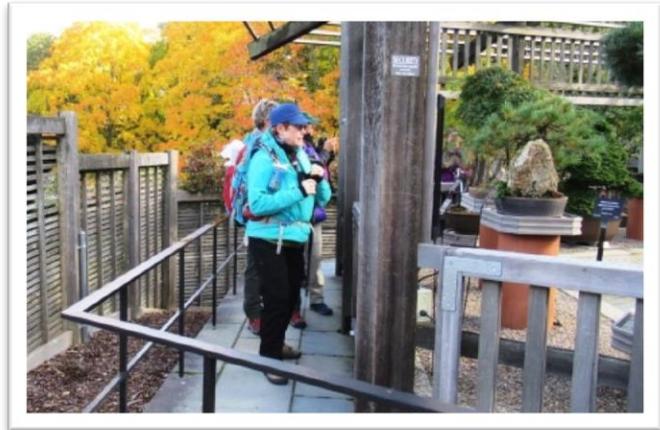
For more information about any of these volunteer roles, or to request an application, please contact Kyra Salancy, AMC's Outdoor Program Centers Volunteer Coordinator, at amcvolservices@outdoors.org.

Arnold Arboretum Hike (Continued from page 1)

Photos by Ken Cohen



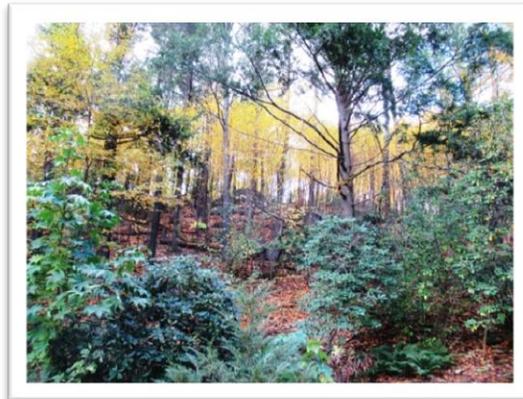
Summitting Peters Hill



Ancient Bonsais Exhibit



Checking the mileage



Hemlock Hill



Public Photo Op



Giant sequoia tree huggers

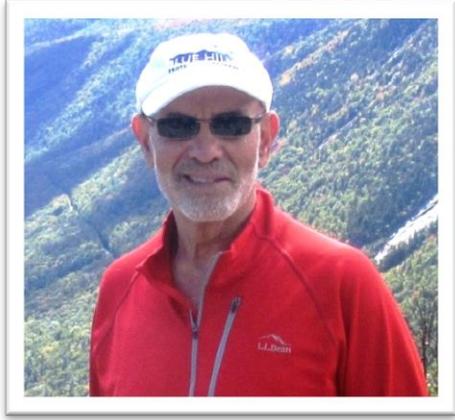


Craig in autumn colors



Trip leader, Ken Cohen

Photo by Susan Svelnis



Volunteer of the Month: Ken Cohen

By Mike Woessner, Outgoing Hiking Chair

Each month the AMC-SEM recognizes one of our amazing volunteers. We are so fortunate to have people give their time, energy, and resources to make our chapter one of the best! Ken Cohen is November's Hike Leader Volunteer of the Month.

Ken has volunteered as a Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter (SEM) Class I Hiking Leader for the past 18 months, having organized approximately a dozen trips in the Blue Hills, Wilson Mountain, Arnold Arboretum, and other local hiking destinations. His "specialty" is planning hikes in local areas not usually traveled by SEM hikers. Ken offers a unique experience, as in his annual Wilson Mountain Perennial hike, searching for Lady Slippers.

Ken is an avid photographer with a specialty in "the art of nature" and enjoys sharing his photographic knowledge with others. He's a year-round hiker and snowshoe enthusiast. He is also a longtime member of "Trail Watch" in the Blue Hills, occasionally assisting the DCR Park Rangers. Currently Ken is an active ad-hoc member of the Board of Trustees for the Friends of the Blue Hills.

Congratulations Ken on a job well done!

Ken will receive a \$50 REI gift card.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

Our biggest and single most important opportunity for sustained conservation funding lies in successfully completing our campaign to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) with full, permanent, dedicated funding. AMC has been working toward this goal for many years as a regional leader within the [national LWCF Coalition](#).

2018 has been a climactic year in this campaign, as AMC and the national Coalition faced the second expiration of LWCF in just three years, as well as concerted attacks on the program's funding. Learning from the experience of successfully saving LWCF in 2015 (though only for the short term), we kicked off a year-long countdown to raise the visibility of LWCF, underscore to the public and lawmakers what is at stake, and bolster our Congressional champions on both sides of the aisle to fight for permanent authorization and full, dedicated funding of LWCF.

Status: The months leading up to the 2018 mid-term election have been incredibly eventful for LWCF. The backdrop of extremely tight races across the country has given our campaign increased resonance and leverage, especially in the Mid-Atlantic where conservation is a winning issue and a rare bright spot of bipartisan compromise. Here is where things stood when Congress left for their election recess:

Support for LWCF permanent reauthorization is now solid in the House of Representatives, but opponents still stand in the way of dedicated funding.

Permanent reauthorization PLUS full, permanent, dedicated funding of LWCF moved forward in the Senate with bipartisan support.

Despite these positive moves, time ran out and LWCF expired on September 30.

Congress will come back for a lame duck session to consider several outstanding issues before the end of the year. LWCF has reached the point of urgency and salience where it is seen as one of these "must deal with" issues, but the election results may change existing dynamics in both predictable and unexpected ways.

Get in touch with your elected leaders to let them know that you are still waiting for them to permanently reauthorize this important funding source.



On the Old Bridle Trail. *Photo by Sal Spada*

‘Winter’ hiking in October on Mount Lafayette

By Paul Miller, [Communications Chair & Hike Leader](#)

On the weekend of October 13 & 14, Anne Duggan and I led five other AMC hikers up to the AMC Greenleaf Hut near the summit of Mt. Lafayette in Franconia Notch. While, based on the calendar, this was not technically a “winter” hike, we required participants to have winter hiking experience and gear, since you never know what weather and trail conditions you’ll encounter up there in October. As it turns out, this was a good call.

The weather was damp and relatively mild with temps in the 50s on the drive up to Franconia Notch on Saturday morning. The thermometer had dropped a bit by the time we got to the crowded Old Bridle Path (OBP) trailhead parking area in Franconia Notch. This being prime “leaf peeping” season, our group was lucky to get the last three possible parking spots. We also lucked out in that it stopped drizzling just about the same time we were ready to start hiking.

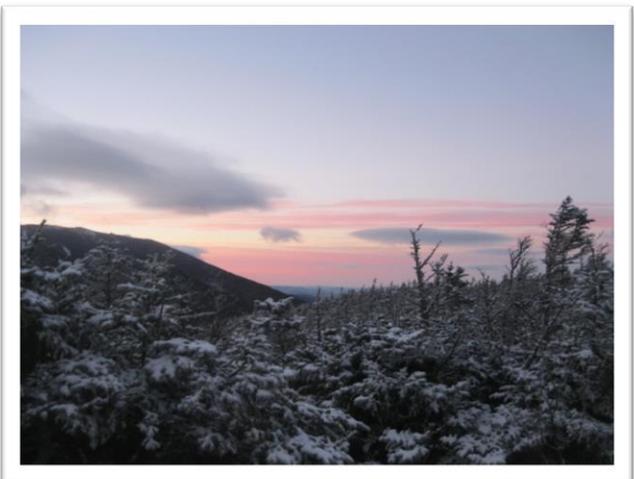
While the often-excellent views on the OBP were obscured by low clouds, we still had a nice hike up to the hut, encountering only a few wet and icy spots along the way. But by the time we reached the hut in the early afternoon, the wind had picked up, the thermometer dropped, and the views were obscured (and remained that way until just before sunset). At the hut, a ranger

was advising inadequately equipped hikers to stay off the ridge. We ate our trail lunches and then spent the afternoon socializing until the young hut croo was ready to serve all 48 guests a hearty turkey dinner. The croo’s after-dinner skit was among the best I have ever seen!

Our initial plan had been to summit Mt. Lafayette the next morning and then traverse the Franconia Ridge over Mt. Lincoln to Little Haystack and return to the trailhead via the Falling Waters Trail. However, come Saturday morning the high peaks forecast called for temps in the 20s, 20 to 30 mph winds (with gusts at 40 to 50 mph), with gradual clearing skies, but continuing cold and windy conditions. Not at all good conditions for traversing the very exposed Franconia Ridge.



The AMC Greenleaf Hut. *Photo by Sal Spada*



Sunset from the Hut. *Photo by Sal Spada*

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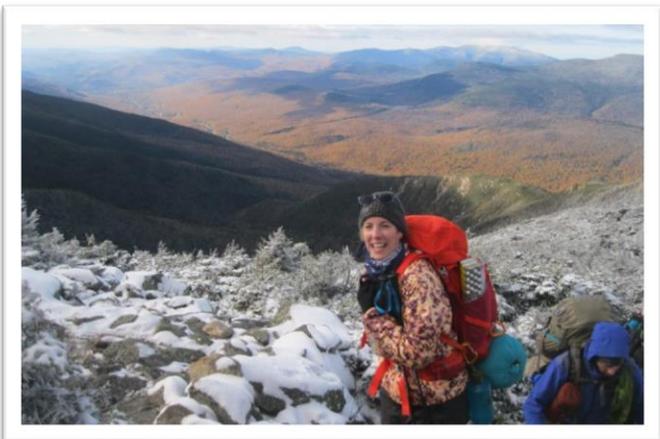


View up to Mt. Lafayette from the Hut. *Photo by Sal Spada*
‘Winter’ on Mt. Lafayette

(Continued from page 9)

After our croo-served breakfast at the hut, we geared up, shouldered our packs, and headed up the Greenleaf Trail toward the 5,260-ft. summit of Mt. Lafayette, about one mile away and 1,000 feet above the hut. About halfway up to the summit, we started to feel the full force of the wind, and the increasingly icy trail conditions soon forced us to stop to slip on our microspikes. As we got closer to the summit, we were totally in the clouds, so no views. It was even windier on the summit and very cold.

While some among our group expressed an interest in continuing across the exposed ridge; I didn’t think that was a good idea. So, instead, we backtracked down the Greenleaf Trail. After a while, the clouds finally lifted.



On the Old Bridle Path. *Photo by Sal Spada*



Eric & Wendy. *Photo by Margo Flavin*

This allowed us to enjoy a fabulous view across Franconia Notch toward Cannon Mtn., Lonesome Lake, and the Kinsmans; and back up toward the summits of Lafayette and Lincoln.

We stopped briefly at the hut to bask in the sunshine and grab a snack and then continued down on the OBP, encountering quite a few people heading up the trail. At one of the stunning overlooks, we stopped to watch some guys fool around with a video camera-equipped drone, which was kind of cool. As is often the case with me, I slowed down quite a bit toward the end of the hike, but everyone else did just fine. Despite our change of plans, when we got back down to the trailhead, everyone was smiling broadly and thanked Anne and me profusely for a wonderful weekend. For an SEM hike leader, it doesn’t get much better than that. *(Continued on page 11)*



Winter conditions on the Greenleaf Trail. *Photo by Allison Zuchman*

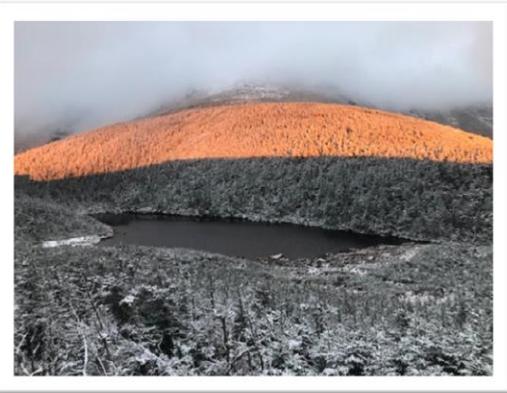
'Winter conditions on Mt. Lafayette (Continued from page 10)



Happy hikers. *Photo by Margo Flavin*



A little sunshine. *Photo by Margo Flavin*



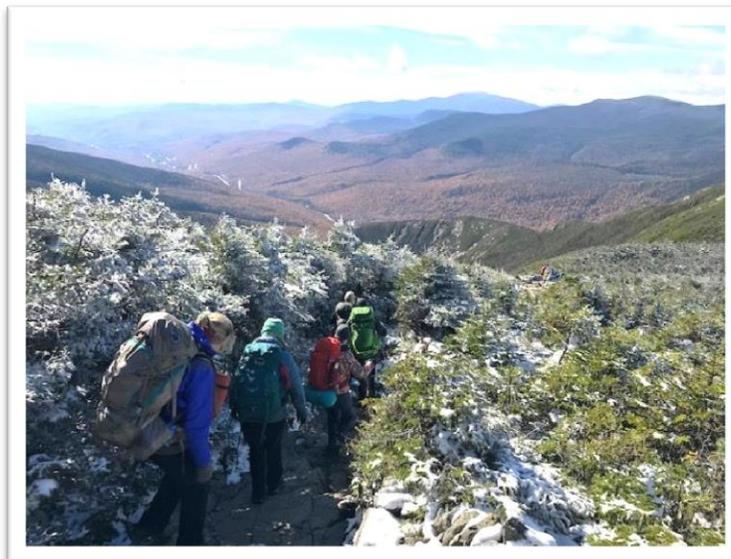
Amazing view from the Hut.
Photo by Allison Zuchman



Sal on the summit of Mt. Lafayette.
Photo by Paul Miller



Near the summit. *Photo by Margo Flavin*



Heading back down to Franconia Notch. *Photo by Allison Zuchman*



AMC's 2019 Annual Summit – Register Today!

January 26, 2019 – [Four Points by Sheraton, Norwood MA](#)

Please join AMC in kicking off another year in the outdoors! No matter what adventures you are planning for 2019, the 143rd Annual Summit has something for you. This event will connect both newcomers and lifelong members with valuable resources and provide opportunities for meeting people with similar interests and passions.

Annual Summit is AMC's thank you to our dedicated volunteers and members! We welcome you to sign up for a combination of workshops, trainings, and meetings that matches your interests. The full list of offerings will be available at outdoors.org/annualsummit starting in October.

This event will feature:

- Interactive workshops led by AMC experts and outdoor pros
 - Organization-wide committee meetings
 - A delicious buffet lunch
 - AMC's annual volunteer service awards
 - The 143rd Annual Business Meeting
 - Early evening reception, with complimentary drink and hors d'oeuvres
 - Updates on AMC's work in conservation, recreation, and education
- For those interested in staying over Friday and/or Saturday night, AMC will arrange for special group rates. Visit our registration page after October for more details.

Registration is Open!

Early Bird Special Pricing: Pay \$35 when you register before January 1, 2019.

Regular Rate of \$45 applies after January 1, 2019

Register at www.outdoors.org/AnnualSummit

Mount Rainier

AMC's August Camp 2019



Experience magnificent Mount Rainier National Park! See stunning waterfalls, alpine meadows carpeted with wildflowers and grand scenic vistas on dozens of easy to challenging hikes led by trained AMC volunteers. Visit Mount St. Helens. Trek across the shoulders of one of the highest and most dramatic peaks in the lower 48 states.

Camp in the small former lumbering town of Packwood, WA, adjacent to the park. Just arrive and enjoy the activities and camaraderie. Everything's provided: tents, hearty, delicious meals prepared by our staff, local transportation and a free shuttle from Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

July 13 through August 10. Attend one week or two. Detailed information and registration will be posted at augustcamp.org by early December. Camp filled by mid-January last year, so don't miss out! Registration opens January 2, 2019.

Week 1:	July 13 — July 20
Week 2:	July 20 — July 27
Week 3:	July 27 — Aug. 3
Week 4:	Aug. 3 — Aug. 10

One Week: \$975 for members; \$1150 for non-members.

Applications are accepted beginning January 2, 2019 in the order in which they are received. Get sign-up information after December 1 at our web site, augustcamp.org.

Questions? Ask Lois Rothenberger at ACRegistrar@comcast.net

augustcamp.org



Photos by Kathy Kelly-Borowski, August Camp 2014

Activities

For the most current information, [search activities online](#)

Hiking Key:

C4D

Indicates distance in miles

Indicates pace

Indicates terrain

AA 13+

1very fast

Avery strenuous

A 9-13

2fast

Bstrenuous

B 5-8

3moderate

Caverage

Cless than 5

4leisurely

Deasy

Found in the description

LActivity leader

CLActivity co-leader

FT First Time

NM... New Members

AN.... Advance Notice

C..... Conservation

BICYCLING

Sat., Dec. 22. Sunset and Full Cold Moon Cycling, MA. - 22+/- Miles/ 2 +/- hours. Flats & Hills. We'll ride from Sagamore Recreation Area (mainland side) into Sagamore Highlands with a stop at Peaked Cliff for a peek at Provincetown in the distance. Return to the recreation area and along the canal to Buzzards Bay for sunset at MMA or on Three Mile Outlook. Then back along the canal for moonrise over the Sagamore Bridge. Contact leader for further information. Ride starts around two hours before sunset. Alt. date Fri. Dec. 21 December is the month when winter begins for most of the Northern Hemisphere, hence, its full moon is called the Cold Moon. Note: Please have bike ready to roll at start time. Helmets are required. Lights are suggested for this ride. L Paul Currier (508-833-2690 8-7, paulbcurrier@comcast.net)

Tue., Jan. 1. SEMAMC 16th Annual New Year's Day Road Cycling, MA. - We'll cycle the streets and Shining Sea Bike Path from North Falmouth to Woods Hole and return for 27+/- miles for 2/3 hours or so. We'll do a shorter ride if the weather is iffy. We'll start at the Shining Sea Bike Path parking lot in North Falmouth. First re-group is Old Silver Beach and a look toward Marion, Rochester, Mattapoisett, Fairhaven, New Bedford and Puget Sound. Perhaps I'll include a couple of side tours into Gunning Point and Racing Beach areas. Then we're on to Woods Hole for refreshments. The return ride will bring us to Nobska Light and then the Shining Sea Path. Start time - late morning with riders and tires pumped and ready to roll. Helmets, water, spare tube required; user pump and tire changing tools would be a plus. Contact leader - paulbcurrier@comcast.net - 508-833-2690 - for start time and registration Helmets required. L Paul Currier (508-833-2690 8-7, paulbcurrier@comcast.net)

CAPE HIKES

(FT) (NM) Thu., Nov. 29. Hike--Great Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, Wareham, MA. This 4 mile, 2 hour hike in the Great Neck Wildlife Sanctuary in Wareham is on wooded trails through Mass Audubon lands. The trails are relatively level with roots and rocks to navigate. There are several large trees to step over across the trails. We will do a portion of the hike silently as a Muir walk in hope of seeing some wildlife. No dogs are allowed by Audubon rules. There is a view of Bass Cove from the Osprey Overlook. Go over the Bourne Bridge and continue on Route 25 for 6.7 miles. Take Exit 2, Onset/Wareham/Glen Charlie Road. Bear right on the ramp and continue through 2 traffic lights. As you cross Route 28/6/Cranberry Highway, the name changes to Depot Street. As you cross Onset Ave/Minot Ave., the name changes to Great Neck Road. Stay on Great Neck for 3.1 miles, turn right onto Stockton Short Cut Road. The Sacred Hearts Spirituality Center is on the left and a small Audubon sign is on the right. The parking is shortly on your left. Park tightly so we can fit all of the cars. Be alert for deer as you approach the area! L Robin McIntyre (508-789-8252 Before 9 pm, robinmcintyre@comcast.net Robin is a 3rd year Level I SEM/Cape hike leader with WFA training)

Sun., Dec. 2. Hiking Bell's Neck Conservation, Sand Pond, Rt 139, Harwich, MA. 4.5mi hike in Bell's Neck Conservation Land, Harwich. Hike along East & West reservoirs, cranberry bogs, marshland & herring run. The herring should be running and the mayflower should be sighted! Meet at 12:45 p.m. for a 1:00 p.m. start. Rt. 6 Exit 10. S on Rt 124. Rt on 39S x 1.9mi to Sand Pond prkg on right. HEAVY rain cancels. L Barbara Gaughan (781-572-1321 before 9 pm, barbaragaughan12@comcast.net, Cape Cod hike & bike leader)

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Activities

For the most current information, [search activities online](#)

CAPE HIKING

Thu., Dec. 6. Hike White Crest Beach C3C, Wellfleet, MA. Pretty wooded trails leading to the White Cedar Swamp boardwalk. Rolling terrain with one steeper sand hill. Meet at 9:45 for 10:00 start...2 hours. Rte 6 to right on Lecount Hollow Rd. Left at Ocean View Rd just before beach parking lot. At 0.9 mi turn right into White Crest Beach parking lot. L Pat Sarantis (508-430-9965 Before 9:00 PM, patsarantis@gmail.com)

Sun., Dec. 9. Hike--Four Ponds and Bourne Town Forest, Bourne, MA. This 2 hour approximately 4.5 mile hike is in the Bourne Four Ponds Conservation Area and adjacent Bourne Town Forest. The terrain is wooded pathways, fire roads, and mountain bike trails with several moderate hills. It offers views of the ponds and some wildlife. It is a loop so does not offer easy bail-out points. This is not a novice hike. Note that the parking and trailhead is not the Four Ponds parking lot. From the Bourne Rotary/Cape side, take Route 28S for 1.7 miles. Take a right onto Clay Pond Road/Monument Beach (green state sign) before McDonald's. Go 0.5 miles and turn left onto Valley Bars Road. Go 0.3 miles and park on the side of the road before the Weary Traveler's club. Please bring water for drinking, dress in layers. Sturdy boots/shoes are suggested. If you have questions please contact leader L Robin McIntyre (508-789-8252 Before 9 p.m., robinmcintyre@comcast.net, Robin is a third year Level 1 SEM/Cape hike leader with WFA training)

Thu., Dec. 13. Hike - West Falmouth-Quaker Woods, West Falmouth, MA. Rolling woodland trails, water views, historical sites. 2 1/4 hours, Meet 9:45 AM. From Bourne Bridge (cape side) follow Rt 28 south. Take the Thomas Landers exit. Bear R, continue to stop sign. L on Rt 28A for 1 mile. R onto Old Dock Rd. Park on R in lot near bike path. Sturdy boots, traction devices like Yaktraks, Stabilicers, Layers for warmth, snacks, water. Questions call Leader: Cathy Giordano 508 2433884. L Catherine Giordano (508-243-3884 before 9 PM, cmgiordan@msn.com)

Sun., Dec. 16. Hike Crowes Pasture, Dennis, MA. Hike in Crowes Pasture, along surrounding marsh and beach and through historic Quivet Neck neighborhood. Expect soft sand! L Deborah Hayden (508-274-2820 before 9PM, shaferhayden@gmail.com)

Thu., Dec. 20. Hike Bourne Farm and Beyond, West Falmouth, Massachusetts, MA. Enjoy hiking the wooded trails at Bourne Farm and Cardoza Farm in West Falmouth. Some hills. Weather will dictate the decision to go beyond these areas to the beach or to the pond and bog areas. Dress in layers. Bring water, snacks, traction devices such as Yaktrax for icy areas. We meet at Bourne Farm at 9:45 am to begin the hike. From the Bourne Bridge (cape side) take Rt 28 south From Rt 151 West take Rt 28 south Then take the Thomas Landers exit. Turn right (West) off the ramp. At the stop sign turn right, make a quick left into Bourne Farm. Park here. Call leader Cathy Giordano if you have questions 508 243 3884. L Catherine Giordano (508-243-3884 Before 9 PM, cmgiordan@msn.com)

Sun., Jan. 6. Hike--Great Neck Wildlife Sanctuary, Wareham, MA. This outing will be in one of 2 forms--2 miles snow shoeing or 4 mile hiking, depending on weather and trail conditions. It will take place in the Great Neck Wildlife Sanctuary in Wareham, on wooded trails through Mass Audubon lands. The trails are relatively level but require negotiating roots and rocks. There are several trees to step over on the trails during hiking. We will avoid most step overs for snow shoeing. No dogs are allowed in the sanctuary by Audubon rules. There is a view of Bass Cove from the Osprey Overlook. Go over the Bourne Bridge and continue on Route 25 for 6.7 miles. Take Exit 2, Onset/Wareham/Glen Charlie Road. Bear right on the ramp and continue through 2 traffic lights. As you cross Route 28/6/Cranberry Highway, the name changes to Depot Street. As you cross Onset Ave/Minot Ave., the name changes to Great Neck Road. Stay on Great Neck for 3.1 miles. Turn right onto Stockton Short Cut Street. At the turn, Sacred Hearts Spirituality Center is on your left and a small Audubon sign is on the right. The parking is shortly on your left. Park close together to maximize available parking. L Robin McIntyre (508-789-8252 Before 9 pm, cmgiordan@msn.com) Robin is a 3rd year Level I SEM/Cape hike leader with WFA training)

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Activities

For the most current information, [search activities online](#)

HIKING

Get your 100-mile patch! Contact hikingchair@amcsem.org.
Always looking for additional hike leaders!

Thu., Nov. 29. Thurs AM Hike Through Burrage Wildlife Mngmt Area Hanson, MA. Meet at 10 AM in the parking lot off Hawks Avenue in Hanson to explore this property managed by the Mass. Division of Wildlife. We will hike on flat trails through old cranberry bogs, along Burrage Pond, and through woodlands. Our hike will include a section of the Bay Circuit Trail that passes through the area. No need to register. Contact leader with any questions. L Susan Svelnis (781-849-9299, suesvelnis@gmail.com)

Sat., Dec. 1. Winter Series Hike #1 - Mt. Wachusetts, MA. Join us for the first in this year's popular Southeastern Mass. Chapter's Winter Hiking Series and discover the fun, beauty, and camaraderie of winter hiking. We'll be doing an enjoyable, approx. 4.5-mile loop hike with some elevation gain and loss at Mt. Wachusetts in Princeton, MA. Weather permitting, we should enjoy expansive views from the fire-towered summit and, if we're really lucky, get an opportunity to try out some of our specialized winter hiking gear as well as practicing "layering" for winter hiking. Participation in the SEM Winter Hiking Workshop on Nov. 3rd (or equivalent) and/or significant winter hiking/showshoeing experience required to participate in this series. L Paul Miller (508-369-4151 before 9:00 pm please, paulallenmiller@verizon.net) L George Danis (danisdad51@outlook.com)

Sat., Dec. 1. Blue Hills Fowl Meadow Hike, 1216 Brush Hill Rd. Milton, MA. Join the 'Red Line the Blue Hills' hikers as they finish their season by hiking 9 miles of Fowl Meadow along the Neponset River. The terrain will be mostly flat and probably wet in some areas. Meet at the northern parking lot 1216 Brush Hill Rd., Milton for a 9:30 start. No registration required. Bring lunch and a smile. L Michael Swartz (swartz@brandeis.edu) L Susan Svelnis (suesvelnis@gmail.com)

Sun., Dec. 2. Holiday caroling hike around Houghton's pond, Blue Hills, MA. Join us for some holiday cheer as we hike around Houghton's pond singing holiday songs to whatever critters are listening. Song sheets will be provided and will include both traditional Christmass carols celebrating the birth of Christ as well as secular holiday songs. All singing abilities are welcome, no need to be able to hold a tune, Just come with a heart full of holiday cheer. The hike is flat and just over 1 mile. No registration required, meet at Houghton's Pond Visitor center at 10am. L Paul Brookes (603-799-4399 After 7am and before 9pm, PaulBrookes1966@outlook.com, Living in Boston I enjoy hiking around Greater Boston and beyond. You may often find me in the Blue Hills with my dog Sunny.) L Catherine MacCurtain (781-848-9506, camaccurtain@aol.com) L Claire MacDonald

(FT) (NM) Thu., Dec. 6. Thurs. Morn. Hike-Cornell Farm/Little River Reserve, Smith Neck Road, Dartmouth, MA. Meet at 9:45 at Cornell Farm parking area for a 6-mile hike. The hike will explore the DNRT Frank Knowles-Little River Reserve and the Trustees Cornell Farm. The trails will take us on a boardwalk through wetlands, pass stone walls and farmhouse foundations. Some trails could be wet and soggy so waterproof footwear is suggested. Weather or trail conditions may shorten the hike. Bring snacks/lunch, rain jacket and at least one liter of water. Heavy rain will cancel. Hunting is not allowed on the DNRT trails but is allowed on the town owned property where we will be hiking. Since it is hunting season, hikers should wear blaze orange hats and vests. L Walt Granda (508-971-6444 before 9 PM, wgrand@aol.com)

Thu., Dec. 13. Thurs. AM Blue Hills Hike/Snowshoe - Ponkapoag Pond, Canton, MA. Moderate to fast pace, with occasional stops. 4 ½ - 5 mile hike around The Pond. Approx. 10:00am-12:30pm. Please arrive by 9:45 am for a prompt 10:00 am start. Bring hiking shoes, micro-spikes or similar traction devices, snacks/lunch & water. We'll take a break at the AMC Camp, down near the pond, weather permitting. Steady rain or heavy snow cancels. Dogs on leash O.K. L Ken Cohen (508-942-1536 Before 8:00 pm, k-cohen@comcast.net) Year-round hiker and snow shoe enthusiast. Join groups in the Blue Hills, other DCR reservations, land trusts (active supporter of many), White Mountains, and our nation's National Parks. AMCSEM Class I Hiking Leader for the past 18 months having organized approximately a dozen trips in The Hills and other local hiking destinations. Longtime member of DCR's "Trail Watch" in the Blue Hills. Active ad-hoc member of the Board of Trustees for Friends of The Blue Hills. Avid nature photographer.)

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Activities

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HIKING

Sat., Dec. 15. Snowshoe #1, TBA, MA. Snowshoe #1 - We will be chasing snow in the White Mountains for the first of our winter snowshoes. Hike location will be announced 1 week prior to the trip. The snowshoe will be approximately 5 miles with 1000-1500 ft of elevation gain. Must have full winter gear, snowshoes, and microspikes. Preference will be given to the SEM winter hiking workshop attendees. L Anne Duggan (508-789-5538 before 9 pm, abduggan12@gmail.com) L Eva Das (borsody@gmail.com), R Anne Duggan (177 Rounseville Road, Rochester, MA 02770, 508-789-5538 before 9 pm, abduggan12@gmail.com)

(FT) (NM) Thu., Dec. 20. Borderland State Park/Bay Circuit Trail, Borderland State Park, MA. Meet at 10AM at Borderland SP parking lot on Massapoag Avenue on the Sharon/North Easton border for a six-mile hike, including portions of the Bay Circuit Trail with pond views. Bring water, lunch, layers, sturdy footwear. Rain or storm cancels. Parking fee is \$5.00 for residents, \$6.00 for non-residents.. L Deborah Lepore (617-778-4339 before 9 PM, DLepore2@GMail.com) L Hans Luwald (508-668-0462 Before 9:00 PM, hans.luwald@gmail.com) CL Hans Luwald (508-668-0462 before 9 pm, Hans.Luwald@GMail.com)

Thu., Dec. 20. Full Moon Hike at Borderland State Park, 259 Massapoag Ave., North Easton, MA. Come hike under the Full Moon. We will be meeting at the Maintenance Entrance to Borderland about 500 feet from the Main Entrance at 5:45. The Hike will be approximately 2 hours. Around 5 miles. Please dress for the weather. Micro spikes, and snow shoes may be in order for this time of year. A Poop sheet detailing the hike will be sent out to all who register. When registering, please include the date of the hike, your contact number and a description of your latest hike. L William Cannon (508-697-3560, bcannon56@gmail.com) L Nancy Coote (bcannon56@gmail.com), R Bill Cannon (bcannon56@gmail.com)

Thu., Dec. 27. Blue Hills hike-- Yellow triangle, Meet at Houghtons Pond parking lot. 840 Hillside Street Milton MA. This hike follows the yellow triangle starting behind Ranger headquarters: very hilly in sections, no rock scrambling though. Traction devices necessary. Rain or snowstorm cancels. L Rachel Thibeault (774-360-2539 before 8:00 PM, rateebo@yahoo.com)

Tue., Jan. 1. White Line the Blue Hills hikes, Blue Hills, MA. For the fifth year, this popular series will run from the Winter Solstice to the Spring Equinox. We meet on Tuesday mornings at 10 am and hike trails in the Blue Hills Reservation for 3 to 4 hours. We hike at a moderate pace, perfect for hiking and chatting at the same time. We stop for lunch on the trail when the weather is not too cold or eat as we walk during cold weather. This is a social group but also serious about winter hiking safety: we hike together, wait at intersections and watch out for one another. The first hike is on Jan 1 and the last hike is March 19. Since the first hike is on New Year's Day, for this hike only, we will be meeting earlier (9 am) and hiking for only 2 hours. Register once and then come when you can. We hike different trails each week and start from different locations. Registered participants will be emailed the location of the next hike during the prior week. Winter hiking clothes, insulated hiking boots, and stabilizers such as micro-spikes are required on all hikes. Snow-shoes must be brought to the trailhead after the first major snowfall. All hikers are expected to bring a backpack with sufficient water, lunch, extra layers and a first aid kit. A complete clothing and equipment list will be given to you during registration. For the safety of those driving, hikes will be canceled during active snow-storms. In addition, hikes may be canceled during heavy rain, excessive cold or simply unpleasant weather. People new to winter hiking are welcome and encouraged to register; you will also be asked to attend the excellent SEM winter hiking workshop on November 3. If you have a scheduling conflict you can attend any winter hiking workshop with any AMC chapter. One of the hike leaders will have a Yellow Lab with him, no other dogs are allowed. We hope you consider this winter series; it's pleasant hiking without bugs, social and an effective way to keep fit during the long winter. L Paul Brookes (603-799-4399, PaulBrookes1966@outlook.com, Living in Boston I enjoy hiking around Greater Boston and beyond. You may often find me in the Blue Hills with my dog Sunny.) L Catherine MacCurtain (camaccurtain@aol.com) L Claire MacDonald , R Cathy MacCurtain (camaccurtain@aol.com)

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Activities

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HIKING

Sat., Jan. 5. Winter Series Hike #2 - Mt. Roberts, Moultonborough, NH. Join us for the second hike in our popular SEM Winter Hiking Series to Mt. Roberts. This is a beautiful 5.5-mile, 1350' elevation hike with moderate difficulty. Mt. Roberts is the westernmost peak in the Castle in the Clouds complex in the Ossipee Mountains. While the summit features strong views to the north, perhaps the most scenic portion is the ledge area along the Mt. Roberts Trail. The Lake Winnepesaukee views from this section are second to none. - All Trails In addition to appropriate winter-rated hiking boots and appropriate (non-cotton) clothing, depending on conditions, microspikes and/or snowshoes may also be required for this hike. Participation in the SEM Winter Hiking Workshop or equivalent and/or significant winter hiking/snowshoeing experience required to participate in this series. L Maureen Kelly (mokol773@aol.com) L Paul Miller (paulallenmiller@verizon.net) L George Danis CL Susan Schobel (susan.schobel@gmail.com), R Susan Schobel (susan.schobel@gmail.com)

Tue., Jan. 8. White Line the Blue Hills hikes, Blue Hills, MA. For the fifth year, this popular series will run from the Winter Solstice to the Spring Equinox. We meet on Tuesday mornings at 10 am and hike trails in the Blue Hills Reservation for 3 to 4 hours. We hike at a moderate pace, perfect for hiking and chatting at the same time. We stop for lunch on the trail when the weather is not too cold or eat as we walk during cold weather. This is a social group but also serious about winter hiking safety: we hike together, wait at intersections and watch out for one another. The first hike is on Jan 1 and the last hike is March 19. Since the first hike is on New Year's Day, for this hike only, we will be meeting earlier (9 am) and hiking for only 2 hours. Register once and then come when you can. We hike different trails each week and start from different locations. Registered participants will be emailed the location of the next hike during the prior week. Winter hiking clothes, insulated hiking boots, and stabilizers such as micro-spikes are required on all hikes. Snow-shoes must be brought to the trailhead after the first major snowfall. All hikers are expected to bring a backpack with sufficient water, lunch, extra layers and a first aid kit. A complete clothing and equipment list will be given to you during registration. For the safety of those driving, hikes will be canceled during active snow-storms. In addition, hikes may be canceled during heavy rain, excessive cold or simply unpleasant weather. People new to winter hiking are welcome and encouraged to register; you will also be asked to attend the excellent SEM winter hiking workshop on November 3. If you have a scheduling conflict you can attend any winter hiking workshop with any AMC chapter. One of the hike leaders will have a Yellow Lab with him, no other dogs are allowed. We hope you consider this winter series; it's pleasant hiking without bugs, social and an effective way to keep fit during the long winter. L Paul Brookes (603-799-4399, PaulBrookes1966@outlook.com, Living in Boston I enjoy hiking around Greater Boston and beyond. You may often find me in the Blue Hills with my dog Sunny.) L Catherine MacCurtain (camaccurtain@aol.com) L Claire MacDonald , R Cathy MacCurtain (camaccurtain@aol.com)

Tue., Jan. 15. White Line the Blue Hills hikes, Blue Hills, MA. For the fifth year, this popular series will run from the Winter Solstice to the Spring Equinox. We meet on Tuesday mornings at 10 am and hike trails in the Blue Hills Reservation for 3 to 4 hours. We hike at a moderate pace, perfect for hiking and chatting at the same time. We stop for lunch on the trail when the weather is not too cold or eat as we walk during cold weather. This is a social group but also serious about winter hiking safety: we hike together, wait at intersections and watch out for one another. The first hike is on Jan 1 and the last hike is March 19. Since the first hike is on New Year's Day, for this hike only, we will be meeting earlier (9 am) and hiking for only 2 hours. Register once and then come when you can. We hike different trails each week and start from different locations. Registered participants will be emailed the location of the next hike during the prior week. Winter hiking clothes, insulated hiking boots, and stabilizers such as micro-spikes are required on all hikes. Snow-shoes must be brought to the trailhead after the first major snowfall. All hikers are expected to bring a backpack with sufficient water, lunch, extra layers and a first aid kit. A complete clothing and equipment list will be given to you during registration. For the safety of those driving, hikes will be canceled during active snow-storms. In addition, hikes may be canceled during heavy rain, excessive cold or simply unpleasant weather. People new to winter hiking are welcome and encouraged to register; you will also be asked to attend the excellent SEM winter hiking workshop on November 3. If you have a scheduling conflict you can attend any winter hiking workshop with any AMC chapter. One of the hike leaders will have a Yellow Lab with him, no other dogs are allowed. We hope you consider this winter series; it's pleasant hiking without bugs, social and an effective way to keep fit during the long winter. L Paul Brookes (603-799-4399, PaulBrookes1966@outlook.com, Living in Boston I enjoy hiking around Greater Boston and beyond. You may often find me in the Blue Hills with my dog Sunny.) L Catherine MacCurtain (camaccurtain@aol.com) L Claire MacDonald , R Cathy MacCurtain (camaccurtain@aol.com)

Activities

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HIKING

Thu., Jan. 17. Borderland State Park hike, 259 Massapoag Ave. North Easton MA. Easy hike around ponds at Borderland State Park. About 4 miles. Lunch stop at Ames original house foundation. Bring traction device in case of icy trails. Directions; From Rt 24 take exit 16(Rte 106West/Mansfield) follow Rt.106 West through 4 sets of traffic lights. Go thru 4th light, which will be intersection of 123 and 106, cont. west on Rtes 123&106 for 1/2 mile. Take right on Poguanticut Ave. Then take left on Massapoag Ave. there will be a brown sign for Borderland. Follow Massapoag for about 3 miles and park all be on right. There is a fee to park of 5 dollars. L Rachel Thibeault (774-360-2539 call before 8:00PM, rateebo@yahoo.com)

Tue., Jan. 22. White Line the Blue Hills hikes, Blue Hills, MA. For the fifth year, this popular series will run from the Winter Solstice to the Spring Equinox. We meet on Tuesday mornings at 10 am and hike trails in the Blue Hills Reservation for 3 to 4 hours. We hike at a moderate pace, perfect for hiking and chatting at the same time. We stop for lunch on the trail when the weather is not too cold or eat as we walk during cold weather. This is a social group but also serious about winter hiking safety: we hike together, wait at intersections and watch out for one another. The first hike is on Jan 1 and the last hike is March 19. Since the first hike is on New Year's Day, for this hike only, we will be meeting earlier (9 am) and hiking for only 2 hours. Register once and then come when you can. We hike different trails each week and start from different locations. Registered participants will be emailed the location of the next hike during the prior week. Winter hiking clothes, insulated hiking boots, and stabilizers such as micro-spikes are required on all hikes. Snow-shoes must be brought to the trailhead after the first major snowfall. All hikers are expected to bring a backpack with sufficient water, lunch, extra layers and a first aid kit. A complete clothing and equipment list will be given to you during registration. For the safety of those driving, hikes will be canceled during active snow-storms. In addition, hikes may be canceled during heavy rain, excessive cold or simply unpleasant weather. People new to winter hiking are welcome and encouraged to register; you will also be asked to attend the excellent SEM winter hiking workshop on November 3. If you have a scheduling conflict you can attend any winter hiking workshop with any AMC chapter. One of the hike leaders will have a Yellow Lab with him, no other dogs are allowed. We hope you consider this winter series; it's pleasant hiking without bugs, social and an effective way to keep fit during the long winter. L Paul Brookes (603-799-4399, PaulBrookes1966@outlook.com, Living in Boston I enjoy hiking around Greater Boston and beyond. You may often find me in the Blue Hills with my dog Sunny.) L Catherine MacCurtain (camaccurtain@aol.com) L Claire MacDonald , R Cathy MacCurtain (camaccurtain@aol.com)

Tue., Jan. 29. White Line the Blue Hills hikes, Blue Hills, MA. For the fifth year, this popular series will run from the Winter Solstice to the Spring Equinox. We meet on Tuesday mornings at 10 am and hike trails in the Blue Hills Reservation for 3 to 4 hours. We hike at a moderate pace, perfect for hiking and chatting at the same time. We stop for lunch on the trail when the weather is not too cold or eat as we walk during cold weather. This is a social group but also serious about winter hiking safety: we hike together, wait at intersections and watch out for one another. The first hike is on Jan 1 and the last hike is March 19. Since the first hike is on New Year's Day, for this hike only, we will be meeting earlier (9 am) and hiking for only 2 hours. Register once and then come when you can. We hike different trails each week and start from different locations. Registered participants will be emailed the location of the next hike during the prior week. Winter hiking clothes, insulated hiking boots, and stabilizers such as micro-spikes are required on all hikes. Snow-shoes must be brought to the trailhead after the first major snowfall. All hikers are expected to bring a backpack with sufficient water, lunch, extra layers and a first aid kit. A complete clothing and equipment list will be given to you during registration. For the safety of those driving, hikes will be canceled during active snow-storms. In addition, hikes may be canceled during heavy rain, excessive cold or simply unpleasant weather. People new to winter hiking are welcome and encouraged to register; you will also be asked to attend the excellent SEM winter hiking workshop on November 3. If you have a scheduling conflict you can attend any winter hiking workshop with any AMC chapter. One of the hike leaders will have a Yellow Lab with him, no other dogs are allowed. We hope you consider this winter series; it's pleasant hiking without bugs, social and an effective way to keep fit during the long winter. L Paul Brookes (603-799-4399, PaulBrookes1966@outlook.com, Living in Boston I enjoy hiking around Greater Boston and beyond. You may often find me in the Blue Hills with my dog Sunny.) L Catherine MacCurtain (camaccurtain@aol.com) L Claire MacDonald , R Cathy MacCurtain (camaccurtain@aol.com)

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HIKING

Sat., Feb. 2. Winter Series Hike #3 - Mt. Kearsarge North, Mt. Washington Valley, NH. Join us for the third hike in our Winter Series. Weather permitting, this moderate 6.2- mile, 2600' elevation hike to Mt. Kearsarge North in the Mt. Washington Valley promises fabulous views from the fire tower summit. There are some steep sections near the summit. Participation in our current or past Winter Hiking Workshop or equivalent is required for those without winter hiking experience. Full winter gear (snowshoes, microspikes, winter-rated boots, etc.) required. L Maureen Kelly (mokel773@aol.com) L Eva Das (borsody@gmail.com), R Maureen Kelly (617-943-4288 before 8:00 pm, mokel773@aol.com)

Tue., Feb. 5. White Line the Blue Hills hikes, Blue Hills, MA. For the fifth year, this popular series will run from the Winter Solstice to the Spring Equinox. We meet on Tuesday mornings at 10 am and hike trails in the Blue Hills Reservation for 3 to 4 hours. We hike at a moderate pace, perfect for hiking and chatting at the same time. We stop for lunch on the trail when the weather is not too cold or eat as we walk during cold weather. This is a social group but also serious about winter hiking safety: we hike together, wait at intersections and watch out for one another. The first hike is on Jan 1 and the last hike is March 19. Since the first hike is on New Year's Day, for this hike only, we will be meeting earlier (9 am) and hiking for only 2 hours. The last hike of the series will be a shorter hike followed by a social lunch at one of the local restaurants. Register once and then come when you can. We hike different trails each week and start from different locations. Registered participants will be emailed the location of the next hike during the prior week. Winter hiking clothes, insulated hiking boots, and stabilizers such as micro-spikes are required on all hikes. Snow-shoes must be brought to the trailhead after the first major snowfall. All hikers are expected to bring a backpack with sufficient water, lunch, extra layers and a first aid kit. A complete clothing and equipment list will be given to you during registration. For the safety of those driving, hikes will be canceled during active snow-storms. In addition, hikes may be canceled during heavy rain, excessive cold or simply unpleasant weather. People new to winter hiking are welcome and encouraged to register. You will also be asked to attend the excellent SEM winter hiking workshop on November 3. If you have a scheduling conflict you can attend any winter hiking workshop with any AMC chapter. One of the hike leaders will have a Yellow Lab with him, no other dogs are allowed. We hope you consider this winter series; it's pleasant hiking without bugs, social and an effective way to keep fit during the long winter. L Paul Brookes (603-799-4399 After 7am and before 9pm, PaulBrookes1966@outlook.com, Living in Boston I enjoy hiking around Greater Boston and beyond. You may often find me in the Blue Hills with my dog Sunny.) L Catherine MacCurtain (781-848-9506, camaccurtain@aol.com) L Claire MacDonald , R Cathy MacCurtain (camaccurtain@aol.com)

Fri., Feb. 8-10. Winter Hiking and Cross-Country Ski Weekend - Noble View Outdoor Center, 635 South Quarter Rd, Russell, MA. Join the SEM Chapter for its seventh annual winter weekend at Noble View Outdoor Center in Russell, MA, approximately 2 hours' drive west of Boston. Noble View sits atop a pristine mountaintop with beautiful trails that wind through quiet woodlands. Hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing will be offered, depending on conditions. Participants will need to bring their own equipment. The cottages have electricity, water, and wood-stove heating. A short walk from either cottage is a bathhouse with toilets and hot showers. This popular event is limited to 28 participants so register early. L Paul Brookes (603-799-4399 After 7am and before 9pm, PaulBrookes1966@outlook.com, Living in Boston I enjoy hiking around Greater Boston and beyond. You may often find me in the Blue Hills with my dog Sunny.) L Jeannine Audet , R Paul Brookes (603-799-4399 before 9 pm, PaulBrookes1966@outlook.com)

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Spend the Weekend!

Enjoy hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing with AMC-SEM friends at the Noble View Outdoor Center in Russell, Massachusetts.

Register NOW!

Activities

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HIKING

Tue., Feb. 12. White Line the Blue Hills hikes, Blue Hills, MA. For the fifth year, this popular series will run from the Winter Solstice to the Spring Equinox. We meet on Tuesday mornings at 10 am and hike trails in the Blue Hills Reservation for 3 to 4 hours. We hike at a moderate pace, perfect for hiking and chatting at the same time. We stop for lunch on the trail when the weather is not too cold or eat as we walk during cold weather. This is a social group but also serious about winter hiking safety: we hike together, wait at intersections and watch out for one another. The first hike is on Jan 1 and the last hike is March 19. Since the first hike is on New Year's Day, for this hike only, we will be meeting earlier (9 am) and hiking for only 2 hours. The last hike of the series will be a shorter hike followed by a social lunch at one of the local restaurants. Register once and then come when you can. We hike different trails each week and start from different locations. Registered participants will be emailed the location of the next hike during the prior week. Winter hiking clothes, insulated hiking boots, and stabilizers such as micro-spikes are required on all hikes. Snow-shoes must be brought to the trailhead after the first major snowfall. All hikers are expected to bring a backpack with sufficient water, lunch, extra layers and a first aid kit. A complete clothing and equipment list will be given to you during registration. For the safety of those driving, hikes will be canceled during active snow-storms. In addition, hikes may be canceled during heavy rain, excessive cold or simply unpleasant weather. People new to winter hiking are welcome and encouraged to register. You will also be asked to attend the excellent SEM winter hiking workshop on November 3. If you have a scheduling conflict you can attend any winter hiking workshop with any AMC chapter. One of the hike leaders will have a Yellow Lab with him, no other dogs are allowed. We hope you consider this winter series; it's pleasant hiking without bugs, social and an effective way to keep fit during the long winter. L Paul Brookes (603-799-4399 After 7am and before 9pm, PaulBrookes1966@outlook.com, Living in Boston I enjoy hiking around Greater Boston and beyond. You may often find me in the Blue Hills with my dog Sunny.) L Catherine MacCurtain (781-848-9506, camaccurtain@aol.com) L Claire MacDonald, R Cathy MacCurtain (camaccurtain@aol.com)

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Activities

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HIKING

Tue., Feb. 26. White Line the Blue Hills hikes, Blue Hills, MA. For the fifth year, this popular series will run from the Winter Solstice to the Spring Equinox. We meet on Tuesday mornings at 10 am and hike trails in the Blue Hills Reservation for 3 to 4 hours. We hike at a moderate pace, perfect for hiking and chatting at the same time. We stop for lunch on the trail when the weather is not too cold or eat as we walk during cold weather. This is a social group but also serious about winter hiking safety: we hike together, wait at intersections and watch out for one another. The first hike is on Jan 1 and the last hike is March 19. Since the first hike is on New Year's Day, for this hike only, we will be meeting earlier (9 am) and hiking for only 2 hours. The last hike of the series will be a shorter hike followed by a social lunch at one of the local restaurants. Register once and then come when you can. We hike different trails each week and start from different locations. Registered participants will be emailed the location of the next hike during the prior week. Winter hiking clothes, insulated hiking boots, and stabilizers such as micro-spikes are required on all hikes. Snow-shoes must be brought to the trailhead after the first major snowfall. All hikers are expected to bring a backpack with sufficient water, lunch, extra layers and a first aid kit. A complete clothing and equipment list will be given to you during registration. For the safety of those driving, hikes will be canceled during active snow-storms. In addition, hikes may be canceled during heavy rain, excessive cold or simply unpleasant weather. People new to winter hiking are welcome and encouraged to register. You will also be asked to attend the excellent SEM winter hiking workshop on November 3. If you have a scheduling conflict you can attend any winter hiking workshop with any AMC chapter. One of the hike leaders will have a Yellow Lab with him, no other dogs are allowed. We hope you consider this winter series; it's pleasant hiking without bugs, social and an effective way to keep fit during the long winter. L Paul Brookes (603-799-4399 After 7am and before 9pm, PaulBrookes1966@outlook.com, Living in Boston I enjoy hiking around Greater Boston and beyond. You may often find me in the Blue Hills with my dog Sunny.) L Catherine MacCurtain (781-848-9506, camaccurtain@aol.com) L Claire MacDonald, R Cathy MacCurtain (camaccurtain@aol.com)

Thu., Feb. 28. Thursday Morning Blue Hills Hike/Snowshoe - Ponkapoag Pond, Canton, MA. Moderate to fast pace, with occasional stops. 4 ½ - 5 mile hike around The Pond. Approx. 10:00am-12:30pm. Please arrive by 9:45 am for a prompt 10:00 am start. Bring hiking shoes, micro-spikes or similar traction devices, snacks/lunch & water. We'll take a break at the AMC Camp, down near the pond, weather permitting. Steady rain or snow cancels. Dogs on leash O.K. L Ken Cohen (508-942-1536 Before 8:00 pm, k-cohen@comcast.net, Year-round hiker and snow shoe enthusiast. Join groups in the Blue Hills, other DCR reservations, land trusts (active supporter of many), White Mountains, and our nation's National Parks. AMCSEM Class I Hiking Leader for the past 18 months having organized approximately a dozen trips in The Hills and other local hiking destinations. Longtime member of DCR's "Trail Watch" in the Blue Hills. Active ad-hoc member of the Board of Trustees for The Friends of The Blue Hills. Avid nature photographer.)

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WINTER SERIES HIKES

Dec. 1. Winter Series Hike #1 - Mt. Wachusetts, MA.

**Jan. 5. Winter Series Hike #2 - Mt. Roberts,
Moultonborough, NH.**

**Feb. 2. Winter Series Hike #3 - Mt. Kearsarge North, Mt.
Washington Valley, NH.**

TBA Winter Series Hike #4 - (The Big One)

Activities

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HIKING

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Activities

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HIKING

Thu., Mar. 14. Thursday Morning Blue Hills/Buck Hill Hike, Blue Hills, Milton, MA. We will hike 5 hilly miles in the Blue Hills from the State Police Barracks on Hillside Street to Buck Hill and return. Bring water, lunch, sturdy footwear, rain gear. Storm cancels. L Deborah Lepore (617-778-4339 Before 9:00 pm, DLepore2@GMail.com) CL Hans Luwald (508-668-0462 before 9:00 PM, hans.luwald@gmail.com)

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SKIING

Fri., Jan. 11-13. Cross Country Skiing in Waterville Valley, 5 Old Waterville Rd., Campton NH 03223. Join us for a cross country skiing weekend in Waterville Valley, NH. We will stay at the lovely Mountain Fare Inn, & ski beautiful trails at nearby Waterville Valley Resort. Late check out from the Inn allows us to ski on Saturday & Sunday. The Inn provides a hot breakfast & we will have dinner at local restaurants. After skiing, we enjoy Happy Hour at the Inn (BYOB & a snack to share). L Jeannine Audet (508-493-8221 weeknights after 7:00 pm, weekends anytime, milmod@aol.com) L Barbara Hathaway (barb224@tmlp.net), R Barbara Hathaway (508-662-0724, barb224@tmlp.net)

Fri., Mar. 1-3. Cross Country Skiing- The Old Field House, 347 NH 16A, Intervale NH. Join us for a weekend at the Old Field House in Intervale, NH. We will cross country ski, snowshoe &/or hike, depending upon the snow conditions. The Old Field House is a cozy B & B, with a hearty breakfast included. There are many opportunities for outdoor activities and shopping close by. Dinners will be at local restaurants. L Jeannine Audet (508-493-8221 weeknights after 7:00 pm, weekends anytime, milmod@aol.com) CL Barbara Hathaway (508-662-0724, barb224@tmlp.net), R Barbara Hathaway (508-662-0724, barb224@tmlp.net)

Happy Trails!