

# The Southeast Breeze

The Newsletter of the Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club | October 2020

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**Taking a lunch break on the ledges at Moose Hill in Sharon. What a great group, what a great hike! Photo by Diane Simms**

## Insights from 2019 Trip Leader Training graduates

*Diane Hartley and Tom Graefe shared their thoughts in the September Breeze about leadership training and our Southeastern Massachusetts AMC chapter. This month, we hear from two more graduates.*

### Part 2: Insights from Johanna Stamm and Karen Foley

Johanna Stamm does not lead hikes but got a lot out of the training. "I regretted not taking it the year before after hearing people talking about it. I was encouraged that even if you didn't want to be a leader, you were welcome. I like learning and courses and love learning more about hiking."

Johanna started hiking with the AMC about six years ago. She appreciates AMC as a group with experience that knows how to hike safely. She acknowledged, "It can be somewhat intimidating to join a new group at first. The group was so nice to me." She adds, "I really like my leaders."

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## View from the Chair: My Last View

Looking ahead I see more green shoots rising. Cape hikes have restarted and planning is underway for our yearly winter workshop. It will meet soon, but in a non-traditional distance learning format. Our annual meeting is going electronic, too. This event will be our first experience running a webinar, and it may be the forerunner of how to reach many more chapter members with exciting content going forward. Yet, the cloud of COVID will be with us for many more months. It will take time for our green shoots to become the forest we once had.

In recent months, despite the changes COVID has brought to our chapter, successful recruiting efforts have identified several talented and enthusiastic candidates to fill openings on your executive board for the year ahead. Let me encourage you to vote in support of the nominees at the November 7 annual meeting. In doing so, I am confident our tradition of developing strong capable leadership for the chapter will continue. Thank you, Nominating Committee.

Lastly, this phase of my life as SEM chapter chair is coming to a close, ending officially November 7. During these past two years we experienced the highlight of highlights, the now legendary 2019 club wide Fall Gathering, and the lowest of lows, COVID-19's suspension of trips and its lingering aftermath. In between these extremes there were many positive enjoyable experiences, too many to be listed here. Best of all has been working with the fine bunch of executive board volunteers serving on your behalf. I have been honored to work with them. They are the greatest.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our chapter. Be safe and **Be Outside**.

Thanks!

*Len Ulbricht,  
AMC-SEM Chapter Chair*



### 2020 Executive Board

Chapter Chair ..... Len Ulbricht  
Vice Chair ..... Diane Simms  
Secretary ..... Ann McSweeney  
Treasurer ..... David Yampanis  
Past Chapter Chair ..... Barry Young  
Biking Chair ..... Bernie Meggison  
Biking Vice Chair ..... Peter Linhares  
Cape Hiking Chair..... Jane Harding  
Cape Hiking Vice Chair .... Robin McIntyre

Communications Chair..... Nichole Nelson  
Communications Vice Chair.... Alanna Halloran  
Conservation Chair ..... Joanne Newton  
Conservation Vice Chair ..... Bill Cannon  
Education Chair ..... Doug Griffiths  
Education Vice Chair ..... Sue Svelnis  
Hiking Chair ..... George Danis  
Hiking Vice Chair..... Paul Brookes  
Membership Chair..... Ellen Thompson

Membership Vice Chair ..... Sandi Santilli  
Paddling Chair ..... Ed Foster  
Paddling Vice Chair..... Joe Keogh  
Regional Director..... John Mullens  
Skiing Chair ..... Jeannine Audet  
Skiing Vice Chair ..... Dia Prantis  
Trails Chair ..... Skip Maysles  
Trails Vice Chair ..... Pete Tierney  
Young Members Chair..... Sue Schobel  
Young Members Vice Chair..... OPEN

### Ad Hoc Committee Chairs & Other Chapter Contacts

Social Media Administrator..... Leah Brodsky  
Webmistress..... Cheryl Lathrop  
Nominating Committee Chair..... Alan Greenstein

The Breeze Editor..... Mo Walsh  
Blast Editor..... Marie Hopkins

Contact [chair@amcsem.org](mailto:chair@amcsem.org)  
if you are interested in any  
OPEN position





This determined group braved the heat to explore the surrounding landscape and ascend Noon Hill in Medfield.

*Photo by Peggy Qvicklund*

## Noon Hill Hike on August 12

By Peggy Qvicklund, Hike Leader

*(This article was inadvertently left out of the September issue of the Breeze.)*

There was really no need to check the pre-hike weather forecast. What else but hazy, hot, and humid! With an earlier start time and an option to shorten the route if needed, the hike was a go.

I was thrilled to see folks I'd hiked with in the past and new "faces" (under masks) to get to know.

The trails were shaded, but the heat seemed to put the forest to sleep. We heard only an occasional bird song. There was not a breeze in the air. Even the significantly low Charles River seemed asleep, without a ripple on the surface.

Meandering back through the forest with huge white pines and stone walls everywhere, signs of former pastureland, we reached the top of Noon Hill close to noon. Time for a final rest, snack, and photo before heading back to our cars.

A great morning spent with interesting people. Thanks to everyone!



## Save the Date!

**AMC-SEM Annual Meeting Webinar**  
**Saturday, November 7, 2020**  
**5:00 to 7:00 pm**

Registration via Activity Database Posting is now open. Please visit the [amcsem.org](http://amcsem.org) Home Page for [Registration link](#) and links to the Slate of Officers (listed below) and an [Amendment to the Bylaws](#) to be voted on at this meeting.

### 2021 Nomination Slate

Chair	Diane Simms
Vice-Chair	OPEN
Secretary	Natalie Halloran
Treasurer	David Yampanis
Biking Chair	Bernie Meggison
Cape Hiking Chair	Jane Harding
Communications Chair	Nichole Nelson
Conservation Chair	Joanne Newton
Education Chair	Sue Svelnis
Hiking Chair	Paul Brookes
Membership Chair	Samantha Fisher
Paddling Chair	Ed Foster
Past Chapter Chair	Len Ulbricht
Skiing Chair	Jeannine Audet
Trails Chair	Skip Maysles

Names in **black** are continuing in their current post; names in **green** are new to the position.

#### The Nominating Committee

Alan Greenstein, Hingham  
[alan.b.greenstein@gmail.com](mailto:alan.b.greenstein@gmail.com)

Diane Hartley, Plymouth  
[dhartleyplymouth@gmail.com](mailto:dhartleyplymouth@gmail.com)

Cathy Giordano, Plymouth  
[cmgiordan@msn.com](mailto:cmgiordan@msn.com)



## Trip Leader Training Continued from page 1



Karen Foley celebrates reaching the next trail marker as she completes Redlining the Blue Hills. *Photo by Joanne Newton*

Johanna loved the training. “I came home raving about it. I let the information sink in. I was not a newbie but not one of the old pros either. I realized I have come along way in learning.” She elaborated on the role playing exercises. “One I loved the best was where we had to pick the order of the most important items to bring in an emergency scenario and then do that again as a group, to see how the contribution of the group makes the final score better. I knew I’d be a better informed participant if I was needed, in any little helpful way.”

**“I feel confident enough to speak up.”**

The training paid off on one of her hikes. “We were heading out and the weather kept changing. We had delays. Because I was aware of the time and how it’s all planned, I knew what should be part of the leader’s decision making. I felt confident enough to speak up. We had a group meeting, and the day’s plan was changed. These are the scenarios they talked about in training. Any mishap is a series of decisions that didn’t go well. It’s one little thing, then another little thing, then another. The leader listened to the input from the group.”

Karen Foley starts off, “I had no intention of taking the course. I just started hiking two years ago. I started with the Red Lining series. I didn’t want to stop, so when that ended, I joined the White Lining series. I heard people talking about the trip leader training. They said you didn’t have to lead; take it to become a more informed hiker.”

Karen took the training. “I had it in my head I wouldn’t be a leader. How can I be responsible for 20 people if something goes wrong? But I picked up a lot of little tips about how to be better prepared for myself. And then I continued to take classes. I took Wilderness First Aid and then Map & Compass. I kept slowly educating myself.”

The course planted the seed for Karen to become a leader. “I’d pay attention to the leader on trips I was on. I’d observe things like whether we should take a break for water, change the pace, and other things I learned from the class. I thought, ‘How would I do it?’ Leading was in the back of my mind. One leader who knew I’d taken it asked if I wanted to do a trial co-lead. That went pretty well and led to other co-leads. The good thing about co-leading was the great support from the leader as well as other leaders who happened to be on the hike. Everyone is so kind and fun. Everyone wants to help each other.”

**“Everyone wants to help each other.”**

Karen learned the support did not stop when she became a full leader. “I’m still not alone. I still have the support of other leaders who might be hiking. I don’t feel I’m the lone person responsible because it’s such a supportive and knowledgeable group. You know you can get support from other people. I have the comfort that if I need help, someone will help me out. They’re team hikes. We’re all in this together. We want to be safe but have a fun time.”

Karen took it a step further by partnering with another leader (Joanne Newton, who also took the 2019 leader training) to create a monthly series. “We thought we’d do something fun. We thought of a series of hikes exploring southeast Mass. We wanted to get new people involved. We thought maybe most of the people who don’t hike with us during the week are working.” (*Note: This series has been put on hold during the pandemic.*)

Karen, who just started hiking two years ago, started tracking her AMC hiking miles January 2019. She was awarded the 500 mile patch at the March Hike Leader meeting. Next goal, the 1,000-mile patch! Learn about recording your AMC [hikes mileage here.](#)





Richard Kaiser led a wonderful hike from Doane Rock, through the woods to the Three Sisters lighthouses, then to Nauset Light. We then walked one mile down the beach to Coast Guard Light. Had a wonderful view across Nauset Marsh and then back to Doane Rock. Wonderful day!!!

*Photos by Dave Selfe*

## AMC & SEM Leader Training Planned

Although the in-person Spring SEM trip leader training was cancelled, SEM is mentoring new co-leaders who completed online training this summer.

Another online training series will be run by AMC on Monday 11/30, Wednesday 12/2, Monday 12/7, and Wednesday 12/9, all from 7 to 9 pm. That will be followed by two SEM-sponsored sessions to round out the training.

Potential leaders who complete all six sessions will be paired with mentors to complete the SEM leader certification. Potential hike leaders will need to co-lead two hikes with an SEM leader.

Interested in learning more about leading? Talk to a trip leader or email an activity Chair or Vice Chair at the [addresses here](#).

## Help AMC-SEM's conservation efforts

By Joanne Newton, Conservation vice Chair

The Conservation Committee, which plans and organizes outdoor conservation work in Southeastern Massachusetts and communicates to our members on conservation topics, is now recruiting new members to help with planning, organizing, and running new conservation projects such as:

- >Working with DCR and Friends of the Blue Hills to remove invasive species.
- >Collaborating with the other SEM Committees—Hiking, Paddling, Biking, Trails and Skiing—to identify and work on areas of interest.
- >Starting a monthly speaker series. (These may start as Zoom meetings but, when feasible, become in-person seminars.)
- >Communicating ideas as to how each of us can improve conservation measures in our daily lives.

We would very much like to hear from you with your ideas. Please contact Joanne Newton at [conservationchair@amcsem.org](mailto:conservationchair@amcsem.org).



Tree pose at Balance Rock. Diane Simms led a terrific day hike at Wachusett Mountain on Oct. 14. *Photo by Paul Brookes*



## AMC-SEM hiking in the 1980s

By Bruce Dunham

*Introduction from the Communications Committee Chair:*

Bruce Dunham was one of six people who helped get hiking started in SEM in the 1980s. He was an off-Cape hiking coordinator from 1983 to 1986 and Hiking Chair from 1987 to 1990. He was also the *Breeze* editor for four years and designed several mastheads, including the first. Read in our archived [1982 Southeast Breeze](#) how the newsletter unveiled a new, "brighter" format: Bruce Dunham designed the logo and typeset of that version of the newsletter. The logo was used until 1986.

Bruce originally proposed this article to Susie Schobel, who will be voted in as Young Members Chair, if the Young Members Committee is formed at the Annual Meeting on November 7. He thought it was important to communicate to younger members especially just how much time and effort went into the creation of what we now know and perhaps take for granted: the SEM Chapter as it smoothly runs today. But we quickly realized that we can all appreciate his perspective, that what is now "old" was once new, and change can be hard, but good. (Just note the fact that it took *ten years* of debate to finalize the leadership guidelines!) And we also realized that we needed to honor and thank Bruce, and others, for their legacy of making SEM activities safer, more expansive, and more local/communal!

\* \* \*

When I joined the Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter in November 1980, the Appalachian Mountain Club existed under a different set of club by-laws. Instead of an AMC Board of Directors, there was an AMC Council. The Executive Director (now the CEO and President) did not have a vote. The chapter looked different, as well: There were fewer committees, and the leadership guidelines that SEM hike leaders use today did not exist until 1996.

My first SEM hike was in Wellfleet on a Great Island Hike on a Sunday in January 1981. It was four hours spent with a small group of ten hikers. It was led by retired

Colonel John Dalton. John Dalton was the Founder of the Cape Hikes. John organized about 35 Sunday Cape hikes from the first Sunday after Labor Day until the last Sunday before Memorial Day Weekend. Hikes were scheduled every Sunday starting at 11 am and ending about 3 pm. The hikes were nine to eleven miles in different areas of the Cape. Attendance at Cape Hikes gradually increased in numbers to 20 or more SEM Cape hikers.

Unfortunately, Colonel Dalton died in December 1982. He was succeeded by Harry Dombrosk, a retired bank treasurer, who continued the schedule of Sunday Hikes. Harry organized a schedule of Thursday and Sunday Cape Hikes over the next eight years.

### Hikes expand off-Cape

In 1983, in response to SEM members, the Executive Board voted at the February Board meeting to create a second *ad-hoc* committee to provide a schedule of hikes for members in Plymouth and Bristol Counties. These members wanted local hikes and/or did not want to make a long drive to the Cape. I received a call from Vicki Fitzgerald, who was the chapter chair in 1983. She explained to me how the board voted to create an *ad-hoc* Off-Cape Committee with Joan Ramsey as Off-Cape Committee Chair. I was asked to lead that first hike and to assist Joan, since I was a more experienced hiker.

The first hike was in Fields Park in Brockton. Joan organized a schedule of hikes from the first weekend in spring until the first weekend in June. Local hikes resumed the weekend after Labor Day and ended at the Annual Meeting in November. Joan organized a schedule of hikes through phone calls to people that she knew.

In January 1985, Joan Ramsey called me to say that she was resigning from her position as Off-Cape Committee Chair and would mail me what information she had about the hikes. I organized hikes on Saturdays with the off-Cape leaders who were available that year. I led hikes for beginners at Borderland State Park in Easton and in the Blue Hills. Day hikes for experienced hikers to the Wapack Trail and Mt. Monadnock were also scheduled. Attendance was good with 10 to 25 hikers on hikes.

At the 1985 chapter Annual Meeting, Walter Morin was elected to the position of Hiking Chair. I was elected as Hiking Vice Chair. Walter scheduled a committee meeting in February 1986 at Bridgewater College. Walter came to the meeting with a schedule of hikes from the first weekend in spring until the Annual Meeting. It was the only meeting of the year.

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## Hiking in the 1980s Continued from page 6

At the 1985 chapter Annual Meeting, Walter Morin was nominated and elected to the position of Hiking Chair. I was nominated and elected as hiking vice-chair. Walter scheduled a hiking committee meeting in February 1986 at an available Room at Bridgewater College. Walter came to the meeting with a schedule of hikes from the first weekend in spring until the Annual Meeting. It was the only meeting of the year.

At the November 1986 annual meeting, I was elected to be the Hiking Chair, starting in 1987. The first hiking committee meeting of the year was in February 1987 at the home of Claire Braye in Easton. I had prepared an agenda that included hike leader guides and a hike rating system. There were about 15 people present.

The first order of business was discussion of using a rating system for SEM hikes. The committee discussed using the Connecticut or Delaware hike rating system. A motion was made to adopt the use of the Connecticut rating for SEM hikes. The vote was unanimous to approve the Connecticut System. (Check out that system here: [http://www.amcsem.org/assets/newsletters/archive/breeze\\_87\\_may.pdf](http://www.amcsem.org/assets/newsletters/archive/breeze_87_may.pdf))

The next order of business was leader qualifications. In 1987, there was no Outdoor Management Committee with the leader guidelines that members are familiar with today. Each chapter had its own set of guidelines. Club-wide guidelines were not approved by the Outdoor Management Committee until September 1996.

The final order of business was sign-up sheets for hikes. Blank pieces of paper to register hikers had been used up until then. The committee discussed and voted to use the new sign-up sheets. The committee also agreed to have three meetings a year.

At a spring 1987 executive board meeting, the board discussed and voted to award leaders recognition patches. Each committee chair determined the criteria and who would receive the leader patches. As hiking chair, I gave out 30 hike leader patches (for 15 on-Cape leaders and 15 off-Cape leaders).

In 1988, I worked on making changes to the Excursions Committee by-law. I asked the chapter in early 1988 to put on the board agenda a discussion of making changes to the Excursions Committee by-law. The original Excursions by-law was open to any on- or off-Cape hike leader. The Excursion Chair was responsible for appointing ad-hoc coordinators for activities such as

hiking and skiing. The executive board voted to create a by-law committee. People on that committee were past chapter chairs Vicki Fitzgerald and Bob Bentley, current Chapter Chair Paul Murphy and me. The By-Law Committee discussed and voted to change the title of Excursions Chair to Hiking Chair. The By-Law Committee also discussed and voted to make skiing an separate standing committee of the executive board. The Chapter Executive Board voted to approve the changes and make them available for members to vote for approval or disapproval at the 1988 Annual Meeting.



**Nov. 3, 1983 on the Crawford Path: Bud Carter, left, Harry Dombrosk, Bruce Dunham, Pam Carte. Photo by Bruce Dunham**

The first meeting of the Hiking Committee in 1989 was in February. One item of business was making Chapter Hut Night an annual event. The 1988 Chapter Hut Night, which was led by Bob Bentley at Galehead Hut, celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the AMC hut system and was very successful. The members at this meeting voted to make Chapter Hut Night an annual event. Then a discussion followed as to which hut to choose. The committee voted to go to Zealand Hut. The hut was reserved for 40 Hikers and the event was scheduled for Columbus Day weekend. The Cost was \$47.00 which included a T-shirt.

My time as hiking chair ended at the October 1990 executive board meeting. At the 1990 Annual Meeting, Bob Benvissuto was voted to be the next hiking chair.

The 1980's were an interesting and challenging time for our Chapter. It was an experience that I enjoyed and one that I made many friends. I hope more members from the 1980's would come forward with their stories.





Wonderful hike around the Scorton Creek area in Sandwich on Oct. 1st. Could not have had a better day! Register online for [Cape hikes here](#).



Top: Clear water reflections.

Middle: Trailside benches to enjoy scenery.

Above: Beauty of the wetlands.

Left: David Selfe's selfie.

*Photos by David Selfe*

## Blue Hills among 'Best Fall Hikes'

*Condé Nast Traveler* has included the Blue Hills Reservation among "The Best Fall Hiking Trails in the U.S." The list named 26 best places "to chase fall foliage" from Maine to California, eight of them in the East.

"There's something magical about spotting fall colors in a city," writes Cassie Shortsleeve in the magazine's Oct. 8th issue. "Blue Hills Reservation...affords views of the city skyline...behind miles of yellows, oranges, and reds."

Read more about the Blue Hills and the other fall hiking trails on the [Condé Nast Traveler website](#).



Jane Harding led a wonderful hike in the Maple Swamp. The trees are just starting to change color. The hills were just great: 770 feet of rise and fall is not bad for Cape Cod. Gets the old heart pumping. *Photos by Dave Selfe*





## Blue Hills History #4: The AMC Camps & Cabins at Ponkapoag Pond

By Howard S. Whitley with notes from Bob Vogel, Hike Leader



Cabin at Mr. Rogers  
Camp at Ponkapoag  
Pond.(1927)

*Photos from the  
AMC Library.*

Thank you to Sandy  
Johnson!

[*Bob Vogel: Some excerpts about the creation of the AMC Cabins, from an article written by Howard S. Whitley, which is on the Ponkapoag Camp website. The full article is at: <https://ponkapoagcamp.org/history/>. With additional notes and pictures added for your enjoyment.*]

If the members of the AMC had come to Ponkapoag immediately upon the retreat of the glacier, they would have seen the pond at twice its present size, and in a terrain bleak and desolate. By waiting, they gave the trees a chance to grow, oak and pine and flowering dogwood; and what they lost of the pond they gained in a marsh dear to the hearts of bird lovers, botanists, and naturalists generally. They waited patiently until the close of World War I.

With the end of that war came a period of restlessness. To both military and civilian, life had begun getting stuffy. People were tired of restriction and regimentation, of crowded trains and restaurants, of planned entertainment and spectator sports, of waiting in line and being told what to do. They wanted to be where they could do as they pleased, where each could go his own gait and wander as he chose. Some sought freedom on the hills, in the woods, or by the lonely dunes.

The members of the AMC were casting about for new sites on which to pitch their tents. For nearly two decades they had maintained a camp at Three Mile Island with swimming, canoeing, and tennis close at hand, and hills not far away. Now, unsatisfied, they were establishing two new camps, one at Cold River in 1919 and one at Echo Lake in 1922. In the meantime they were aware of the need of a camp near Boston, a camp which could serve them summer and winter and which would be accessible not only to a limited group, but to the entire membership. The widespread demand for a camp within commuting distance of Boston prompted the Council, in June of 1920, to send out a questionnaire asking for suggestions.

President Kelsey, at a corporate meeting held in January 12, 1921, commented on the favorable response to this questionnaire and on the number of additional pleas for such a camp. He suggested that the proposed camp "should be in the wilds, on water, and should provide boating, fishing, snowshoeing and all similar outdoor recreation."

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**Building a Cabin (1925) Photo from the AMC Library**

## **Ponkapoag Camps** Continued from page 9

In the following April he appointed a 'committee on Camp near Boston: Mr. Fred Tucker, Chairman Messrs. Harland A. Perkins and William F. Rogers.'

The Members of this Committee had started work even before their appointment. Various sites, including beaches on the South Shore and a wooded spot on the Ipswich River, were considered by them; but all these sites were found unsuitable.

One day Mr. Will Rogers was driving along Randolph Street, just south of Ponkapoag Pond. He gazed from time to time at Great Blue Hill with its observatory tower, and at its image mirrored in the water. Suddenly the thought came to him, "This is the place." From that moment there was no longer any question where the new camp was to be.

Will Rogers called upon his friend Mr. Arthur H. Tucker of Milton and described to him the advantages of Ponkapoag as a location for the proposed camp. Mr. Tucker's family had lived for generations in Milton and had given their name to Tucker Hill. Mr. Tucker, himself, had been closely associated with Mr. Rogers in exploration and trail cutting in the Blue Hills. He had much to do with the development of Ponkapoag, first as a volunteer helper to Mr. Rogers, and later as chairman of the committee.

Will Rodgers and Arthur Tucker, having agreed upon Ponkapoag as the most suitable locality, began prospecting for a campsite. Tramping in along an old cart path that has since been made into the present motor road, they selected the high knolls at the eastern end of the pond as the most suitable spot. This land, even then, was part of the Blue Hills Reservation, and negotiations

were begun at once with the Metropolitan District Commission for the privilege of establishing an AMC camp there. A report of the committee, published in the Bulletin for May 1921, the Secretary of the Metropolitan District Commission issued a formal document granting 'the Appalachian Mountain Club permission to use a portion of the Blue Hills Reservation on the northeast side of Ponkapoag Pond for the use of members of the club and their guests.'

The June 1921 Bulletin carried [this] announcement:

"There is a strong demand for an A.M.C. weekend camp near Boston. What seems a very satisfactory site on Ponkapoag Pond, Blue Hills Reservation, has been offered the Club by the Park Commissioners with free use of the land. This is a wild spot, little visited, with good tramping country all about, and has the advantage of being protected by the Park police."

This announcement then discussed the problem of financing the new camp, and suggested the purchase by members of shares at ten dollars each in return for the privilege of putting up their tents on private sites.

The Ponkapoag group began to lie [sic] out the camp. Their first problem was the transportation of equipment, for the only road to the campsite was an almost impassable cart path. At the far end of the pond, however, was an excellent road, Maple Avenue, leading through the golf grounds to the water's edge. Mr. Dean Peabody remembers bringing tents over this road and ferrying them across the pond in rowboats. It was a good fellowship, everyone helping everyone else to clear tent sites, set up board floors, cut kindling wood, carry water, cook meals, and do all the odd jobs familiar to August Campers. The main building was erected in portable sections by the E.F. Hodgson Company.



**AMC tent campsite with wooden platforms**

*Photo from AMC Library*

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## Ponkapoag Cabins Continued from page 10

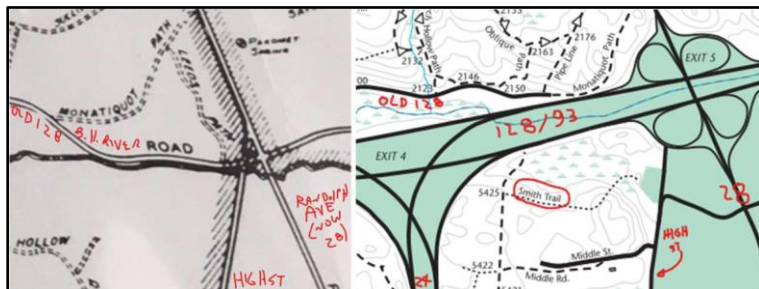
The Camp, thus established in July, 1921, is described in the December issue of *Appalachia*, 1922, as consisting of the main building and twenty-nine tents, six of which were owned by the Club and the remainder by individual members. The resident caretakers, Mr. and Mrs. L.A. Springer, served meals on the porch of the main building. Two rowboats were available for the use of the members; there was also a pier and sandy beach for bathing. During the four months that the camp had been open, there had been eleven hundred registrations.

Until Captain Joseph P.F. Rooney of the Park Administration directed the rebuilding of the old cart path, in August of 1922, to make the present motor road into Camp, members had to park their cars near Houghton Pond and walk in over the wagon track; or else they had to park at Mr. Bowley's on High Street, a mile or so south of Blue Hill River Road, and walk in over a large tract of land owned by Mr. Ellerton James.

The many visitors who did not come by car took the Brockton trolley at Mattapan Square, got out at High Street, and walked along the new Blue Hill River Road and thence by trail into Camp. To shorten the traveling time for these people, Fred Tucker, in the early part of 1923, presented the Camp with a new ten-passenger auto bus. The installation of a telephone at Camp enabled pedestrians to call the camp manager in advance and arrange for transportation directly to into Camp. This bus was used until it became practically unserviceable; it was sold in 1929. By that time the increasing use of private cars and laying out of a new foot trail had rendered it unnecessary.

This new trail was the work of George M. Smith and it is known in his honor as the Blue Smith Trail. It is the most direct and also the most picturesque path into Camp from Randolph Avenue bus line. Since Mr. Smith had planned this path for the use of A.M.C. members, purposely refrained from marking the entrance conspicuously enough to attract the general public. It can be found, however, by anyone who looks for it, leading from the west side of High Street just behind Howard Johnson's. It is linked by a connecting trail, also made by Mr. Smith, to the Fern Spring Trail in the Blue Hills."

*[Bob Vogel Note: This trail, the remaining portion now just called "Smith Trail" on the DCR map, was cut off from the cabins by the construction of Rt. 24. Also note that back then 'New' 128 and related cloverleafs had not been built, so the whole street layout was different.]*



Before construction of Smith Trail, left, and today.

Ponkapoag was still, so far as living quarters were concerned, a tent colony. The main building served as a meeting place and refuge for out of season activities. Dances and skating parties were held there, and groups would gather by outdoor fires in the evening. It was recognized from the beginning, however, that suitable winter housing would be necessary if Ponkapoag were to serve its purpose as an all year camp. With this end in view, Will Rogers got busy and set his fellow members an example. An experienced woodsman, he selected the sound timber from chestnut trees that had been killed by the blight and built a log cabin for himself. The North Cabin, built for the Camp Master's living quarters, and the South Cabin "to be used for social gatherings," both built of chestnut logs, are also mentioned in the Annual Report for 1926. Russ Palmer and Bob Clough announced a housewarming for February 5, 1928, to celebrate the opening of their new cabin, with coffee, doughnuts, and hot dogs. Most of the cabins erected later were of the portable-house type.



Bob Vogel: "Internet says this was the Randolph Howard Johnson ice cream stand c. 1932. I can't confirm exactly where it was (however, it sounds like the west side of Randolph Ave, south of Blue Hill River Road), but as noted above the whole area has changed. The Ho-Jos was in the way of the new 128/RT. 28 cloverleaf...so it's long gone."<sup>1</sup>

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## Ponkapoag Cabins Continued from page 11

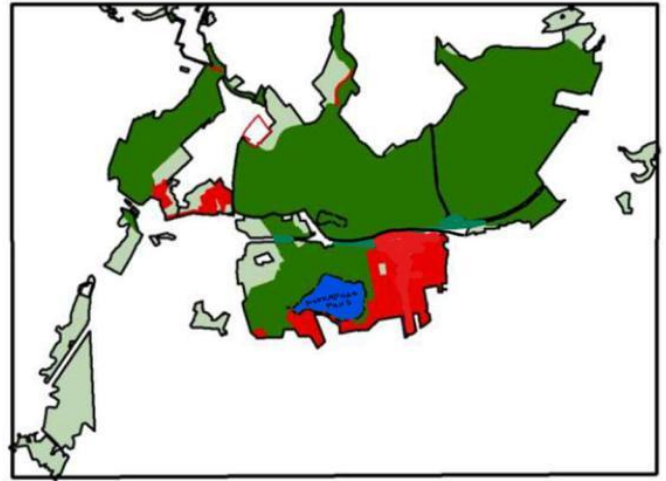
[*Bob note: "More than a century ago, nearly four billion American chestnut trees were growing in the eastern U.S. They were among the largest, tallest, and fastest-growing trees. The wood was rot-resistant, straight-grained, and suitable for furniture, fencing, and building. The nuts fed billions of wildlife, people and their livestock. It was almost a perfect tree, that is, until a blight fungus killed it more than a century ago. The chestnut blight has been called the greatest ecological disaster to strike the world's forests in all of history."*<sup>2</sup>]

Mr. Wallace W. Morse, in his Annual Report for 1929, states that: "this past season we have used the Bryant Cabin as well as the South Cabin for overnight use by members." Mr. Bryant had died shortly after putting up his cabin, and in his will he left the cabin to the Camp. Mr. Irving Meredith reports in 1930: "In June a new cabin was built at a cost of \$155.00, which holds four people comfortably. In the six months in which this cabin has been available it has brought in as rent \$45.50." Mr. Meredith shortly after this, erected a similar cabin for himself.

Gradually, over a period of years, all the tents were replaced by cabins until there are now, in addition to the main building, twenty three cabins owned by members and six cabins held by the Club for the use of members at a nominal rent.

At the time the A.M.C. Camp was established much of the pond shore lay within the Blue Hills Reservation. Mr. Rogers, however, was concerned by the fact that a considerable stretch along the western portion of the south shore was privately owned.

On one of his off-season visits to the pond he saw a lone skater approaching the shore. Hailing the stranger, Will explained to him the desirability of having all of the land bordering the pond brought into the reservation. The skater happened to be Mr. Augustus Hemenway, owner of a parcel of land bordering the pond. As a result of Mr. Roger's eloquence, Mr. Hemenway offered not only to give his own land, assessed at \$21,500, to the Reservation, but to do his best in the way of persuading the other land owners to give theirs. Mr. Rogers, with his fellow members of the Ponkapoag Committee, then visited Mr. James Bailey of the Metropolitan District Commission to urge the acquisition for the reservation of the remaining shore frontage. Mr. Bailey told them to go ahead and do what they could do to obtain the land; the



**Bob Vogel: Red area shows lands added to Blue Hills 1928-1938. Note Little Blue and a section of Fowl Meadow are also included (we will come back to those sometime later), as well as the land on the southern and eastern side of Ponkapoag. The red area added includes land later taken for 'New Rt 128' and Rt. 24. The white rectangle in the red is the Duck Pond. *Friends of the Blue Hills***

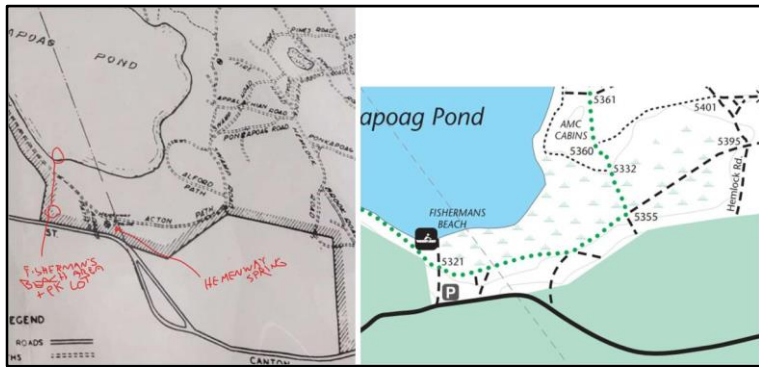
Commission would cooperate. Will Rogers, with the help of Mr. Hemenway, worked hard to carry out the project. In 1928, Will himself was appointed to the Metropolitan District Commission, and as Associate Commissioner he continued his efforts. His success is recorded in the Boston Transcript for October 31, 1934, in an article announcing that all of Ponkapoag Pond had been brought into the Reservation

"What completed the commission's link around the pond was the acquisition just announced by William F. Rogers, Associate Commissioner, of a strip on the southwest shore about 1800 feet long which constituted the waterfront of the estate owned by Mrs. Robert Saltonstall. This strip is 200 feet wide in places and is heavily wooded down to the water's edge...Property owners around the shore have been in sympathy with the idea and have cooperated generously. Among those most helpful have been Mr. and Mrs. Robert Saltonstall, Augustus Hemenway, Jr., William Prescott Wolcott, Mrs. Ellerton James and Horatio Hathaway, who have released their possessions by gift or nominal purchase prices to complete the commission's plan."

With all of the shore frontage of the pond under its control the commission set about to build new paths. For this work they utilized the services of the young men of the newly formed Civilian Conservation Corps.

Continued on page 13



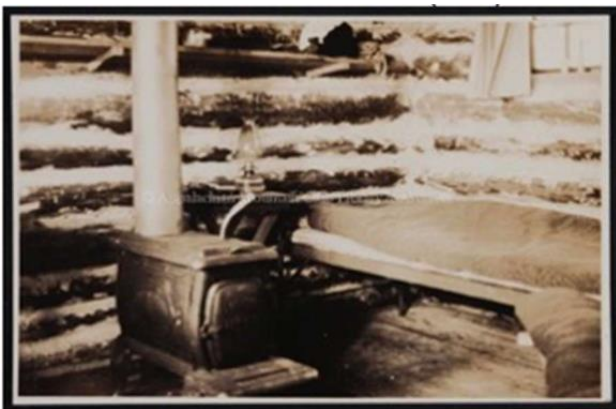


The eastern end of Ponkapoag Pond then, left, and now.

## Ponkapoag Cabins Continued from page 12

Until now there had been no path leading all the way around the pond; such a path was completed adding connecting links between the old paths. One of these links, named “Acton Path” on the Reservation map, opened a new approach to the Camp. Less rugged than the Blue Smith Trail, it is a favorite route with snowshoes and with those who do their snowshoeing on skis. Running along the south shore of the pond, it connects the eastern end of Maple Avenue with the southern end of Swamp Road, the latter being an extension of the only motor road into camp.

The Acton Path, a woods road closed to motor vehicles, passes through a beautiful growth of mixed evergreens and under occasional arches of white birches. At a convenient resting place along this path, not far from the Camp, is a spring that has been cleaned out and walled up by the Reservation Administration. The water flowing from a pipe tinkles into a little pool; and here the walker often stops to fill his cup. This spring is designated on the Reservation map as the “Hemenway Spring” to commemorate the donor of the adjacent land.



Cabin interior with plain bunk and wood stove. (1925)  
*Photo from the AMC Library*

To reach the camp by way of the Acton Path one takes the Canton or Stoughton bus to the Ponkapoag Golf Club, and walks along Maple Avenue through the golf grounds (also part of the Reservation) until he reaches the outlet of the pond, where the Acton Path begins.

Here by the dam, he may pause; a mile away, due east across the pond, he can see the cabins of the A.M.C. Camp; to his left is a wide expanse of marsh and, beyond it the broken sky line of the Blue Hills.

The marsh is one of the interesting features of Ponkapoag. A half mile across, it is bounded on the west and north by the Redman Farm path, known as “Pond Bank” to the early settlers, Bordering the watery edge of the marsh are cattails, pickerel-weed, sedges, black alder, button bush, laurel, sphagnum moss, High and low bush berries, and wild cranberries; Closer to the high ground are cedar and maple swamps. Mink, muskrat, and otter make their homes in this marsh; black ducks in winter seek its all year open spring; an occasional great blue heron rises from its ready margin.



Ponkapoag cabins—open—in winter. (1925) *Photo from the AMC Library*

Mr. William J.V. Babcock, Professor of Biology at the Eastern Nazarene College and director of the Rover Scout Camp on the North Shore of the pond (and also a member of the A.M.C.), has been studying the marsh. At one point he determined the position of the original shore line of the pond to an accuracy of six inches. By making a series of borings through the mud, he located the original pebbly bottom; in some places, he found it fifty feet below the surface. What is now the shallow end of the pond was once the deep end.

Continued on page 14

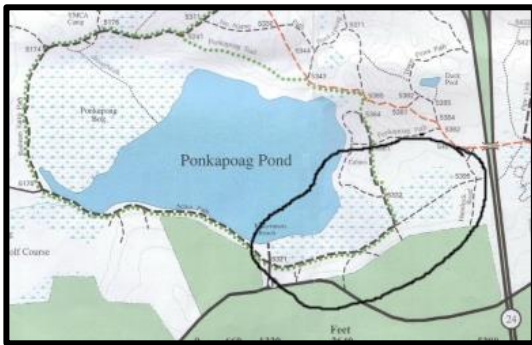




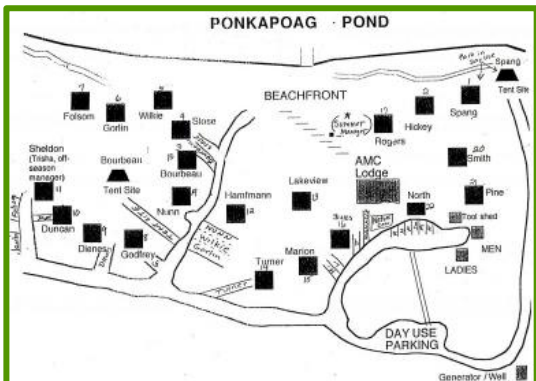
## Ponkapoag Cabins Continued from page 12

According to Mr. Babcock, the marsh was not formed by the deposit of silt because the pond is fed mainly by springs. It has been built up, through the ages, by gradual accumulation of organic material. Plants growing in the shallower portions of the pond die and their remains sink to the bottom, spreading, to some extent, into the adjacent deeper portions. As this material decays, the resulting bubbles of entrapped marsh gas render it buoyant and cause clumps of it to rise to the surface. These clumps, seeded by natural agencies, become floating islands of vegetation; many of them sink with the added material and repeat the process, and others attached to the edge of the marsh, extend to the shore at the expense of the pond. All this is going on now in much the same fashion as it did thousands of years ago.

*[Bob Vogel Note: Between 1911–1923 permission was granted for the Newsboy’s Association, Boy Scouts of America, Appalachian Mountain Club, and the Young Men’s Christian Association to establish camps. The AMC and YMCA camps continue today. We’ll be back and learn about the others in the future. Until next time...]*

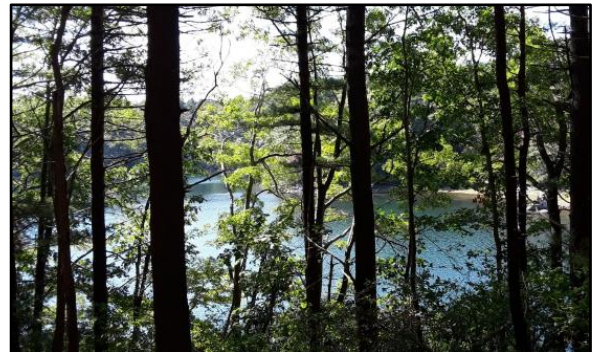


Map of Ponkapoag Pond showing AMC camp and cabin sites (circled) at the eastern end.



Present-day cabins and campsites available to AMC members by reservation.

## Long Pond in late September



The Cape Hikers are going strong! Here is group enjoying a hike in the woods around Long Pond in Falmouth on a September morning. Online registration is required for all hikes. *Photo credit David Selfe*





## Activities

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

## Create your personal Activities Digest

AMC has an email notification system for AMC members interested in keeping up to date with new and upcoming activities posted on AMC's Activities Database (ActDB) on [outdoors.org](http://outdoors.org). The Activities Digest system can send email notifications on a daily, weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly basis depending on how a user configures the settings.

The Activity Digest functions in a very similar way to the search function on the ActDB listing page, but it pulls the data you want to see straight from ActDB to your inbox.

### AMC Trip Policy

**Online registration is required. AMC membership is not required, but you will need to set up a free AMC online account if you do not already have one. Click "Register" button to accept the risks, provide contact info, and sign the AMC liability waiver. Each person must register individually; you cannot register for a friend or household member.**

**Group size is limited to 10 people including leader(s). You must bring and be willing to wear a mask whenever we cannot socially distance. Please have your mask on when we circle up. Anyone who does not register or does not bring a mask will not be allowed to join the hike. Bring water and snacks. Insect repellent is recommended. Must have hiked similar distances recently and be able to maintain a moderate pace.**

**Do not come on the hike if you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19. Please cancel your registration as soon as possible if you can no longer attend.**

**This policy applies to ALL hikes. No exceptions.**

### CAPE HIKES

**Sat., Oct. 24. Hike North Falmouth, MA.** A moderately difficult hike over a hilly terrain, with some long views across Buzzards Bay. It is 5.25 miles long lasting just under 3 hours. There will be a brief stop for lunch or a snack, This hike was last offered 13 years ago and will be a new one for most. [See the AMC Trip Policy](#). L John Gould (508-540-5779, [jhgould@comcast.net](mailto:jhgould@comcast.net)) L Catherine Giordano ([cmgiordan@msn.com](mailto:cmgiordan@msn.com))

**Sun., Oct. 25. Hike in Dennis, MA.** Due to Covid19 restrictions this hike requires pre-registration, click on the Register button. This will be approximately a 4 mile hike through saltmarsh, along a beach and on paved roads through an historic neighborhood. [See the AMC Trip Policy](#). L Jane Harding (508-833-2864 Before 8 PM, [janeharding@comcast.net](mailto:janeharding@comcast.net), Four years of experience leading hikes on Cape, currently Cape Hike Chair for AMCSEM.) CL Margaret Christen ([margaret@mchristen.net](mailto:margaret@mchristen.net), SEM leader in training)

**Thu., Nov. 5. Hike Sandwich/W. Barnstable, MA.** This hike is very hilly with over 800ft of rise and fall. Good boots and poles are strongly suggested. Bring water and an energy snack. This hike should have some great views and wonderful foliage. It is about 5 miles and should be about 2 hours but could very well go over the time depending on the speed of the slowest person. This is NOT an "easy" hike. [See the AMC Trip Policy](#). L David Selfe (508-771-0620 before 8 pm, [kdselife@comcast.net](mailto:kdselife@comcast.net)) CL Kathleen Selfe

**Sun., Nov. 15. Corn Hill Historical Walk, Truro, MA** (meeting location will be sent to registrants). Two-three miles, mostly on sandy paths and roads, with a few hills. A few friendly, well-behaved dogs may be allowed with PRIOR approval of leader. Frequent stops to highlight points of interest on or near Corn Hill, including the first European summer vacation on the Cape (Martin Pring in 1603, with Foole and Gallant, his two enormous English mastiffs), the opening of the Cape Cod railroad from Boston to Ptown (1873), the loss of many of Truro's men at sea in the October Gale of 1841, the record-setting 1928-1929 German glider school atop Corn Hill, Margaret Sanger's summer move from Ptown to Truro in 1917 because Ptown had "become littered with easels and smocks", and of course, the Pilgrim's discovery and theft of Indian seed corn (400 years ago today!). An optional lunch meet before the walk may be included. [See the AMC Trip Policy](#). All Cape hikes this fall so far have had wait lists. Thank you. L Jay Vivian (508-858-4855, [jvivan0@comcast.net](mailto:jvivan0@comcast.net))

## Activities

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

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### CAPE HIKING

**Thu., Nov. 19. Hike--Wareham, MA.** This pre-registered hike with a limit of 9 hikers is a 4 mile, 2 hour hike is on wooded trails with several gentle hills and wet areas. [See the AMC Trip Policy.](#) L Robin McIntyre (508-789-8252, [robinm McIntyre@comcast.net](mailto:robinm McIntyre@comcast.net), Robin is a 5th year Level I SEM/Cape hike leader with prior WFA training)

**Sun., Dec. 20. Hike--Bourne, MA.** This pre-registered hike with a limit of 9 hikers is 2 hours, approximately 4.5 mile hike. The terrain is wooded pathways, fire roads, and trails with several moderate hills. It is a loop so does not offer easy bail-out points. This is not a novice hike. [See the AMC Trip Policy](#) L Robin McIntyre (508-789-8252, [robinm McIntyre@comcast.net](mailto:robinm McIntyre@comcast.net), Robin is a fifth year Level 1 SEM/Cape hike leader with previous WFA training)

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Sat., Nov. 7. SEM 2020 Annual Meeting Webinar, MA.** The SEM Annual Meeting webinar will be held from 5-7 pm on Saturday November 7. There will be a report to the membership, election of your 2021 Executive Board, a vote on a bylaw amendment, and presentation of the Distinguished Service Award. L Leonard Ulbricht ([lenu44@gmail.com](mailto:lenu44@gmail.com))

### HIKING

**Rating codes** (e.g. C4D): first letter indicates distance in mi (AA=13+, A=9-13, B=5-8, C=less than 5 mi), middle number indicates pace (1=very fast, 2=fast, 3=moderate, 4=leisurely), second letter indicates terrain (A=very stren., B=stren., C=average, D=easy)

Get your 100-mile patch! Contact [hikingchair@amcsem.org](mailto:hikingchair@amcsem.org).

Always looking for additional hike leaders! Contact [hikingchair@amcsem.org](mailto:hikingchair@amcsem.org)

**Tue., Oct. 20. Blue Hills Hike, Blue Hills Reservation, MA.** Join us for a 4-5 mile moderate hike in the wooded and hilly areas of the Blue Hills Reservation. This hike is not on steep trails. We will maintain a moderate pace and spend 2-3 hours hiking. [See the AMC Trip Policy.](#) L Catherine Giordano (508-243-3884 before 9 pm, [cmgiordan@msn.com](mailto:cmgiordan@msn.com)) CL Sandra Johnson (617-645-1656, [sandrajohnson5@gmail.com](mailto:sandrajohnson5@gmail.com))

**Thu., Oct. 22. 4th Annual Autumn Peak Hike at the Arnold Arboretum, 125 Arborway; Jamaica Plain (Boston), MA.** Arnold Arboretum, including two vistas, bonsai exhibit, and "Explorer's Garden." We will explore this "tree museum" during a 4-5 mile hike at a moderate pace. Bring water, sturdy footwear, snack or lunch. Meet at the Visitors Center (Hunnewell Building) located at 125 Arborway at 9:45 am for a 10:00 start. Plenty of on-street parking along the opposite side of Arborway; or walk to the entrance from the Forest Hills Orange Line T-stop. Steady rain cancels. Leashed dogs are OK. [See the AMC Trip Policy.](#) L Ken Cohen (Before 7:00 pm, 508-942-1536) [k-cohen@comcast.net](mailto:k-cohen@comcast.net). Year-round hiker and snowshoe enthusiast. Joins groups in the Blue Hills, other DCR reservations, land trusts (active supporter of many), White Mountains, and our nation's National Parks. AMC-SEM Level I Hiking Leader. Longtime member of DCR's "Trail Watch" in the Blue Hills Reservation. At-Large Member of the Board of Trustees for the Friends of The Blue Hills. Nature photographer.)

**Thu., Oct. 29. Thursday Morning hike Blue Hills Reservation, Blue Hills, MA.** Online registration is required and limited to 9 participants. This is a two part Blue Hills hike. The first section is a moderate 5-mile hike on mostly flat trails with a few rolling hills and a visit to a historic site. The second optional hike is located south of the parking area. This 2-mile hike is over hilly terrain providing us with a more challenging hike. Weather, pace or trail conditions may shorten the hike. Bring snacks/lunch, rain jacket and at least one liter of water. Heavy rain will cancel. [See the AMC Trip Policy.](#) After you register, the hike leader will send you detailed information on meeting location and start time. L Walt Granda (508-971-6444 before 9 PM, [wgranda@aol.com](mailto:wgranda@aol.com))

**(NM) Sat., Oct. 31. New Members hike, Borderland State Park, Easton, MA.** Come join us for an enjoyable New Members Hike, not too long...not too short...jusst right! [See the AMC Trip Policy.](#) L Samantha Fisher (508-243-7594 after 8am until 9pm, [sahavah@yahoo.com](mailto:sahavah@yahoo.com), Level 1 hike leader) CL Ellen Thompson (781-974-9154, [ethompson1111@aol.com](mailto:ethompson1111@aol.com)) CL Robert Branczewski (508-577-9253 before 9pm, [lv2cook@hotmail.com](mailto:lv2cook@hotmail.com), Level 1 hike leader)





## Activities

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

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### HIKING

**Thu., Nov. 5. Thursday Morning Hike- Ponkapoag Pond Loop, Canton, MA.** Moderate to fast pace, with occasional stops. An approximate 5-mile hike around The Pond. Please arrive by 9:45 am for a 10:00 am start. Bring warm/waterproof hiking shoes, sunscreen, snacks/lunch and water. We'll take a break at the AMC Camp, down near the pond, weather permitting. Steady rain cancels. Well behaved dogs on leash O.K. [See the AMC Trip Policy.](#) L Ken Cohen , [k-cohen@comcast.net](mailto:k-cohen@comcast.net), (508-942-1536 Before 7:00 pm) 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 Level I Hiking Leader for the past three+ years having organized many trips in The Hills and other local hiking destinations. Longtime member of DCR's "Trail Watch" in the Blue Hills. At-Large Member of the Board of Trustees for The Friends of The Blue Hills. Avid nature photographer.)

**Tue., Nov. 10. Winter Hiking Workshop, Zoom, MA.** SEM's popular winter hiking workshop zooms to your device! If you ever thought about extending your hiking season to the winter. Join us for a presentation on clothing, footwear, traction devices, nutrition & hydration, and all things winter! Learn the basics about how to safely enjoy hiking during the colder weather. After the workshop join us on a local hike or one of the winter series hikes. We will post the hikes in the ActDB and registration is required. [See the AMC Trip Policy.](#) Note that we will have a 10-15 break halfway through the presentation. L George Danis ([danisdad51@outlook.com](mailto:danisdad51@outlook.com))

**Thu., Nov. 12. Thursday Morning Hike - F. Gilbert Hills - Stone Sites, Foxboro, MA.** Online registration is required for this hike and limited to 9 participants. [See the AMC Trip Policy.](#) If this hike is waitlisted, please sign up on the waitlist as this hike will be offered again and we will notify waitlisted people of the additional date. This approximate five mile moderately paced hike will encompass parts of the Acorn Trail, Warner Trail, Megley Trail, and fire roads. In order to see some of the "stone sites," part of the hike will be off trail requiring minor bush-whacking. During the hike you will see a standing stone, dolmen, aligned boulders, prayer seat, and a perched boulder. These stone sites are unique man made stone structures that clearly give evidence of cultures from another time period, possibly thousands of years ago. Guesses as to the origins of these structures have ranged from local Algonquin culture, to Celtic travelers predating Columbus, to even prehistoric tribal cultures having a strong knowledge of solar and seasonal calendars. You must wear "Hunter Orange" as this is archery deer season and we will be off trail for part of the hike to view the stone sites. After you register and receive a confirmation notice, the hike leader will send out a few days before the hike a detailed information sheet on meeting time, location, and what to bring. L Barry Young (508-339-3089 Before 9 PM, [Barry.young@comcast.net](mailto:Barry.young@comcast.net))

**Sat., Nov. 14. Winter Hiking Introduction - Hike #1, Blue Hill, Milton, MA.** This late fall morning hike is an opportunity to try out your winter clothing layers, hydration and nutrition choices (and maybe even traction devices!). We will follow a variety of trails through the Blue Hills, including a section of the Skyline Trail. Our route will give us approx. 800 ft el.gain, and 5-6 miles. Plan on 3 hours, with intermittent stops. Registration preference to those who attended the online Winter Workshop Nov. 10. Registration for this hike opens at the end of that online session. [See the AMC Trip Policy.](#) [More info here.](#) When registering, please use cell phone number if possible. Leaders will have winter hiking clothing, boots and gear that were discussed during the workshop. Plan to arrive a bit early if you are interested in taking a look. Start time and location will be sent to participants after registration. Group size limited, social distancing will be practiced, face masks required when gathered. L Peggy Qvicklund (774-893-3011 please call before 9 pm, [qvickan@comcast.net](mailto:qvickan@comcast.net), Hike leader since 2014. Has completed the NH 48, but mainly enjoys sharing the outdoors with like minded folks.)

**(FT) (NM) Thu., Nov. 19. Noon Hill/Shattuck Reservation, MA.** This is a repeat of a hike that took place in August this year. I doubt it will be 90 degrees this time! Meet at gravel parking area on Noon Hill Rd at 09:30 for 09:45 am start. The trails wander through old growth pines as well as hardwoods which have overtaken former pastureland as witnessed by the many stone walls throughout the property. Holt Pond was created in 1764! One loop will take us along the Charles River and marshland, another loop will bring us up Noon Hill, with views toward Gillette Stadium in Foxborough. On mainly level trails, with good footing, we will cover approx. 6 miles. [See the AMC Trip Policy.](#) L Peggy Qvicklund (774-893-3011 Please call before 9 pm, [qvickan@comcast.net](mailto:qvickan@comcast.net), Hike leader since 2014. Has completed the NH 48, but mainly enjoys sharing the outdoors with likeminded folks.)

## Activities

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

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### HIKING

**Thu., Dec. 3. Thurs. Morn. Hike, Noanet Woodlands, Dover, MA.** We will follow a network of trails across a preserve that features woodlands and ponds, a former mill site, and Noanet Peak, which offers views of the Boston skyline. The hike will be about 5 miles with several short ups and downs and a climb of Noanet Peak (387 ft). Total hiking time will be about 4 hours. Depending on the conditions, we might shorten the hike and/or eliminate the steepest sections. Depending on the weather, we might hike or snowshoe. Bring traction devices, if icy. Bring a lunch to eat on the trail. Rain cancels. Please note the leader (Paul Brookes) may have his well-behaved Labrador Retriever Sunny with him if the weather permits. If you have a non-reactive dog you would like to bring, please contact Paul for screening and approval. No more than two dogs total will be on the hike. Details including trailhead location and precise starting time will be emailed after your registration is confirmed. [See the AMC Trip Policy.](#) L Paul Brookes (603-799-4399 After 7am and before 9pm, [PaulBrookes1966@outlook.com](mailto: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.)

### BEONLINE WITH AMC

**Mon., Oct. 19, 7:30-9 pm. Q&A with Record Breaking Hiker Philip Carcia.** Spend an evening with the AMC and Philip Carcia, the record holder of the Fastest Known Time for the White Mountains Redline (a comprehensive list of 652 trails described in the official White Mountains Guidebook). [Register here.](#)

**Tues., Oct. 20, 12-1 pm. Plant Invasive Species Of New York State.** Join us for a 3-part series on Invasive Species in New York State with experts from the Department of Conservation! Our first session focuses on insects. Future sessions will discuss plant species and aquatics. [Details here.](#)

**Wed., Oct. 21, 7-9 pm. Conservation Conversations: What's New On The New England Trail.** This 215-mile long-distance hiking trail runs from the Long Island Sound in CT to the MA/NH borders. Join AMC's NET Planner Bridget Likely and learn about the latest trail improvement projects, our 2020 Hike Challenge, and our brand new website! [Register here.](#)

**Wed., Oct. 21, 7-9 pm. 3rd Wednesday Speaker Series: Search & Rescue In The White Mountains.** Sandy Stott, author of *Critical Hours: Search and Rescue in the White Mountains*. Learn how command of self and others gets challenged, lost, rediscovered, and transmitted, and how each of us can become her/his own first-rescuer. [Get Zoom details here.](#)

**Thurs., Oct 22, 7-8 pm. Miserable Joy, Stories from an Appalachian Trail Journey.** Join Charlie Arsenault to hear about his 2017 thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail. Charlie will share highlights, low lights, and lessons learned while walking the 2,189 mile white blazed path from Georgia to Maine. [Register here.](#)

**Fri., Oct 23, 7-8 pm, Conservation Conversations: Down On The Farm And Out In The Woods-What Is Conservation Worth?** Steven Wallander, PhD, gives an overview of how environmental economists evaluate conservation programs. No math required - just a willingness to broaden your perspective. [Register here.](#)

**Mon., Oct 26, 6-7 pm, ClimbOm Yoga Series.** Stressed? Stiff? Sore? Restless? Connect with AMC for an evening of yoga and community. Join AMC co-leader Amber Carr for a virtual Vinyasa yoga practice. [RSVP here.](#)

**Tues., Oct 27, 12-1 pm. Riding the Wave: Aquatic Invasive Species in New York State.** Research Scientist Catherine McGlynn will provide a brief overview of the Aquatic Invasive Species program, information about some invasive plants and animals. Invasive aquatics affect our ecosystems and economy. Learn what steps you can take to be part of the solution! [Details here.](#)

**Wed., Oct 28, 7-8:30 pm. Conservation Conversations: Nature Based Placemaking.** Nature based placemaking is about the connection and collaboration among the areas of community, tourism and business to focus is on education and emotion; hospitality and guest services; and shopping and entertainment. [Register here.](#)

**Thurs., Oct 29, 7-8 pm. The History of Lewis Mountain in Shenandoah National Park.** The smallest campground in Shenandoah, Lewis Mountain offers quiet campsites, cozy cabins and a camp store, but was once a segregated campground in accordance with Jim Crow laws in Virginia. Join Ranger Claire Comer to hear the complex stories of Lewis Mountain and the desegregation of Shenandoah National Park. [Register here.](#)

**Tues., Nov. 3, 12-1 pm. Insect Invasive Species of New York.** Rescheduled. More info to come. [Details here.](#)





## Activities

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

### BEONLINE WITH AMC

**Wed., Nov. 4, 7-8:30 pm. Conservation Conversations: UMAINE Graduate Students Share their Summer Collaborations on AMC Conservation Projects.** Graduate interns in the NSF National Research Traineeship Program worked on components of larger projects such as focusing on enhancing capacity for stream habitat restoration in the Maine Woods Initiative as well as engaging in active science communication to share how growing degree days can be a useful tool to monitor trends in vegetative phenology and climate. [Register here.](#)

**Wed., Nov. 11, 7-8:30 pm. Conservation Conversations: Getting AMC to Net Zero.** AMC Senior Staff Scientist David Publicover and Research Fellow Arcadia Lee will discuss how we are working to better understand our carbon footprint, the development of a strategic plan to meet this ambitious goal, the issues and challenges that need to be addressed, and the role that members and guests can play in this effort. [Register here.](#)

**Wed., Nov. 18, 7-8:15 pm. 3rd Wednesday Speaker Series - The Surprising, Secret Life of Beavers and Why they Matter.** Ben Goldfarb, author of *Eager: Secret Life of Beavers*, will discuss the history of this world-changing species; how beavers can help us fight drought, flooding, wildfire, and climate change; and how we can coexist with this important but challenging species. Register here. [Details here.](#)

**Wed., Nov. 18, 7-8:15 pm. You Can Always Take One Step: Climbing Aconcagua.** Join Maury Eldridge for a discussion and photographs of his climb of Aconcagua in 2007, when he was 56: a 15-day trek and climb in the spectacular Argentinian Andes to the highest point in South America. [Register here.](#)

**Wed., Dec. 2, 7-8:30 pm. Intro to Winter Hiking Webinar Workshop.** Experienced Maine AMC winter hiking leaders will discuss clothing, gear, snow travel, and other essential knowledge and techniques to prepare you for outdoor outings in the winter. This event is intended as an introductory course for new and experienced three-season hikers and a refresher for experienced winter adventurers. [Register here.](#)

**Wed., Dec. 16, 7-8:30 pm. 3rd Wednesday Speaker Series: Paddling Trails on the Blackstone River in RI.** Speaker Keith Hainley is River Restoration Coordinator. Blackstone River Watershed Council/Friends of the Blackstone. His talk will take you from the MA/RI border to the Seekonk River. He will show options available for round-trip outings to all-day downriver trips. Cold Springs Park, covering Blackstone to Thundermist Dam. River Island Park to Riversedge Recreation Area/Manville Dam. Central Falls to Slaters Mill. [Details here.](#)

**Wed., Jan. 20, 7-8:30 pm. 3rd Wednesday Speaker Series: Multi Day Treks/Hikes Around The World.** Ken Curchin will discuss how he transitioned from day hiker to long trekker/day hiker. How easy is it to get started? Average cost, picking a trek, finding out where and how to book hotels and huts, plus/minuses of a "do it yourself trip," hiring a company to arrange your trip (Norway), or paying for a guide to take you (Machu Picchu & Patagonia). [Details here.](#)



*Happy  
Trails!*

**THE END**