



MAINE

Maine Chapter
Appalachian Mountain Club
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WILDERNESS MATTERS

VOLUME XLVII • NUMBER 1 • WINTER 2021/2022

Free Food, Free Lodging in Exchange for Trail Work: Peter Roderick Trail Work Award Scholarship *by John Mullens*



Are you new to trail work and want to do some this summer to give back for the many hours you've spent hiking well-maintained trails? Want to have fun doing it? Like to stay overnight as part of it and eat chef-prepared meals in a log cabin lodge? Like to sleep where you can smell the pine-scented fresh air? The Maine Chapter has just the deal for you!

If you are new to trail work, you are invited to apply for a scholarship to participate in one of four trail work opportunities in AMC's Maine Woods Initiative (MWI). The Peter Roderick Trail Work Award (PRTWA) will cover the cost of a multi-day volunteer trail work outing in AMC's MWI area in Maine. Up to three scholarships may be awarded for use during each of the four volunteer trips during 2022.

Although everyone is welcome to join a trail work trip, the primary purpose of the PRTWA scholarships is to encourage new and younger folks to experience trail work firsthand and participate for free. Each trip is led by seasoned volunteer leaders providing new volunteers as much instruction, oversight, and independence as their experience allows. Experienced MWI volunteers pay to join in the fun; new trail workers go for free!

If you have already done MWI trail work, you probably know that springtime trail work involves clearing trails from winter blowdowns, prepping them for summer use, and identifying heavier repairs for later. Summer trail work often involves work on bog bridging and more extensive trail improvements, while fall trips usually include trail work, stacking firewood, and marking boundary lines.



What you may not know is that these MWI trail work trips have been happening for many years, are very popular, and have a limited number of participants. The May trip and the two July trips take 12 participants each while the October trip takes 22. Participants pay a discounted rate to stay in a bunkhouse for three nights, eating three days of lodge-prepared meals, and burning off the calories during the day. The trips tend to get filled up and waitlisted, primarily because prior participants all want to return year after year.

The four 2022 volunteer trips are:

- 🏠 May 27-30 at Little Lyford Lodge and Cabins
- 🏠 June 24-27 at Medawisla Lodge and Cabins
- 🏠 June 24-27 at Gorman Chairback Lodge and Cabins
- 🏠 October 7-10 at Medawisla Lodge and Cabins


Each trip begins with 6 p.m. dinner and a night in the bunkhouse at one of the three AMC lodges outside of Greenville, Maine, and ends after lunch on the final day. Accommodations and all meals during that time cost \$130. After January 1, 2022, click "View Our Calendar" on the [AMCmaine.org](https://amcmaine.org) website and search for MWI trail work trips.

PRTWA Scholarship Details

Who may apply. The PRTWA is open to anyone who has never done MWI trail work, is a new or current AMC member, and has the desire to work outdoors in the Maine woods—on projects such as building or improving foot trails and bog bridging, stacking firewood, gardening, and marking boundaries—under the supervision of a volunteer leader. If you are not currently an AMC member, please join before applying for the award. PRTWA recipients get free accommodations and meals and incur no other charges.

How to apply. Complete the PRTWA Scholarship Application. The application is designed to gain an understanding of each applicant such as prior experience with volunteering, with trail work, and with AMC. Applicants should rank their preference for trip dates. Apply here: <https://amcmaine.org/volunteer-for-trail-work/>

Deadline for applications. Applications must be submitted between January 3 and March 25, 2022. Awardees will be notified by April 1.

More information? Look elsewhere in this issue for reactions from previous PRTWA scholarship participants. 

Questions? Contact Maine Chapter Trails Chair Phil Coyne at trails@amcmaine.org for answers to specific questions.

Not for You? The Maine Chapter offers other no-cost one-day trail work opportunities in Maine. For more information, email trails@amcmaine.org

Wilderness Matters

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Address corrections: Send to AMC Member Services, 10 City Square, Boston, MA 02129 | (617) 523-0655 | amcmembership@outdoors.org

Newsletter submissions and photographs: Send to Sarah Hunter, Editor, at newsletter@amcmaine.org.

Deadline for submissions to Wilderness Matters (Spring Issue) is March 1, 2022.

Submission info: Wilderness Matters is your chapter newsletter. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to contribute, be it stories, news, opinions, photos, or whatnot. We want to hear from you! Please email submissions to newsletter@amcmaine.org.

Submission guidelines: Articles, opinions, stories and should be limited to 400- 500 words maximum (word counts greater than that may be edited or may not be accepted) in an attached Word or similar document that is clearly labeled. Images should include a photo title, captions and any other identifying info plus proper photo credit. Use of Dropbox to send images would be great too. Thank you!

Maine Chapter Executive Committee

Chapter Chair: Bill Brooke, chair@amcmaine.org (207) 549-5100

Chapter Vice-Chair: Jerry King, vicechair@amcmaine.org

Secretary: Jeanine Libby, secretary@amcmaine.org

Treasurer: Malcolm Pearson, treasurer@amcmaine.org

Past Chapter Chair: Cindy Caverly, pastchair@amcmaine.org

Conservation Chair: AVAILABLE

Leadership Development: Tom O'Brien, MEadvocate@int.org

Programs Chair: AVAILABLE

Membership Chair: Karen Brace, membership@amcmaine.org

Maine Woods Initiative: Paul Hahn, mwi@amcmaine.org

Newsletter Editor: Sarah Hunter, newsletter@amcmaine.org

Nominating Chair: Paul Hahn, nominating@amcmaine.org, (207) 222-2837

Outings Chair: AVAILABLE

Trails Chair: Phil Coyne, trails@amcmaine.org

Communications: AVAILABLE

Young Members Chair: Steven Profaizer, youngmembers@amcmaine.org

Other Contacts

Maine Conservation Policy Director:
Eliza Townsend, etownsend@outdoors.org, (207) 699-9815

Regional Director:
John Mullens, rd@amcmaine.org, (802) 793-1775

Incoming Regional Director (effective Jan 22):
Beth Zimmer, rd@amcmaine.org

Maine Woods Initiative Office
127 Moosehead Lake Rd., Greenville, ME 04441 (207) 695-3085

AMC Headquarters
10 City Square, Boston, MA 02129 (617) 523-0655

Find us on 

www.facebook.com/MaineAMC/

Message from the Chair: A Look Back at 2021

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR ANNUAL REPORT By Bill Brooke

We had optimistically planned for an in-person annual meeting this year, but due to the increased rate of COVID infections, made the decision to go virtual again. We hope we can go back to having an in-person annual meeting in 2022.

The Chapter is well-positioned financially, as our assets have increased from last year. Our expenses were reduced this year due to pandemic restrictions. We anticipate a more typical level of spending in the coming year.

Chapter membership has grown this year by 6.5% and is approaching 6500 members. We also gained followers on our social media accounts.

The Trails committee had a very productive year. They added four new trail leaders-in-training; worked joint projects with Portland Trails, Northern Forest Canoe Trail, and local land trusts; led trail work excursions for August Camp; and continued to support trail maintenance in the Maine Woods.

Although we did not hold Wilderness First Aid or leader training this year, the Leadership Development Committee is planning both in April 2022.

Our outings trips were up this year over last year as leaders became vaccinated and more comfortable leading trips under the new AMC COVID guidelines. The Young Members group hosted a well-attended Baxter camping trip in July and a Bigelows backpack in October, among other outings. We also joined with L.L. Bean and led eight local hikes for their Summer Across Maine program.

A number of Executive Committee members retired this year, and we now have new members in the following positions: Malcolm Pearson - Treasurer, Sarah Hunter - Newsletter Editor, Tom O'Brien - Leadership Development Committee Chair.

Our Regional Director and friend John Mullens is retiring after six years. Beth Zimmer from the New Hampshire Chapter will be the new director for the Maine and New Hampshire region.

Phil Coyne, Trails Committee Chair, was selected as the 2021 Appie of the Year, a well-deserved recognition.

The Horseshoe Pond Shelter in the Maine Woods, jointly funded by the Maine, Boston, and Worcester Chapters, was completed this year. This project was for a new shelter and access path. The shelter will be dedicated to Andrew Norkin, longtime AMC trails director who passed away last winter. The dedication ceremony is being planned for next spring.

Read the entire annual report on our website: www.amcmaine.org.

I received the Peter Roderick Trail Work Award in the Fall of 2019, an endlessly enjoyable experience I highly recommend. I came to volunteer with the AMC with only a few trail work skills — I can effectively use a pair of loppers and am excellent at following directions. I was intimidated by the prospect of joining this group, understanding the trip is often filled by people who have worked together on such projects for a long time. Would I bring anything of use to the table? Would I feel like an awkward outsider? What I found far exceeded even the best case I could have imagined. My worries were easily dismissed — all skill and endurance levels are effortlessly accommodated in an easy, "Aren't we all so lucky to get to do this together?" atmosphere. The emphasis on relationship extended through every moment. I quickly felt part of the group. But beyond that, passion for the Maine Woods is palpable and completely contagious. As a result of this scholarship, I've built trail to wild and beautiful places. I've bushwhacked the boundaries of the AMC's land, sometimes in spots only animals have seen for decades. I have shared these moments with volunteers and professionals who have taught me the history of the land and the noble work of preservation and have shown me that true community forms as we experience the woods and the work together. *Katie Sawyer, Maine Chapter member and new Trail Work Leader in Training*

The best part for me was seeing the enthusiasm of the youngest among us! It gave me such great hope for the future! *Carla Dow, Maine Chapter member*

Trail work encompasses the type of work I can't get at my regular job. My mind is set free as I dig a tread surface with a pickmatic, swamp brush into the woods, or paint a blue boundary line. Trail work provides my body with the optimal workout I can't get at the gym. I get a high step count hiking in the forests with a total body burn that makes me sore but happy and hungry for dinner. On your hike out from your job site you can see your accomplishments right in front of you. This provides the ultimate satisfaction after a day of volunteering.

The workday is a perfect length of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., leaving time for exploration, relaxation and socialization. The shared experiences of the day result in what the Danish define in the word "hygge". It may be a winter word, but it also applies to a summer or fall trail work experience. It is defined as "the creation of a warm atmosphere while enjoying the good things in life with good people." This Maine AMC group is full of wonderful people, many of whom are at or near retirement age. They have extensive knowledge and experience in how to enjoy the northeast outdoors year-round. This is a lifestyle I wish to emulate starting now in my 40's so that by the time I do retire it comes as naturally to me as it does to them.

I highly recommend and encourage others to try giving back to conservation and maintenance of the northern woods by volunteering for Maine AMC. The Peter Roderick Trail Work Award is an excellent opportunity. Be Outdoors.

*Josh Barlow, Maine Chapter member and
new Trail Work Leader in Training*

When I first started volunteering for AMC I was 12 years old and here I am at the age of 20 still volunteering. My dad had signed us up for the Columbus Day weekend trip in October and I remember him explaining to me that we were going to be doing trail work. At the time, I wasn't sure what to expect but I left that weekend having one of the most memorable times up north. I am a Rhode Islander, so going up north is a trip for us. The first time we stayed at Little Lyford and it became a favorite for us; the camp gives you a homey feel and is situated right by the Roach Ponds. In subsequent years we have stayed at Medawisla which is right on one of the Roach Ponds and has been newly constructed so it is favorable to those who may be new to the outdoors. Doing volunteer trail work for AMC is a great experience. You are truly immersed in the woods, giving back to those who use the trails, and if you go in the fall you enjoy some beautiful foliage! Over the years, I have truly come to appreciate the work we do for AMC and I look forward to years of continued volunteering. The most rewarding aspect of it is knowing that others are going to benefit from your work — even I can come back and hike the trails I maintained!

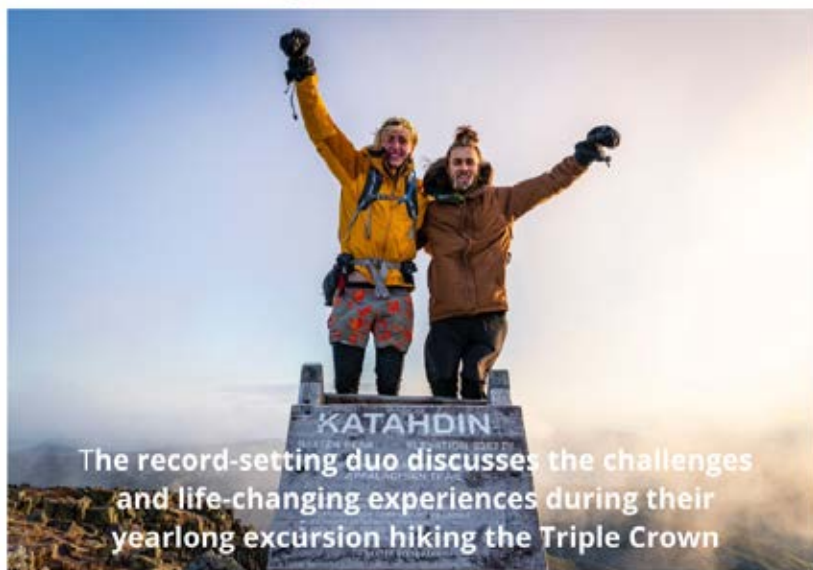
P.S. It is also nice staying at the lodges — they serve amazing food, have awesome staff, and there is nothing more peaceful than early morning paddles on the pond!

*Sam Read, Narragansett Chapter member and
returning Trail Work Volunteer*



Save the date!
January 20, 2022

Meet Sammy Potter & Jackson Parell



Stay tuned at teenstotrails.org for details

Phil Coyne, 2021 Appie of the Year!

by Bill Brooke

I have yet to find a definitive answer about where the nickname "Appie" originated, but it is used to refer to an Appalachian Mountain Club volunteer who works tirelessly, sometimes behind the scenes, organizing trips, activities, and programs, leading by practice and by example.

The Appie of the Year is one who has served in this manner for several years, continuing this commitment over time. They are an active volunteer, not someone who only served well in the past, or for a limited time. The Appie exemplifies what is best about the volunteer ethic that makes our Club, and most particularly our Maine Chapter, so special.

I am very pleased to present the 2021 Maine Chapter Appie of the Year Award to one who embodies these attributes, Phil Coyne.

Phil has been the Maine Chapter's Trails Committee Chair for the past four years. He has organized and led numerous trail work trips over that time, including nine trips this past year. Phil has established and maintained relationships with Portland Trails, Northern Forest Canoe Trail, and local land trusts, and has organized and led work trips to assist maintaining their trails. In addition to trail work, Phil also provides editing support for the AMC Maine website and manages our Facebook site.

Phil also enjoys backpacking and running. He hiked the Long Trail in 2018, ran the Boston Marathon in 2020 and 2021.

In recognition of this achievement, Phil's name has been burned onto a fancy wooden hiking staff, and Phil is entrusted with its care for the year. Thank you, Phil, for your service to the AMC, the Maine Chapter, and trails in Maine.

Congrats from Dan Hester, Mt. Cutler: My very sincere congratulations to Phil! This is a much-deserved recognition. Phil, and all the other volunteers that he has brought into the trail work, have done very-much-appreciated work on the Mt Cutler Trails. In particular, Phil Coyne and Patsy Leavitt have made additional trips to Hiram to finish projects and to scout new problems. This happens regardless of how many other places they are working to maintain. And I understand very well that Mt Cutler is only one of the MANY trail systems that they visit each year. Again, sincere thanks and congratulations!

Congrats from Jon Evans, Loon Echo Land Trust: Congratulations Phil! Volunteer organizations cannot survive without dedicated people like you. On behalf of LET and the tens of thousands that hike Ledges Trail at Pleasant Mountain every year, THANK YOU! Happy Holidays! See you in April!

Congrats from Kate Johnson, Appalachian Mountain Club Trails Department: Thank you for all your work—a well-deserved acknowledgement to Phil, and thanks to all for your hard work and dedication to trails in and out of AMC and Maine. It is a pleasure to get to work with you all, and thanks for working with us! Congratulations again, Phil!!!

Response from Phil: Thanks Everyone! So glad we have such an awesome group/organization that's doing a lot of good in our beautiful state where we like to roam and wander. So glad the results of our efforts are paying off, that our trails team is growing, and that I can also share my other gifts (IT, website, social media) with the Maine's ExCom. Looking forward to 2022!

◀ SEEK ADVENTURE WITH SAMMY POTTER AND JACKSON PARELL, THE YOUNGEST TRIPLE CROWN CALENDAR YEAR HIKERS

Sammy Potter is from Yarmouth, Maine and read about the Triple Crown during COVID lockdown while at college on the West Coast. Living and schooling through a screen was exacerbating dissatisfactions he had with a linear life, and he wanted to push outside the box and seek adventure. That he did, by departing from Springer Mountain with classmate Jackson Parell on January 1, 2021, to hike the Appalachian Trail, Pacific Coast Trail and Continental Divide Trail. When they finished their journey in October, they became the youngest people to complete the Triple Crown in a calendar year. Teens to Trails will host a Zoom presentation with Sammy and Jackson to learn about their hike, the origin of their dream, and the relationships that they developed during 10 months on the trail.

WINTER CALENDAR: OUTINGS | EVENTS | MEETINGS

These listings—presented in date order by category—include only those posted online prior to the submission deadline for this issue of Wilderness Matters. For the most complete and accurate information and up-to-date listings—and so you don't miss spontaneous outings—please periodically check the calendar online at www.amcmaine.org/calendar.

Please note: there is a new registration process in place. When you click on the registration button, you will need to log in with your email and AMC password to be able to register. If you don't have an AMC account, you will have to create one to complete the registration form which initiates the registration process. You do not have to become a member of AMC but you do have to have an account. The form you fill out is then emailed to you and the leader receives a copy as well. The leader will follow up with an email to you by email or phone.

For general questions or comments regarding these calendar listings, please contact the Outings Chair at outings@amcmaine.org.

All participants must present a copy or image of their vaccination record for COVID 19 or proof that they have received a negative PCR test within 72 hours of all in-person events. Participants are required to bring a mask to wear during any emergency or any situation that requires people to be within close proximity for an extended period of time.

Please be courteous when contacting trip leaders by doing so before 9:00 p.m. unless otherwise specified. Thanks!

HIKING/SNOWSHOEING

January 4: Cathance River Snowshoe for the over 55 crowd.

Cathance River Preserve, Topsham, Maine. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#135322>. Come join fellow seniors for a hike or snowshoe (if enough snow) along the Cathance River to enjoy the beauty of winter. This is open to everyone - no matter your age. This is one of my favorite places to hike in winter as the conditions on the river are always changing with some beautiful ice formations at times. This is a great outing for those who enjoy getting out in winter for a couple hours or more. The pace will be moderate and distance covered can vary as there are several trail options. Be sure to check out the link for a trail map and info. A detailed description will be emailed once you are registered. If there is not enough snow, you will need microspikes or similar traction in case of icy conditions. Be sure to include information on your winter experience and equipment when registering. Difficulty: Easy to moderate depending on distance covered. Leader: Michelle Moody, 207-406-5221 before 9 p.m., meamc@micstan.us. Leader: Stan Moody, meamc@micstan.us.



Cathance ice, by Michelle Moody

January 8: Snowshoe Hike on Sanders Hill Rome Maine. Rome, Maine. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#13554>. Snowshoe hike in Kennebec Highlands. 3-mile loop. Moderate terrain. Scenic views of Watson Pond and surrounding area. Difficulty: Moderate. Leader: Peter Roderick, 207-293-2704 before 9 p.m., roderick1027@fairpoint.net. Leader: Susan Surabian, suebeau1@gmail.com.

January 22: Introduction to Winter Hiking and Snowshoeing at Douglas Mountain. Sebago, Maine. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#136930>. This is an opportunity to learn (or re-learn) and practice winter hiking and snowshoeing skills. We'll go over safe methods for traveling, hydrating, eating, watching the weather and—most of all—enjoying winter walks.

This is a loop trail. From the parking lot, terrain will be gently rolling changing to some steep climbs near the top. On the summit, there is a small stone tower and spectacular 360-degree views of the Lakes Region. The trip back starts out steep and is often icy so bring microspikes or other ice traction equipment whether or not there is snow. The total distance will be around 2 miles, including a climb of just under 500 feet. There is a suggested donation of \$3/per vehicle at the parking lot kiosk to support maintaining the trails. Please indicate your level of experience when you contact us. We will provide you with details about the hike including a recommended gear list and are happy to answer any questions. Difficulty: Easy to moderate difficulty. Leader: Jeanne Christie, 207-310-8708 before 9 p.m., jeanne@connecttowilderness.com.

January 23: Snowshoe Hike to Pleasant Pond Mountain. The Forks Plantation, Maine. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#136867>. Snowshoe hike to summit of Pleasant Pond Mtn. Great views. 4-5 miles round trip/1000-foot elevation gain. This is a challenging 5-mile round trip. Good fit for those having good snowshoe skills and snowshoes with built in traction. Difficulty: Moderate. Leader: Peter Roderick, 207-293-2704 before 9 p.m., roderick1027@fairpoint.net.

January 29: Rumford White Cap. Rumford, Maine. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#135781>. This is a moderate 5-mile round trip hike. The 360-degree view is spectacular and includes Black Mt to the east, views of Mount Washington to the farther west and Mahoosuc Range to the west and to the south many summits of Oxford Hills. Leader: Susan Surabian, 207-431- x7548 before 9 p.m., suebeau1@gmail.com.

February 12: Old Speck. Grafton Notch, Maine. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#136875>. Hike to the summit of Old Speck Mtn. (4170 ft.) in Grafton Notch State Park via the AT for a round trip distance of 7.6 miles and elevation gain of 2720 feet. This is a strenuous hike suitable for experienced advanced intermediate winter hikers. Full winter gear including snowshoes with crampons/cleats and crampons or microspikes are required. Contact the leader to register or for more information. Leader: Bill Brooke, 207-549-5100 before 9 p.m., bill@mesoft.org.

February 26: Maine Young Members Caribou Hike. Gilead, Maine. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#136900>. Join Maine Young Member Leaders Robin and Steven as they take on the popular Caribou Mountain! We will be summiting via Bog Road, a 5.6 mile moderately trafficked out-and-back trail rated as moderate. The first 1.5 miles will warm us up with a gradual incline, crossing over Gammon Mountain (2,664') at 2.3 miles, just before climbing to the summit of Caribou. The summit offers 360-degree views of surrounding mountains including Speckled and Blueberry. Snowshoes, microspikes, and comfort hiking almost 2,000' of elevation gain in winter conditions are required. Difficulty: Moderate - winter hiking experience required. Leader: Robin Kerber, robink28@gmail.com. Leader: Steven Profaizer, profaizer@gmail.com.

SKIING

February 13-19: MWI Lodge to Lodge Ski Trip. AMC Maine Woods Initiative Lands. <http://www.amcmaine.org/calendar/#134986>. Experience the beauty and joy of the Maine North Woods in winter on this Nordic ski trip with overnight stays at Gorman Chairback Lodge and Cabins, Little Lyford Lodge and Cabins, and West Branch Pond Camps. This is a moderate to strenuous route, so comfort with skiing hilly terrain and ability to use herringbone and snowplow techniques to get up and down those hills safely is required. Participants must register for this trip before making reservations as we have a limited number of beds. Contact leader for additional information. Difficulty: Strenuous. Leader: Peter Roderick, 207-293-2704 before 9 p.m., roderick1027@gmail.com.

I was a recipient of the Peter Roderick Trail Work Award in May 2019. My trail work experience with AMC in the North Maine Woods was incredibly rewarding and enjoyable. This trip was not only about maintaining and working on the trails, Peter took the time to explain the motives behind each action, from cleaning out the water bars properly to building a new bog bridge (my favorite part). By the end of the weekend I had enough skills and knowledge to confidently work on trails independently, and I was inspired to do so. Additionally, the camaraderie that occurred over the weekend was amazing to see. People from all walks of life bonded together because of a shared love of the outdoors. I am incredibly grateful for this introductory experience with trail work and look forward to volunteering on the trails more in the future. Sincerely, Addie. *Adeline Casali, Maine Chapter member*

Acadia in Winter – A Look Back

By Long-Time Trip Leader Michelle Moody

As my husband Stan and I pondered what to do for our 40th wedding anniversary, we decided to give Acadia a try in winter. Bar Harbor does not quite roll up its sidewalks in this off-season. However, it is pretty darn quiet compared to summertime. We rediscovered Acadia last year and went three times to hike both the east and west sides. We have fallen in love with it. Now it was time to do some hiking or snowshoeing in winter.

As we strolled past Jordan Pond and watched the fog roll over the hills, there was something mystical about the scene. From the ice-covered rocks along the shore to the views of the Bubbles tinged with snow on the pink granite, the views were a delight. We hiked Gorham Mt. on a sunnier day and had the place all to ourselves. At less than 600 feet, it is an easy climb but the views are remarkable – north to the Beehive and Champlain Mt., east to the lighthouse and distant shoreline, south along the shoreline and out to sea, northwest to Cadillac and Dorr Mt. And to make it a more interesting hike, you can take the Cadillac Cliffs Trail for beautiful rock formations and views - a bit more strenuous in winter but a fun place to explore.

I hope you get to discover your special place this winter.

..... It's hard to believe I wrote this piece for *Wilderness Matters* almost 9 years ago. In just over a year we will celebrate our 50th anniversary. It also reminds me of how many years I have been a trip leader for AMC. I became an official trip leader with a snowshoe outing at Round Top Mountain in the Belgrade Lakes area in 2010.

After taking the last year and half off, I have once again started posting outings. So be sure to keep checking the calendar on www.amcmaine.org as I may add new outings as the season goes on.

Time to check over those snowshoes and microspikes, add snow baskets to the poles and get all the layers out and ready. If you are new to winter outings and missed our outing for 'Newbies' at Bradbury Mountain, feel free to contact me to discuss gear, tips and any other questions you may have. You might just talk me into posting another trip for 'Newbies'. Winter is so beautiful. I hope you all get to enjoy it.

Volunteer Opportunities

Your Maine Chapter Needs You!

The Maine Chapter can only be successful through the volunteer efforts of its membership. All of these positions operate with assistance of the Executive Committee. Please consider taking that first step to express an interest, or ask a question about one of the positions. Inquiries can be addressed to Paul Hahn, Chair of the Nomination Committee at nominating@amcmaine.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Conservation Committee Chair

The Conservation Chair works closely with AMC's Maine Conservation Policy Director to educate and engage members and nonmembers in conservation action and stewardship activities. In addition, they report on opportunities for AMC to engage in local conservation actions such as providing comments for proposed legislation, writing letters relating to local issues, and responding to inquiries and requests from members and partners. Contact: nominating@amcmaine.org

Communications Committee Chair

The Communications chair is responsible for managing all aspects of the chapter's digital social media, email and printed communications both internally among volunteers as well as externally to members and potential members. The communications chair works closely with AMC staff to ensure all chapter communications are following current guidelines and best practices. Contact: nominating@amcmaine.org

Programs Committee Chair

The Program Chair helps deepen member engagement with chapter activities at the local level. The Program Chair organizes educational and informative programs of interest to Chapter members and helps coordinate Chapter events. Contact: nominating@amcmaine.org

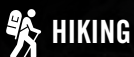
Outings Committee Chair

The Outings Committee Chair works with Chapter volunteer trip leaders to plan chapter trips, provide support for existing leaders, recruit and develop new trip leaders, and with the Leadership Development Committee to plan and support leader training and Wilderness First Aid courses. Contact: nominating@amcmaine.org

When I first drove up to Maine's AMC lodges for a weekend of volunteer trail work, I was nervous and apprehensive. I didn't know anyone there, had very little experience doing trail work, and had no idea what to expect. What I found that weekend was more rewarding than anything I had imagined and has kept me coming back ever since. I was the youngest and newest member, but volunteers of all ages and abilities welcomed me so warmly that I felt part of the group right away. Of course, doing fun and gratifying trail work while enjoying Maine's vast wilderness is enough to make this an enjoyable trip, but the conversations, stories and friendships are what keep me coming back. Everyone you meet is there to work hard and give back to AMC and the land, but they are also a rare community with collective wisdom, unmatched passion for the outdoors, and desire to get to know more people who would like to spend a weekend in the woods. —Stephanie Lynch, Maine Chapter member and Trail Work Leader

Become an AMC Trip Leader!

Become a Volunteer AMC Maine Chapter Leader for one or more of these activities:



HIKING



BACKPACKING



BIKING



PADDLING



SNOWSHOEING



XC SKIING

You can start the process of becoming a leader anytime of the year and you choose how little or how much you want to do. The AMC provides leadership training and Wilderness First Aid Certification to active leaders. Find out how you can get involved!

Contact us at: outings@amcmaine.org for more info!

This could be you!



Summary of Trails 2021

by Phil Coyne

I am happy to report that many Maine trails and natural areas we love benefitted from the fine efforts and hard work of AMC volunteers in 2021. We accomplished a tremendous amount of trail work around AMC Maine lodges and on local land trust properties, and expanded and strengthened our volunteer corps of trail maintainers.

We expanded our role by leading new trips and skill-building workshops:

- ✓ We teamed up with the Northern Forest Canoe Trail to lead a trip to Dead River.
- ✓ In tandem with Portland Trails and a member of AMC's professional trail crew, we offered basic and advanced skill-building activities.
- ✓ Also in collaboration with Portland Trails, we offered trail maintenance to AMC Young Members.
- ✓ We provided three, day-long trail maintenance opportunities to August Camp participants in the vicinity of Little Lyford Lodge & Cabins.



All trail work photos by Phil Coyne

We continued support of trail maintenance efforts:

- ✓ on Cutler and Pleasant Mountains
- ✓ around AMC lodges
- ✓ on adopted sections of the Appalachian Trail near Third Mountain, in the Bigelow Range, and Gulf Hagas

Through these activities, a new generation of volunteer trail leaders stepped forward: Katie Barlow, Josh Barlow, Patsy Thompson Leavitt, and Rod MacKay. They joined our dedicated group of veteran trail leaders: David Lynch, Stephanie Lynch, David McCarthy, Robert Pantel, and Peter Roderick.

Robert Pantel is now providing volunteer leadership to eight volunteers who maintain trails through the AMC Adopt-A-Trail program in Maine. They include:

- Bill Brown – Lodge-to-lodge trail, Gorman Chairback to Little Lyford Lodge
- Rich Morse – Hedgehog Gate trail
- Robert Goldsmith – Long Pond trail
- Cindy Caverly, Kristina Sullivan and Jeanine Libby – Third Mountain trail from Long Pond trail to the AT
- Kristen and Kenyon Grant – Third Mountain trail from the AT to Indian Pond
- Joe Massery and Steve Ciras of the Worcester chapter - Henderson Brook trail
- Tara Davis – Gorman Loop trail
- Robert Pantel - Head of Gulf trail

I look forward to what 2022 will bring! We need trail leaders to expand and support the local lands we love to hike. We plan to offer additional training workshops and lead more trail trips next year. I hope to see you on the trails!

Happy trails,

Phil

Volunteer Trails Committee Chair, AMC Maine Chapter
trails@amcmaine.org

Volunteer Trails Work Report

By Patsy Thompson Leavitt

Volunteers: Phil Coyne, Patsy Leavitt, Andy Gagnon, Andy MacGibbon

Four volunteers had a successful day on Cutler Mt. Sunday, September 12, 2021. We commenced work at 9:00 a.m. and ended at 3:00 p.m. We hiked 4.16 miles (including scouting in the woods) over the Northwest Trail and Saco Ridge Trails.



The primary goal of the work day was to repair and prevent further erosion damage on the Northwest Trail, approximately 1 mile from the Hiram Hill Rd. trailhead. Thanks to the expertise of one of our volunteer crew members (Andy Gagnon), the crew was able to construct two stone water bars to divert water runoff. This work should provide a strong beginning for more extensive work on this section of the trail in the future.



We then proceeded to the Saco Ridge Trail to complete blaze painting that was left from last year's efforts. We completed the blaze painting along the ridge, finishing just before the treeline where views to the east and west are visible.

Throughout the day, we cut encroaching branches, trimmed stumps, and removed fallen timber from the trail.

I spent a lot of time in my childhood, teens and twenties tromping around the trails of Maine and New England, finding challenge amongst the rocky terrain, and quiet solitude in our dense, pine-covered woods. I felt like it was time to express gratitude, an offering of my thanks and respect to a place that has been many things for me in the first two plus decades of my life. The Maine woods have been my escape, my therapy office, my playground, and my backyard. I was excited about the opportunity to spend a week working with the trail crew up in the 100-Mile Wilderness as a chance to give back some of the gratefulness I feel after spending so much time there.

My volunteer group was a mixed bag of age and gender, some folks with extensive experience lopping saplings and improving trails, others (like me) having never worked on a trail. The trail crew, led by a skilled AMC employee, was patient in guiding and giving directions. All the volunteers were eager to put their energy to good use, and the trail crew did an excellent job in taking advantage of all the extra hands. We spent several days constructing two separate sets of steps along a trail just outside of Gorman Chairback Lodge. There was always something to do — aiding in felling of trees, lopping overgrown branches to widen trails, moving rocks, and removing bark from trees that we meticulously measured and turned into steps.

My experience volunteering in the Maine woods was unforgettable. I came home covered in black fly bites, my body as sore and spent as I wanted it to be — a testament to the hard work we all put into the trails. Every hike I have gone on since doing trail work has been a different experience. I no longer run up wooden or rock steps without wondering whose hands made my adventure that much easier or noticing the deliberate and intentional craftsmanship of any well-cared-for trail. I am so grateful for the opportunity to receive the Peter Roderick Trail Work Award and would not have been able to do this work without it! It was truly a gift to spend a week with my fellow volunteers and the hardworking AMC trail crew.

Robin Kerber, Maine Chapter member and new Outings Leader

Building Connections In and Around the North Woods

By Karen Brace



Jenny Ward & Steve Tatko paddle on Second Roach Pond. Photos by Dan Klempa

If you've ventured to the Appalachian Mountain Club's land in the north woods of Maine, it's likely that you passed through Greenville. The town serves as a gateway to the 75,000 acres of forestland owned by AMC in the heart of Maine's 100-Mile Wilderness. In that region of the state, AMC not only takes care of its extensive forests, waterways, trails, campsites and shelters, but it also runs three full-service wilderness lodges located in remote sections of the woods. With all this to manage, it would be easy to assume that AMC's northern Maine activities focus solely within the boundaries of its vast conservation holdings. However, the positive impact of the organization stretches well beyond its own property lines, reaching into the area's neighboring towns and territories.

What you may not see when you drive through Greenville is that it's a hub for community involvement on the part of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Based in the organization's office at 127 Moosehead Lake Road, Jenny Ward, who serves as the Outreach and Partnerships Manager for the Maine Woods Initiative (MWI), links the Club's support and resources to local businesses, residents, town government, the Chamber of Commerce and other regional entities. Jenny steers projects that contribute to the life of the local communities on a daily basis.

Recently, Jenny updated me on the activities led by her office and described the synergy that exists between AMC, the towns, and various groups working in the area.

"It's reciprocal," Jenny explains. "Our regional partners are central to what we do. AMC's operations and conservation efforts receive a lot of local support, and people in town are welcoming to our guests. That's why we want to give back. The collaboration makes the Maine Woods Initiative successful and the entire region healthier."

Prior to our conversation, I'd been aware that Jenny was a catalyst behind MWI's recent International Dark Sky Park designation, which was a major achievement not just for AMC, but for the whole area. The new Dark Sky Park is just one of Jenny's ongoing projects in the busy hub of Greenville. As I learned more about the process behind the Dark Sky Park, it became apparent to me that the relationships built in the community over the past decade, along with hard work and creative thinking, had driven the success of the Dark Sky Park designation, and still do.

Jenny Ward's work on behalf of AMC is rooted in a strong sense of place. She has lived in Greenville since she was four years old, so she's part of the fabric of the town.

"This region is part of me," Jenny says, "So you can be assured that if I'm involved in a project, I'm going to be doing it passionately for the region and for AMC. For me to be able to do community outreach, create partnerships and make connections is where I find my flow. And being able to do it here is the icing on the cake."

Jenny shared with me her experience of sitting in the audience at a public meeting when AMC first came to Greenville, more than a decade ago. AMC was proposing a plan for protecting the landscape in a permanent way, preserving nearby acres of forestland for future generations. That evening's presentation outlined a vision where year-round outdoor recreation, overnight lodging, conservation, sustainable forestry, outdoor education and rural community economic development could work simultaneously to support both AMC's mission and regional economic success.

"I was the concerned local," she says. "I wondered whether this organization — through its land acquisition — might take away our traditional lifelong access to the Maine Woods and all the activities we like to do there. But the Appalachian Mountain Club has been true to its word right from the outset... AMC's approach has always been to ask, 'How do we do this great conservation project and make sure that regionally we are partnering and supporting the surrounding area?'"

What's made the difference, Jenny says, is that AMC has consistently made local and county relationships a priority.

"When the Medawisla Lodge was built," Jenny describes, "80% of the money to fund the project was spent within a 100-mile radius of the site."

As residents, business people, and those working in the trades got to know AMC, trust grew between the surrounding communities and the Appalachian Mountain Club.

While speaking with Jenny, she and I agreed that forging partnerships requires transparency, collaboration, and in this case — an understanding of the Maine way of life.

Apparently AMC found the right combination to support the Maine Woods Initiative in Jenny Ward and her colleague Steve Tatko, Director of Maine Conservation and Land Management. As time progressed after MWI's launch, both became more and more involved in the area. Currently, Jenny holds leadership positions with Destination Moosehead Lake (the Moosehead Lake Chamber of Commerce), the Piscataquis County Economic Development Corporation, the Greenville Planning Board, the Maine Trails Coalition, Moosehead Trails, the Allagash Wilderness Waterway Foundation, and the Moosehead Lake Economic Development Corporation. For the Maine Community Foundation, she's a Piscataquis County Advisor. Similarly, Steve Tatko serves on the boards of the Cooperative Forestry Research Unit, Forest Heritage Days, the Piscataquis Soil and Water Conservation District, the 100-Mile Wilderness Sled Dog Race, the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, Keeping Maine's Forests, the Maine Mountain Collaborative, and the Wabanaki Conservation Commission.

With this type of local support stemming directly from AMC, "The work we do is meaningful," Jenny says. During the pandemic, that support was especially evident. Jenny describes how local business people grappled with how to apply protocols and stay in operation. She recalls how several small businesses in the Greenville region weren't sure how to find the resources that they needed.

"They wondered how they could make the changes necessary for their business to be successful, and at the same time comply with all of the guidelines coming down from the state," she says. "I was able to share some great content that had already been distilled and simplified by professional staff for AMC. This was a great gift to the community."

I was struck by Jenny's anecdotal stories of the impact of AMC at the grass-roots level, due to the links that she's created. When the MWI lodges were closed during the pandemic, the staff at the Gorman Chairback lodge made cupcakes for the students at the local schools to celebrate kids' birthdays. AMC staff t-shirts that hadn't been used went to local residents who were "making masks before you could find any masks." In addition, Jenny says, "We created an avenue so that staff in the woods could connect with some of the elderly shut-ins in town via email and telephone, because neither could get out. For the staff too, it was great, because it's a long way out there! We just tried to keep everybody's spirits up."

So much good work goes on behind the scenes at AMC: good for the environment, good for the future, and good for the people of Maine.

In the next issue of Wilderness Matters, we'll explore the "behind-the-scenes" of the creation of the International Dark Sky Park, looking into the many ways that Jenny and the AMC staff facilitated the success of the project, and how Greenville residents, businesses and town officials continue to play significant roles in the Maine Woods Initiative.



Young Members Backpack in Bigelow Preserve

By Steven Profaizer



It was warm and calm at the trailhead, but we knew our first taste of this winter's winds lie ahead.

As my co-leader Denise Fredette and I reviewed our backpacking plan with the group, we made sure everyone had the gear they needed for a cold October night and a windy morning on top of Mount Bigelow.

We began the gradual ascent on the Fire Warden's Trail from Stratton Brook. After two miles, we reached the junction with the Horns Pond Trail, which we took to begin our overnight loop. The trail steadily climbed, and the temperature steadily dropped. By the time we reached the junction with the Appalachian Trail, we'd ascended about 2,000 feet and were ready to put on additional layers.

It was only a short walk from there to the Horns Pond campsite where we planned to spend the night. We pitched our tents and then took a walk to admire the nearby pond and warm up. A few of us decided to climb up the very long half mile to South Peak where we enjoyed a brief, beautiful view before clouds rolled in.

As predicted, the wind arrived overnight, and it did not do so quietly. Fortunately, while it sounded like we were about to get blown off the

mountain all night, our campsite was almost completely shielded from the wind. All tents – and campers – were still accounted for in the morning.

We hiked over South Peak and arrived at the treeline just short of West Peak about two miles later. There it was time to batten down the hatches and go see what all the noise was about. After layering up, we headed into the open and suddenly found it hard to walk in a straight line. The wind was blowing about 40 miles per hour, and we hurriedly zigzagged our way toward the summit, regrouping briefly to laugh and take photos in the shelter of some rocks.

We reached the other side of West Peak a few minutes later and headed back down into the trees toward the Avery Col campsite. It was almost time for lunch when we arrived, but we dropped our packs and made the short trip up to Avery Peak for our second 4,000-foot summit of the day. The wind had calmed significantly by the time we arrived, and we paused to enjoy the 360-degree view overlooking the Carrabassett Valley on one side and Flagstaff Lake on the other.

It was all downhill from there. Thankfully, some blessed volunteers had built a stone staircase on the upper part of the Fire Warden's Trail. After a steep mile, we reached the end of the stairs, and the descent mellowed – making for a quick walk back passed the Horns Pond Trail junction to our cars.



All photos by Steven Profaizer

Young Members Mount Chocorua Loop Hike

Steven Profaizer and Tony Anni lead nine people on a 10-mile loop over Middle Sister and Mount Chocorua, and down the Liberty, Hammond, and Weetamoo trails. As expected, the group ran into plenty of ice and snow above 2,500 feet, where everyone needed microspikes. However, the storm that dropped the snow had moved out earlier than expected, and the group was treated to mild temperatures, low winds, and even some blue sky.

