



BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

BERKSHIRE CHAPTER NEWS & EVENTS

FROM *the* CHAIR

In Gratitude for Service in 2004 – and Plans for 2005

So, Gary said the time commitment to serve as Chapter Chair would be “a couple of hours a week—no big deal.” Really, these *were* his exact words! As I learn more about the responsibilities of the Chair, I feel both grateful for the opportunity to serve and just a little terrified! Fortunately, many very talented and dedicated people are performing service already, and more have stepped forward to take positions on the Executive Committee.

Many thanks to outgoing Executive Committee members: Kevin Costa, Vicky Singer, Charlie Camp, Elvery Veal, Sabine Prather, Lisa Bozzuto, and June Hoerle. And thanks to those members who will be serving on the Executive Committee in 2005: Kelly Druzisky, Mary Norton, Cosmo Catalano, Jon Hanauer, Maureen Flanagan, Cinda H. Jones, Cathy Wickens, Tom Osley, Jim VanNatta, Alice Hodgdon, Dave Koerber, Bob Napolitano, Connie Peterson, Pat Fletcher, and Ian Beatty.

Thanks also to Gary Forish for three years of dedicated service as Berkshire Chapter Chair. I think it's important, as Gary rolls out of the Chapter Chair position, to mention a few of his more significant contributions.

Gary revived the Noble View Committee, which has achieved tremendous success. The Committee completed a long-term plan for the facility; put forward a renovation plan for the buildings at Noble View, including detailed and accurate construction cost estimates; shepherded the plans through the Facilities Committee and the AMC bureaucracy; and created a fundraising mechanism for Noble View, which has included writing grant proposals and exploring a conservation easement. Gary has personally put many hundreds of hours of work into Noble View, including visiting construction suppli-

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THE DOUBLE BLAZE, Chapter 7, Part 2

Appalachian Trail History

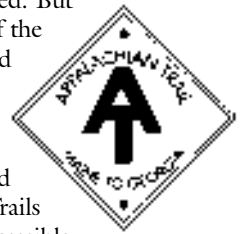
by Cosmo Catalano, AT Committee Chair

Earlier in the summer, we left our story in 1936 after the “Appies” came west and completed the AT, pretty much on the route it takes today. Unfortunately, the Pioneer Valley-based Chapter leaders did not consider it a priority to work closely with the local Berkshire residents who had already done considerable work on the Trail prior to their arrival. A year or two after clearing the Trail, Chapter interest waned, and without organized local support, the Trail began to sink back into the woods.

As the decade drew to a close, however, two new groups began to take an interest in reviving the Trail. The Mt. Greylock Ski Club agreed to take responsibility for the Trail between Upper Goose Pond and the Vermont Line. Max Sauter began work in 1938 and with an Avery-like (but local) effort, took in hand the task of organizing other Berkshire County volunteers. At the Massachusetts State College (now U-Mass, Amherst), the faculty outing club, Metawampe, officially adopted the section between Tyringham and Washington. The AMC Berkshire Chapter continued to lead maintenance efforts in the south. Volunteers from both the Ski Club and what remains of the Metawampes are still active on the Trail today.

This commitment by local groups began to bring other Berkshire residents on board, and local support of the AT has continued to this day. However, the pre-war malaise that affected the Trail along its entire length did not skip the Berkshires, and as the war took hold of the country, maintenance lapsed. After the war, interest in the Trail revived. But as the economy and the country began to grow vigorously, portions of the Trail on private land became increasingly difficult to keep open, and more and more miles of Trail were routed onto roads.

Meanwhile, back in Washington, the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC) was lobbying for Federal protection for the Trail. Finally, in December 1968 the National Trails System Act was passed by Congress. The Act defines four types of trail: National Recreation Trails to “...provide a variety of outdoor recreation uses in or reasonably accessible to urban areas”; National Scenic Trails which are “...extended trails so located as to provide for maximum outdoor recreation potential and for the conservation and enjoyment of the nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, or cultural qualities of the areas through which such trails may pass”; and National Historic Trails “...which follow as closely as possible and



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ers and talking them into donating free or highly discounted materials, and doing construction work on the Double Cottage.

Gary also concentrated on volunteer recruitment and recognition. He located new people to head or participate in the Trails, Outings, Noble View, and Young Members committees, and made it easy for “rank and file” Chapter members to get financial assistance to attend training and education workshops (leadership training, SOLO first aid, Mountain Leadership School, etc.). Gary actively supported the formation of a Young Members Committee; new members have joined the Chapter, and it appears that the average age of the Chapter is responding to the influx of young members!

Gary’s approach is that if it needs to be done, he’ll see that it gets done—even if it means logging in the trenches himself. He is always available when anyone has a question or needs advice. Gary’s constant positive attitude has proved contagious, and has helped to build and spread a wonderful club spirit. He’s made the success of the Berkshire Chapter and of Noble View his full-time job, and he continues to serve the Chapter as Noble View Chair.

I’m certainly looking forward to working with the Executive Committee, volunteer leaders, members and AMC Staff to continue to build on Berkshire Chapter’s successes. Here are a few thoughts:

Bring a Friend to Some AMC Activities; Give a *Membership in a Bottle!*

I’d like to challenge *all* Berkshire Chapter members to introduce at least one friend to the AMC. You’re probably not the only person you know who loves the outdoors and the activities you enjoy through the AMC. Bring your friends along, help them feel welcome here, and encourage them to join the AMC!

I hope you’ll agree that our Membership in a Bottle (MIB) is a great gift for at least one person this holiday season. Please also give them the gift of accompanying them on a couple of activities to make sure they feel welcomed and at home. MIB details and benefits (and an order form) are provided on page 8.

New Members’ and Beginners’ Activities

An AMC membership survey shows that new members are most likely to renew when they’re actively involved in club activities. Let’s encourage our new members to come out and play, and be warmly welcomed into the Berkshire Chapter. Some new members’ and beginners’ recreational and social activities are scheduled for Sunday, January 2 and Saturday, February 26 at Noble View. Experienced members, don’t stay away! We need folks to lead activities on these days, and it’ll be great to share your enthusiasm with friends you haven’t met yet.

I’m hoping some AMCs who feel strongly about supporting new members and introducing beginners to new activities will come forward and get involved in the Membership Committee. Possible activities oriented toward new members might include preparing a welcoming letter and info packet; making welcoming phone calls; surveying new members’ interests and skills; and planning and conducting new member activities. If you have an interest here, please let me know, and come to an Executive Committee meeting!

Opportunities for Service in Conservation

I’m told that about half our members join the AMC to support our conservation efforts financially. Wouldn’t it be great if we could offer opportunities to those who would like to volunteer their time and energy, as well as their membership dues, to support conservation efforts in our area? Some possibilities are:

- Identifying dams for dam removal projects, and building industry and community support for removal.
- Working in Franklin County communities to determine whether there is community interest in the expansion of the Green Mountain National Forest.
- Working in Berkshire County to determine whether there is interest in and support for expansion of the Mid-Atlantic Highlands Initiative into Massachusetts.

I’m hoping that our conservation-oriented members will identify and get involved with projects that interest them.

Please Keep in Touch!

We’ve got tremendous outdoor recreation and conservation opportunities here in western Mass. and an outstanding group of club members. Let’s consider how best to combine these in the coming year. Finally, please let me know your ideas, thoughts, comments, and concerns as we move into 2005. Call me at 413-549-4963 or e-mail cerobertson@comcast.net.

Yours in service,
Rob Robertson
Berkshire Chapter Chair

Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee – 2005 –

Chapter Officers

Chair: Rob Robertson
Vice Chair: *vacant*
Treasurer: Kelly Druzisky
Secretary: Mary Norton

Committee Chairs

Appalachian Trail Committee:
Cosmo Catalano
Berkshire County Representative:
vacant
Canoe & Kayak Committee:
Connie Peterson
Conservation Committee:
Cinda H. Jones
Leadership Training: Cathy Wickens
Membership Committee: Tom Osley
Mountaineering Committee:
Jim VanNatta and Alice Hodgdon
Noble View Committee: Gary Forish
Nominating Committee: Gary Forish
Outings Committee:
Dave Koerber and Bob Napolitano
Programs Committee: *vacant*
Trails Committee: Pat Fletcher
Webmaster: Ian Beatty
Young Members Committee:
Kelly Druzisky

BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE

– December 2004 –

newsletter@amcberkshire.org

Editor/Publisher: Jon Hanauer
Editor: Maureen Flanagan
Proofreading: Gail Blackhall
Contributors (special thanks):
Cosmo Catalano, Gary Forish,
Cinda Jones, Dave Koerber,
Susan Middleton, Norie Mozzone,
Bob Napolitano, Sabine Prather,
Rob Robertson, Faith Salter,
Debra Schey
Title photo: *Mt. Saint Helens*



CONTACT INFORMATION on all
Executive Committee members can be found
in *AMC Outdoors* and www.amcberkshire.org.

ADDRESS CHANGES
AMC, 5 Joy St., Boston, MA 02108
or e-mail information@outdoors.org

Appalachian Mountain Club's

North Quabbin Outdoor Expo 2005

Saturday January 8, 2005, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main St. Athol, MA

Hosted by the AMC Berkshire Chapter, Worcester Chapter, New England Forestry Foundation, and others.

Programs:

- Map/compass, safety, GPS
- Walnut Hill tracking
- Bike repairs – Norman Flye III
- Local trails, Harvard Forest – Julian Hadley
- Leave No Trace

Sunday Tours (sign up Sat.):

- ABNC/MREC Programs – Dave Small
- All Out Adventure or DCR-accessible programs
- Dogs and Woods Safety – Ray Jackson
- Walnut Hill tracking
- North Quabbin

For more information call 978-724-3318, or visit the website at www.northquabbinwoods.org/calendar.html

Summit 2005: AMC Annual Meeting

Saturday, February 5, 2005

Westin Hotel, Waltham, Massachusetts

Open to all AMC members and friends. Join us for a dynamic day of fun-filled activities, our annual business meeting, and committee events. This year's afternoon workshops include a SOLO program on wilderness medicine and outdoor leadership, yoga for outdoor enthusiasts, exploration of the international section of the Appalachian Trail, peak bagging strategies, a talk on restoring the Upper Charles River, the AMC's air quality monitoring program, the HandMade in the Northern Forest program, a book signing by the legendary Brad Washburn, and more. The evening will include reception, dinner, and keynote speaker, renowned mountaineer Mark Richey. For more information call 617-523-0655 ext. 309.

See the Sawmill Saw

In 2004, Cowls Lumber celebrated the grand opening of its sawmill observation deck, featuring information on forestry, wood products, land conservation, and the environment. Visitors can watch logs up to 32 feet in length turn into lumber in a 13-step, illustrated process.

Self-guided tours are available on weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Group tour leaders should call in advance. For more information contact Cowls Lumber in North Amherst at 413-549-1759 or visit their website at www.cowls.com.

Volunteer Opportunities at Cardigan Lodge!

Would you like to be a part of Cardigan's volunteer-led theme program? You can lead a program for a week or a weekend. Volunteers are needed to lead such programs as Map and Compass, Outdoor Baking, Beginning Camping for Families, and Dixieland Jazz.

Please contact Julie Chappell, manager, at 603-744-8011 or jchappell@outdoors.org with ideas for theme programs you would be interested in leading.

Funding Available for New Conservation Projects

Do you have an idea for a project that would engage and educate AMC volunteers in conservation activities? If so, the AMC has a Special Projects Fund (SPF) to help cover the costs. Perhaps it's a clean-up day, chapter advocacy work, trail project, training program, or research proposal. For more information, please contact your chapter conservation chair as listed in *AMC Outdoors* or Faith Salter, Assistant Director of Volunteer Relations, Appalachian Mountain Club, 5 Joy Street, Boston, MA 02108-1490. Phone 617-523-0655, ext. 314 or fsalter@outdoors.org.

Conservation Committee Update *by Debra Schey*

As this year ends and 2005 begins, the new Executive Committee of the Berkshire Chapter has begun its work. Former members and new members are working together to make our Chapter be all that it is capable of being. New members are being welcomed to the Conservation Committee. Are you interested in joining the team?

Is your first thought "I'd love to, I really should...but I just don't have the time!"? That was this member's reaction, but I'm giving it a try. I've realized how important every effort is, no matter how little it may seem. Members have varied amounts of time to give and varied skills and interests to offer. Every minute is appreciated; every skill is needed in some way. Recording the meeting sessions, offering to do Internet research, putting your efforts behind one of the Conservation Committee's designated annual letter writing campaigns, discussing your natural methods of controlling invasive plants, sharing your natural cleaning solutions, working on a fund-raising challenge—these are just a few of the ways you can actively help preserve and protect the planet, and our beautiful state.

Earth conservation encompasses the care of the earth and all its resources. Wise use ensures the continued sustainability of our environment. It includes management of biodiversity as well as the pursuit of social ecology—the crucial "human aspect" in conservation. Social ecology is the vital linkage of people's participation to conservation. Without it, much that the Chapter has accomplished so far would never

have occurred.

Please help AMC Berkshire's Conservation Committee raise funds for land conservation efforts by buying or selling Connecticut River bandanamaps! See page 8 for more information, or e-mail cjones@cowls.com.

Every conservation idea can generate action. Every action, no matter how small one may think it is, makes a difference! Consider joining the Conservation Committee. Contact Rob Robertson at cerobertson@comcast.net or 413-549-4963.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES

Would you like to be a Committee Chair and have some fun at the same time? Currently the Berkshire Chapter has openings for Vice Chair, Berkshire County Representative, and Programs Committee Chair. For more information on these and other volunteer opportunities, contact Rob Robertson at 413-549-4963 or cerobertson@comcast.net.

OUTINGS, OUTINGS, OUTINGS

Outings Committee Requests Input

Bob Napolitano and Dave Koerber, new Co-chairs of the Outings Committee, are requesting your input and need your help.

- We are looking for people interested in joining the Outings Committee as Monthly Coordinators. Monthly Coordinators work with the Outings Committee to plan and find leaders for outings.
- We are interested in finding activity leaders for day hikes, family hikes, educational hikes, activities with other clubs, car camping, base camp with day hikes, backpacking, cross-country skiing—any outdoor excursions.
- We are also soliciting input from Berkshire Chapter members on outings that are of interest and may not have been offered recently.
- We would like to continue to expand the Berkshire Chapter tradition of offering a multitude of diverse outings for AMC members (and non-members).

Please contact Bob (413-534-8955) and Dave (home: 413-568-4650 before 9 p.m., work: 617-480-8225) or e-mail us at outings@amcberkshire.org.

Reminder: Sign-up and Release Forms

The Outings Committee would like to remind trip leaders that the AMC requires each leader to complete and return the AMC sign-up and release form within a week of each activity. Those forms should be mailed to Bob Napolitano at PO Box 650, Granby, MA 01033. The AMC requires these forms for legal/insurance liability requirements. The form will be mailed to each leader at least two weeks prior to a trip. The form is *required* by the AMC and also provides useful information to the Outings Committee for future outings planning. We appreciate your help in complying with these club requirements.

The image shows a scan of a form titled "MEMBERSHIP OF THE AMERICAN MOUNTAIN CLIMBING ASSOCIATION" and "FOR AMC VOUCHER TRAILED ACTIVITIES". The form contains several sections of text, including a release of liability and a section for trip leader information. The text is small and difficult to read, but the structure is clear.

September, 2004: Two Trip Reports *by Susan Middleton*

Mahican-Mohawk Trail from Shelburne to Deerfield, 9/19

I previously co-led this trip with Elvery Veal, so this was the second year I've led this hike. We had a wonderful outing with a nice group of people. The 14 participants were mostly from western Mass., but the president of the Worcester Chapter also came, along with two women who drove all the way from Cape Cod!

I warned participants at the outset that the trail might present some challenges due to the heavy rains the day before—and it did. But it was all workable, there were no injuries, and everyone collaborated in looking out for others. People made sure that everyone was able to negotiate tricky spots on the trail including crossing the many side creeks, several of which were quite high and roaring. Luckily, none of the trail had been washed away (my worst-case scenario). One participant struggled with her fear of crossing the first high log bridge above a rocky side creek, but other members talked her over it and thereafter she handled the other creek crossings well. One creek was so high that we all had to hike upstream to find easier places to cross. Another time we inadvertently left the Mahican-Mohawk Trail (M-M) onto a horse trail that runs parallel to the M-M, only higher up the hillside. One group of us bushwhacked down a steep slope and found the regular trail, while the other group kept going; after 20 minutes both groups met up again on the M-M trail.

Lunch for most of us was a half-hour stop on rocks at the river's edge; the others, not wanting to risk contact with scattered sprigs of poison ivy, ate lunch a little farther up the trail. The first lunch stop provided a good view of railroad bridge abutments where the current Guilford (Old Boston and Maine) RR freight line crosses a side creek on the opposite side of the Deerfield River.

In the middle of the afternoon we arrived at Bardwell's Ferry Bridge, where two group members who had spotted cars there left. This portion of the trip was about six miles long and took about four hours.

The remaining 12 participants got into the other spotted cars parked at the Ferry Bridge and drove up Bardwell Ferry Road to Conway Station Road. We parked at the old site of Conway Station at the end of Conway Station Road, formerly Depot Road, then walked around looking at old railroad bridge abutments for the huge trestle bridge (once the highest in New England) built in the late 1800s for the New Haven and Northampton RR that once crossed the South River. The lower trestle bridge was built in the 1890s for the Conway Electric Trolley that once ran along roads beside the South River from Conway Center out to Conway Station, then wrapped around underneath the NH&N tracks and crossed the Deerfield River. Old ties could be felt in the regular undulations of the ground underfoot. I brought old photos, maps, and written accounts downloaded off the Web to show others and talked about various landmarks.

Pisgah State Park, 9/26

I've led this trip, in one permutation or another, for about the last five years. This year, 13 of us did a loop rather than spot cars, so we started and ended at the Kilburn Road trailhead. The route was slightly different from any I've done before, in that the return was via Davis Hill Trail.

There were great views, as usual, from the two Pisgah Mountain lookouts. The first lookout was at southern Vermont (west) and southern New Hampshire (east). The second looked east at Mt. Monadnock, and southeast to Mt. Grace and Northfield Mountain and the big reservoir in the park. We had a late morning snack at the first lookout, lunch at the second, and a dessert/snack in the mid-afternoon at Baker Lake.

At 35,500 acres, this park is the largest in the New Hampshire state park system—it really gives the feeling of being in the wilderness. We encountered only a handful of other hikers the whole day, despite the fact that it was a sunny weekend day.

Many commented that it had been a wonderful, enjoyable outing; some of the participants were repeats from last year, and some were new. Five of us went to the People's Pint for dinner afterwards.

Activity Highlights: January and February

This list is just a sampler. For complete listings of all Chapter events, please see *AMC Outdoors* or visit www.amcberkshire.org.

All area codes are 413 unless otherwise noted.

The difficulty of each hike is rated according to its distance, pace, and ruggedness. A typical rating might be "B3C."

The first letter (or pair of letters) indicates the hike's distance:

- AA = over 13 miles
- A = 9-13 miles
- B = 5-8 miles
- C = under 5 miles

The number in the middle indicates the pace the leader expects to set (on average terrain):

- 1 = very fast (2.5 mph or faster)
- 2 = fast (2-2.5 mph)
- 3 = moderate (1.5-2 mph)
- 4 = leisurely (less than 1.5 mph)

The final letter indicates the kind of terrain:

- A = very strenuous
- B = strenuous
- C = average
- D = easy

If there are two letters at the end (for example, "B3BC"), it indicates the terrain is somewhere between the levels indicated by either of the letters alone. As always, if you have any questions about what the hike will be like, call the trip leader.

Sun., Jan. 2. Ski/Snowshoe/Soup/Socialize at Noble View, Russell, MA. (C3C). Beginners and new members especially welcome. Come and tour our renovated cottage on beautiful Noble View property. Long-range views looking east over Westfield. Join current members for a play date in the snow. Meet at 9 a.m. Hike/snowshoe/x-c ski, depends on the conditions. Hot soup served for lunch. RSVP Leader Rob Robertson, 549-4963; cerobertson@comcast.net.

Sat., Jan. 8. Hike/Snowshoe to the Vermont border on the AT. (B3B). An 8-mile trek with a 2-mile climb to the ridge. Excellent winter views to the south toward Mt. Greylock and the east toward the Taconics. Bring food & water. Call Leader Dave Koerber to register, 568-4650; dkoerber@earthlink.net.

Sun., Jan. 9. Cross-country Ski at touring center. Leader's choice. Call for meeting time and place. Kris Jackson, 782-0247.

Sat.-Sun., Jan. 15 & 16. Overnight Snowshoe on Mt. Cardigan, NH. (B3B).

Newly renovated AMC cabin near summit. A woodstove and 12 bunk beds with mattresses await you after a great day on the trails. Second day ridge walk. Full winter clothing, snowshoes, and crampons required. Bring your own food. \$20 pp. Leader Donna Walters, 498-5696; dwalters2800@verizon.net. Co-leader Frank Morrison, 781-326-3082; frankmorr@comcast.net.

Sat., Jan. 22. Trail Busters' Day Dinner/Social/Hike/Snowshoe. See hike/snowshoe listing below. Good food, companionship, hospitality and dinner, all for the small sum of \$8. All AMC Berkshire Chapter members and guests invited. Social hour, 4:30 p.m. Dinner, 5:30 p.m. Al Shane and Marion Gorham will present a slide show and talk about their camping & biking trip on the C&O Canal. Location: Sunderland Congregational Church, jct. Rtes. 47 & 116, Sunderland. RSVP to Pat Fletcher, 562-9863.

Sat., Jan. 22. Trail Busters' Day Hike to Mt. Toby. (C3C). Meet 12 noon at parking lot behind Congregational Church, jct. Rtes. 47 & 116, Sunderland. Leader Pat Fletcher 562-9863.

Sun., Jan. 23. Go-where-the-snow-is Cross-country Ski and Snowshoe. Leader's choice. For location, meeting time and place, call Leader Al Shane, 548-9435.

Sat., Jan. 29. Snowshoe in Pisgah State Park, NH. (C3C). Varied terrain. Beautiful views of Mount Monadnock. Leader Donna Walters, 498-5696; dwalters2800@verizon.net. Co-leader Frank Morrison, 781-326-3082; frankmorr@comcast.net.

Sun., Jan. 30. Hike/Snowshoe at Amethyst Brook. (B2BC). On Robert Frost and M-M Trails; possibly ascend Mt. Orient. New members especially welcome. Heavy rain cancels. Call by 8:30 a.m. if weather doubtful. Meet 9:30 a.m. at Amethyst Brook Conservation Area parking lot, Pelham Rd. at Ward St., about 0.7 miles east of East St. intersection, Amherst. Leader Rob Robertson, 549-4963; cerobertson@comcast.net.

Sat.-Sun., Feb. 5 & 6. Overnight backpack on Mt. Greylock. (B3B). Hopper Trail to the summit. Spend night in

unheated shelter. Full winter gear, clothing, snowshoes, and crampons required. Bring your own food. Leader Donna Walters, 498-5696; dwalters2800@verizon.net. Co-leader Frank Morrison, 781-326-3082; frankmorr@comcast.net.

Sat., Feb. 12. Hike/Snowshoe at Quabbin Reservoir. (B2BC). New members especially welcome. Heavy rain cancels. Call by 8:30 a.m. if weather doubtful. Meet 9:30 a.m. at Pelham Historical Society parking lot, intersection Pelham Rd. & Rte. 202, Pelham. Leader Rob Robertson, 549-4963; cerobertson@comcast.net.

Sun., Feb. 13. Cross-country Ski at touring center. Leader's choice. Call for meeting time and place. Kris Jackson, 782-0247.

Sat., Feb. 19. Snowshoe M-M Trail in Wendell State Forest. (B3C). Section 15 of the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail from Ruggles Pond north towards Farley off Rte. 2 in Erving. Enjoy a wide variety of terrain downhill along rushing brooks, uphill to mountain vistas. Bring lunch and water. Leader Donna Walters, 498-5696; dwalters2800@verizon.net. Co-leader Frank Morrison, 781-326-3082; frankmorr@comcast.net.

Sat., Feb. 26. Ski/Snowshoe/Soup/Socialize at Noble View, Russell, MA. (C3C). Beginners and new members especially welcome. Come and tour our renovated cottage on beautiful Noble View property. Long-range views looking east over Westfield. Join current members for a play date in the snow. Meet at 9 a.m. Hike/snowshoe/x-c ski, depends on the conditions. Hot soup served for lunch. RSVP Leader Rob Robertson, 549-4963; cerobertson@comcast.net.

Sat.-Sun., Mar. 5 & 6. Overnight snowshoe in the White Mtns. Highland Center's Shapley Bunkhouse sleeps 16. \$41 pp/nite incl. dinner & breakfast, bunks w/linen set, bath, showers, and microwave. Guided tours. Full payment required by Jan 24th. Leader Donna Walters, 498-5696; dwalters2800@verizon.net. Co-leader Frank Morrison, 781-326-3082; frankmorr@comcast.net.



AMC Berkshire at work...and at play!

(Clockwise from top left) Volunteers break a sweat doing trail maintenance at Noble View (photo: Kris Walter). Hikers enjoy great views of the Westfield River valley on this Unkamt's Path hike led by Henry Warchol (two photos: Henry Warchol). On Mount Moosilauke (4802 ft.) the participants pose for group photos on both the summit and the south peak, led by Jon Hanauer and co-led by Jeff Canter (two photos: Erica Gees).



• Passages •

Ralph Edwards: Ralph was a strong contributor and volunteer at Noble View. He faithfully made home-baked bread for Noble View's Washington's Birthday and Valley Forge Encampment Celebration every February. A retired postal worker at the Wilbraham post office, Ralph employed his postal expertise as the Chapter volunteer responsible for mailing the newsletter before the process was automated.

Rudy Yondorf: Although a life member of the NY/NJ Chapter, Rudy was committed to supporting the Appalachian Trail in Massachusetts. One of the original volunteer members of the Mass. AT Committee, Rudy took the lead in getting and keeping the Committee organized and well run. He was instrumental in drawing up the first Management Plan for the AT in Mass., as well as setting up the Committee's banking and finances. His work now bears fruit with ongoing income from the Moheckeneck fund supporting Upper Goose Pond Cabin and the Jack Cysz fund supporting ongoing maintenance on the AT. Rudy also took the lead in organizing the Appalachian Trail Conference's Biennial Conference at Williams College in 1991. Rudy never tired of bringing the message of the AT and its volunteers to all who would listen. Send donations to the AMC's Jack Cysz Memorial Fund for the Mass. Appalachian Trail.

James K. Kindahl, a member of the Berkshire Chapter since 1972.

Joseph Kretschek, a family member of the Berkshire Chapter since 2004.

The Double Blaze: *Appalachian Trail History*, continued from page 1

practicable the original trails or routes of travel of national historic significance.” The fourth designation is for side trails connecting to or between these trails. The AT is the first designated National Scenic Trail. This legislation also contains the following in its Statement of Policy:

The Congress recognizes the valuable contributions that volunteers and private, nonprofit trail groups have made to the development and maintenance of the Nation’s trails. In recognition of these contributions, it is further the purpose of this Act to encourage and assist volunteer citizen involvement in the planning, development, maintenance, and management, where appropriate, of trails.”

This language directs Federal agencies to involve volunteers in the care and feeding of National trails. Notice that it doesn’t just mention the “dirt work” of on-the-ground maintenance, but runs the full gamut of trail management responsibilities. The “where appropriate” clause does provide an out, and in its current application is taken to refer to management areas such as law enforcement and land acquisition. This is a pretty bold step by government to include this kind of direct citizen involvement—but it’s what makes the AT work.

The Act also calls for a protected right-of-way for the Trail in this language:

Where the lands included in a national scenic or national historic trail right-of-way are outside of the exterior boundaries of federally administered areas, the Secretary charged with the administration of such trail shall encourage the States or local governments involved (1) to enter into written cooperative agreements with landowners, private organizations, and individuals to provide the necessary trail right-of-way, or (2) to acquire such lands or interests therein to be utilized as segments of the national scenic or national historic trail.

So the first choice was to encourage state and local governments and private entities to protect the footpath, with Federal acquisition as the second. Practically speaking, the first choice was the only option in 1968, as there was little funding for federal land acquisition in the Act.

Interestingly, Massachusetts was the first state to follow this Federal action by passing Chapter 627, “An Act to Protect the Appalachian Trail” in 1969. The then-Department of Natural Resources (later the Department of Environmental Management, or DEM, and now the Department of Conservation and Recreation, or DCR) was directed to acquire lands in fee simple (meaning complete ownership), easements, conservation restrictions, or gifts to protect the footpath from inappropriate use. Over the subsequent seven years, the Division of Forests and Parks acquired 20 parcels and two watershed easements on behalf of the Trail.

Other AT states did not enact any significant legislation to protect the AT, however, and in 1976 the National Trails System Act was amended to provide funding to purchase land to create a protected corridor. This funding has been continued over the years and now more than 3000 individual parcels have been purchased and less than one percent of the trail is on private land subject to development. Most of these purchases have been in fee simple, but some protection has been achieved by easements wherein the owner retains some rights to the property, but the land can never be developed. For more

information on land protection see Chapter 3 of the Double Blaze in the December 2002 *Berkshire Exchange*.

In our state, the NPS acquisition efforts were focused on protecting pieces of Trail between the major state forests in Berkshire County. Much of this connecting Trail was in the Tyringham area and on unprotected property in Dalton and Cheshire, as well as other property south of Great Barrington. In 1968, 21.8 miles of the state’s 85 miles of AT were on roads.

A year after the amended National Trails System Act, the NPS, working cooperatively with the DEM, conducted a survey of the Trail on lands outside of state forests. This survey established a Trail centerline and the land ownership of approximately 40 Trail miles in the county. From this plan, the NPS and DEM decided which agency would pursue the purchase of which land parcels. By 1992, virtually the entire route had been protected, at a cost of more than \$8.1 million. This protection has served us well, preserving some of the County’s most attractive and significant scenic areas. The highlight of the Park Service protection effort in the state is the land surrounding Upper Goose Pond, now one of the last undeveloped ponds in the Berkshires. Other areas protected by this effort are Sage’s Ravine, Ice Gulch, Warner Hill, Gore Pond, the Cheshire Cobbles, and Sherman Brook.

This protection was not without controversy. Since Shay’s Rebellion our citizens have been wary of excessive interference from outside, be it Springfield, Boston or Washington DC. The National Park Service stood to become the new “Myron Avery,” and fueled some local resentment of the Trail among its neighbors as it began to purchase land for the corridor. However, unlike the 1930s, the AT has a loyal following of hardworking local citizens who were willing to work closely with their neighbors.

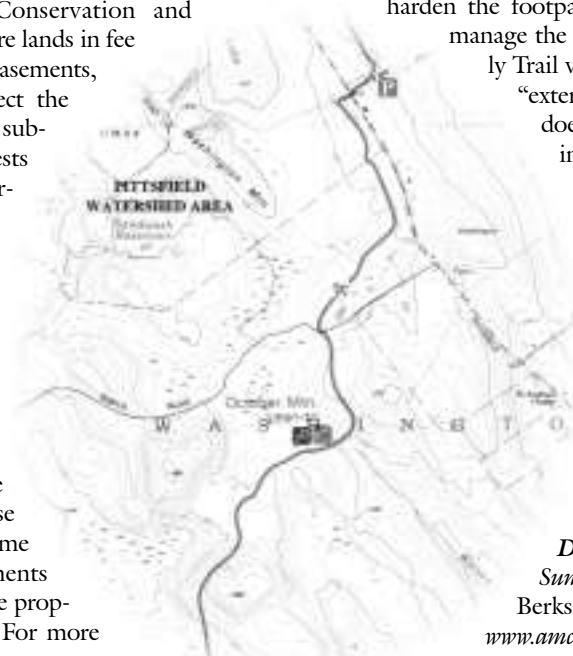
The AT Committee of the Berkshire Chapter was formed in 1979 at the behest of the ATC to consolidate into a single entity the efforts of the three active maintaining groups. This past summer, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed designating our Berkshire Chapter AT Committee as the entity responsible for AT management on both state and NPS lands in the Commonwealth. This Committee consists of Chapter volunteers, and DCR, AMC and ATC staff.

What does the future hold? As the NPS shifts from the process of acquiring corridor land to the active management of these lands, the ATC in turn begins to redefine its own role. With the footpath essentially complete and protected from adjacent incompatible uses, focus has been shifting to actively protect the existing corridor from misuse, harden the footpath against the heavy traffic it receives, and manage the other effects of this state’s thousands of yearly Trail visitors. It is also time to look more broadly at “external” threats to the Trail. A 1000-foot corridor does not provide much protection from increasing levels of air and water pollution, telecom and utility projects, and large-scale land development. Although the nature of our work is changing, it will never be complete.

If you want to volunteer on the Trail, or find out more about your AT Committee, please visit our web page: www.amcberkshire.org/at, or contact me directly at ccatalan@williams.edu or 413-458-5349.

**Next chapter:
Recent ATC Policy Decisions**

Did you miss Part 1 of AT History? The Summer 2004 and other back issues of the Berkshire Exchange can be downloaded at www.amcberkshire.org/info/pubs.



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The bandanas are being sold for \$10 retail or \$8 wholesale (to anyone who buys 12 or more). Of the \$10 purchase price, \$5 will be earmarked for land conservation efforts, such as conservation easements, in western Massachusetts.

Every sports enthusiast knows bandanas make great fashion statements—as sweat wipers, slings, goodie-holders, mosquito swatters, and tourniquets. And this one can help you find your way on the Connecticut River! Don't leave home without one.

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