

# BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE

BERKSHIRE CHAPTER NEWS & EVENTS  
APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB



[amcberkshire.org](http://amcberkshire.org)  
[outdoors.org](http://outdoors.org)

Summer 2009

FROM *the* CHAIR

## Update on Chapter Activities – and our 80th Anniversary Celebration!

Summer is here and Berkshire Chapter members are out on the water and trails enjoying our beautiful region and beyond. I hope everyone will consider taking part in some of the great outings our volunteer leaders have planned. If you have been reading *AMC Outdoors* or scanning the websites thinking about joining in someday, now is the time. Don't be shy—our Chapter has a tradition of making everyone feel welcome, from novice to experienced outdoor enthusiasts. Call the leader if you have questions, but do come out and play.

Our Chapter will be celebrating some important events this year, beginning with our 80th anniversary. Also, the Fall Gathering is just around the corner, with our Chapter playing host! In this edition of the *Berkshire Exchange*, you will find out all you need to know about the Gathering. Many people have been contributing time, energy, and creativity toward planning a weekend that will have something for everyone. We hope for a large and enthusiastic turnout from Berkshire Chapter members, which will be a perfect way to support your Chapter. To celebrate the occasion, I am calling on all past Chapter Chairs, Executive Committee members, leaders, and all other Chapter members to share memories, photos, news clip-

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## Berkshire Chapter to Host the AMC's 2009 Fall Gathering *by Gail Palmer*

Can you feel the excitement in the air?

Members of the Berkshire Chapter have been hard at work for weeks, planning to host the AMC's 2009 Fall Gathering. And the enthusiasm is contagious. The event will be held at Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA Camp in Becket, beginning on Friday afternoon, October 16, and running through Sunday afternoon. It is most appropriate, note Deb Levine and Rob Robertson, that our turn to host the event occurs in the year of the Berkshire Chapter's 80th anniversary.

"This is our chance to shine as a chapter," commented Rob, past Chapter Chair (2005–2006). And, added Deb, our current Chapter Chair, "People who come for the entire weekend will have a blast!"

People who come for a day will have a great time as well. And the price is right! Where else can you go for a full weekend during fall foliage season in the Berkshires, engage in all the activities you love, enjoy great entertainment, meet old friends and make new ones, and have your lodging and meals provided—all for the unbelievable price of \$125–\$145 (\$120 for children)? Or, if you absolutely can't get away for the weekend but want to enjoy the day activities, meetings, dinner, entertainment and social program, day passes are available for only \$15–\$25 (\$10–\$20 for children).

### Activity Planning Under Way

Committee chairs have their planning well under way, with Bob (Nappy) Napolitano leading the Outings group. Jim Pelletier is planning hikes on the Appalachian Trail. Rudy Julian will organize a quiet water paddle, and Charlie Camp expects plenty of enthusiasm for both Class 2–3 and Class 3–4 whitewater trips. Jim Van Natta is organizing mountaineering activities, and Gary Forish will seize the opportunity to showcase Noble View. Significant efforts are being made to ensure that there are plenty of enjoyable activities for families with children, under the leadership

*continued on page 7*

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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**WANT THIS TO BE THE LAST  
BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE  
YOU RECEIVE BY US MAIL?**

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# Anniversary Reminiscences by Gail Palmer

From John Shuttleworth's point of view, it's impossible to contemplate this year's celebration of the Berkshire Chapter's 80th anniversary without reminiscing about Noble View. And for the rest of us, it's not possible to mention "Noble View" without reminiscing about his many years of Chapter membership.

Not that he was around when the Chapter formed in 1929. But the family connection goes back nearly that far, when the aunt and uncle of his wife, Inge, joined the AMC in the 1930s. In 1957 Inge also became a member, and John joined in the early 1960s. They are "Noble View people from way, way back," John said.

The Berkshire Chapter has maintained Noble View since the 1930s and kept the property "in the black" for 70 years, he says. It managed to repay the "seed money provided by Joy Street"—AMC headquarters—and "burned the mortgage in the 1940s," he recalls.

While he clearly takes great satisfaction in those events, it is nostalgia over the people behind the achievements that pepper his recollections. "We had a good, solid group of people," he recalls, with an average of 43 members turning out at the five "official" work parties held each year.

"We cleaned and closed the two cottages for winter and opened them again in the spring." There were trail days and road days too, but his favorite was wood day. "I loved to split wood."

Social activities included Laurel Weekend in June, when members picked strawberries and made strawberry shortcake, which they served on the porch of the double cottage. In those days, members could stay overnight at Noble View for 50 cents and were responsible for supervising their guests.

Few can rival John's record of service to the AMC during his nearly five decades as an active member. In addition to his stint as Noble View Chair, Chapter Chair, and head of the Trails Committee, he also has been a member of the Nominating, Conservation, and Research committees. (The latter, he explains, conducted research to provide information related to any decision the Club or Chapter faced.)

When the Chapter proudly takes its Fall Gathering guests on tours of Noble View in October, they'll be pointing out the restored structures and modern conveniences as well as the magnificent view. But if John Shuttleworth attends, as he hopes he will, he'll also be seeing decades of memories, scores of great people, hours of log splitting...and strawberry shortcake on the porch.



## Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee — 2009 —

### CHAPTER OFFICERS

**Chair:** Deborah Levine  
(chapterchair@amcberkshire.org; 413-584-6065)  
**Vice Chair:** vacant  
**Treasurer:** Kelly Druzisky  
(treasurer@amcberkshire.org)  
**Secretary:** Catherine Benoit

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Appalachian Trail Committee:**  
Jim Pelletier  
(wandere0131@yahoo.com; 413-454-4773)  
**Berkshire County Representative:** vacant  
**Berkshire Exchange Committee:**  
Jon Hanauer  
(newsletter@amcberkshire.org; 413-568-0990)  
**Canoe and Kayak Committee:**  
Charlie Camp and Connie Peterson  
(paddling@amcberkshire.org)  
**Conservation Committee:** vacant  
**Family Programs:** Nancy Weld  
(familyprograms@amcberkshire.org; 413-256-8728)  
**Membership Committee:** Diane Furtek  
(membership@amcberkshire.org; 413-589-5530)  
**Mountaineering Committee:**  
Bill Fogel  
(mountaineering@amcberkshire.org; 413-427-1693)  
Jim Van Natta (mountaineering@amcberkshire.org)  
**Noble View Committee:** Rob Robertson  
(cerobertson@comcast.net; 413-549-4963)  
**Nominating Committee:** vacant  
**Outings Committee:**  
Bob Napolitano  
(nappyofma@comcast.net; 413-534-8955)  
**Past Chair:** Jon Hanauer  
(newsletter@amcberkshire.org; 413-568-0990)  
**Public Relations Committee:**  
Sabine Prather  
(publicity@amcberkshire.org; 413-949-3914)  
**Trails Committee:** Patrick Fletcher  
(hiker6@comcast.net; 413-562-9863)  
**Training and Education Committee:**  
Christine Fogarty  
(learning@amcberkshire.org; 978-857-7078)  
**Website Committee:**  
Bob Bergstrom, Chair  
(webmaster@amcberkshire.org)  
Nancy Weld, Editor  
(webeditor@amcberkshire.org)  
**Young Members Committee:**  
Wendy Barbour and Paxton Berardy  
(ymchair@amcberkshire.org; 413-569-9998)

### Other Helpful Contacts

**Chapter Trips Approver:** Jon Hanauer  
(approver@amcberkshire.org; 413-568-0990)  
**Membership in a Bottle:** Chris Ryan  
(geolopes@comcast.net; 413-549-4124)  
**Regional Director:** Dale Geslien  
(dalegeslien@sbcglobal.net; 203-778-3651)  
**Regional Trails Coordinator:** Matt Moore  
AMC Southern New England Trails Office, South Egremont  
(mjmoore@outdoors.org; 413-528-8003)  
**Tuesday Hiking:** Sonja Goodwin  
(SGoodwin@alum.rpi.edu)

### Need a phone number?

If the person you want to contact by phone has no number listed, please call Jon Hanauer at 413-568-0990.

# It's Full Steam Ahead at Noble View

## New Name, New Website

We've changed our name to reflect our broader role as a regional resource for outdoor recreation and education. Check out our new website: [nobleviewoutdoorcenter.org](http://nobleviewoutdoorcenter.org), and please contact us with any comments, suggestions, or complaints!

## Bathhouse Update

Tighe and Bond, our system design engineers, and volunteers Glen Ayers and Gary Forish have met with the Town of Russell Health Inspector and representatives of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. We're now redesigning the septic field and expect to submit plans to the DEP within the next several months. (See article on page 4.)

We are indeed going to use composting toilets. We'll need to redesign the building to accommodate the composting toilet tanks and equipment. Our new plans also call for a 16-foot-deep basement, rather than the concrete slab floor previously specified. We're awaiting structural engineering plans for the foundation and structural members necessary to support the building.

We've been approved for a \$37,000 rebate from Massachusetts Technology Collaborative Renewable Energy Trust's Commonwealth Solar Program for the installation of photoelectric solar panels on the bathhouse roof. The panels must be installed and connected to the building's electrical system by February 2010. We'll be working to get the foundation completed and the building framed in so we can complete the solar panel installation in time to qualify for the rebate.

## North Cottage Rehab Proceeding

Selective demolition of the north kitchen wing took place last summer, and the foundation for the new north wing was poured in May. The porch replacement will be complete by early June. We're moving full speed ahead on this project, while we're waiting for approval of the bathhouse plans. If you're a carpenter or a framer, we can use your help right now! Please contact Gary Forish at 413-519-3251.

## A New Trail Map, Trail Blazing, and Signage!

Thanks to Larry Garland, AMC Cartographer, we have a wonderful new map showing the trails in and around Noble View. Ed Watson and Mark Bidus have been blazing the trails with the colors indicated on the new map.

Mark is also working on numbered signs for all trail junctions. The junction numbers appear on our new map. Mark is preparing an inventory of the other descriptive signs, and we'll consider replacing damaged signs and installing new ones once we have a little breathing room.

Mark Bidus, Ed Watson, Dave Conley, and others have done a tre-

mendous amount of work clearing the trails after the December ice storm. Mark has taken leader training and is going through his co-lead process. Soon he'll be recruiting trail work parties!

In any event, we hope to have the trails cleared, blazed, and properly signed by the upcoming Fall Gathering.

## Volunteer Opportunities

We've got lots of job openings these days! If you're interested in serving as Chair or Vice Chair, or would like to help on the Noble View Committee in a Marketing, Programs, Property, or Trails capacity, we've got a deal for you!

Mary Conley, our Treasurer, now seeks early release from her role in order to make her travel, family visiting, and hiking plans possible. She promises excellent training to anyone who's willing to take on this role. We're also looking for a Registrar, and one or two Greeters.

Thanks to all who have given so much to Noble View over the years. If you're looking for a place where you can make a difference, please consider helping out here.

Best wishes,  
Rob Robertson  
Noble View Chair  
413-549-4963



Gary Forish and Mark Bidus work on the North Cottage.



Indian pipe along Laurel Lane.

## BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE

– July 2009 –

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**Title Image:** photo by Mike Furtek  
*During a Chapter hike in the Holyoke Range, co-leader Rebecca Budaj talks about the geology of the Horse Caves on Mount Norwottuck*

# “State of the Art” Wastewater Treatment at Noble View

by Glen Ayers

I have a background as a Regional Health Agent and I am a Massachusetts Registered Sanitarian. So when I read in a past issue of the *Berkshire Exchange* about the concerns with the new Bathhouse’s wastewater system, I contacted Rob Robertson, Noble View Chair, and asked him if I could get involved with the group that was working on the wastewater treatment design. He told me it was indeed grim, that the soils were so compact and dense at Noble View that they might never be able to find a place to put a septic system. I suggested that we have a meeting with Gary Forish and review the possible alternative treatment systems available.

From 1910 to 1925, the Farmhouse, Double Cottage, and North Cottage had indoor sinks, and the cottages had flush toilets. After that, the toilets and sinks were removed from the cottages and it is now proposed that the kitchens in the cottages and the Farmhouse remain un-plumbed and all dishwashing be done at sinks located at the new Bathhouse. Under the proposal, no running water would be available in any of the buildings, except for the showers and sinks located at the Bathhouse. The existing sink in the Farmhouse, which currently drains to a dry well under the building, would be removed. Other sanitary facilities include outdoor privies and outhouses. They, along with all the other non-conforming uses, will be eliminated.

The Farmhouse has a dug well and hand pump near the front door of the building. There is also another dug well with a hand pump located to the west of the Double Cottage. These wells will be abandoned under the proposed upgrade and replaced by a single new drilled public water supply well.

After many months of searching for suitable soil, Gary has located what we think is the best area within a reasonable distance of the proposed Bathhouse. It is true that the glacial soils at Noble View are, in a word, terrible. They are some of the worst soils I have seen in over 30 years of evaluating soils for on-lot septic systems. The soils are a dense, compact till that could never accommodate a conventional septic system leach field. But a suitable area has been explored and tested that will support historical levels of use, provided some alternative treatment technologies are employed. Much brainstorming has resulted in a proposed upgrade of the wastewater treatment facilities at Noble View, which will include replacing all non-conforming systems with ones that are designed and permitted in

accordance with state and local requirements.

**Composting Toilets:** Environmentally superior waste treatment will be accomplished by replacing the existing privies and outhouses with a state-of-the-art, self-contained, Clivus composting toilet system. The only water that will then have to be treated will come from the showers, bathroom hand sinks, and dishwashing sinks. Because it does not contain toilet flushings, this more dilute flow is termed “greywater.”

**Greywater Treatment:** The treatment of greywater will start at a 1,500 gallon septic tank that will serve as a grease trap for the dishwashing sinks at the Bathhouse. The grease trap will empty into a 6,000-gallon two-compartment septic tank that will also receive the flows from the showers and hand sinks inside the Bathhouse. The first compartment of the septic tank will provide settling and solids reduction. After passing through the septic tank, the greywater effluent will be collected in a 5,000-gallon equalization tank. The equalization tank provides excess storage to even out the expected higher use typically associated with holidays and weekends and lower use during the midweek. From this tank the effluent will be pumped, or “dosed,” in small batches to the leach field.

**Leach Field Design:** The proposed design incorporates an approved Innovative & Alternative Drip Dispersal technology that will deliver small volumes of the low-strength greywater effluent to the upper soil profile through tubes buried at a depth of about 6 inches. This level, the root zone of grasses and other plants growing in the field, has the most biological activity and therefore offers the highest degree of nutrient removal.

The proposed wastewater treatment system will allow the long-established recreational and educational traditions at Noble View to continue while providing a significant improvement/upgrade to all water and wastewater facilities. While the setting of the Noble View facility provides challenges due to the natural soil limitations, the proposed design incorporates innovative and alternative technologies which together provide the highest level of protection for the environment and public health.

Planning for the new wastewater treatment system and new water supply at Noble View was done by Glen Ayers, R.S., and Gary Forish of the Berkshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club, with Jeremy Cigal of Tighe & Bond.

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## VOLUNTEER FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

If you’re interested in one of these exciting positions, or would like to know more, please contact Deborah Levine at 413-584-6065 or [chapterchair@amcberkshire.org](mailto:chapterchair@amcberkshire.org).

- **Chapter Vice Chair** •
- **Conservation Chair** •

## VOLUNTEER FOR THE BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE!

We have a position available on the Berkshire Exchange Committee. If you’re interested in this opportunity, please contact Jon Hanauer at [newsletter@amcberkshire.org](mailto:newsletter@amcberkshire.org) or 413-568-0990.

- **Content Compiler and/or Writer** •

In order to help obtain written material for the *Berkshire Exchange*, we’re looking for someone who can solicit Chapter leaders and other members to write articles. Also, the person who takes this position may sometimes want to compile and edit material gathered in order to write their own articles.

## VOLUNTEER AT NOBLE VIEW!

For more information on any of these positions at Noble View Outdoor Center, please contact Rob Robertson at 413-549-4963 or [cerobertson@comcast.net](mailto:cerobertson@comcast.net).

- **Administrative** •

### Noble View Committee

We are seeking Committee members for **Chair, Vice Chair, Development, Marketing, Programs, Property, and Trails.**

**Registrar**

**Greeter**

**Treasurer**

- **Physical Plant** •

**Lawn Mowing and Trimming**

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**Trail Work Days**

**Invasive Plant Removal**

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Get the very latest event listings!

**trips.outdoors.org**

Just select **BERKSHIRE** in the Chapter field  
(the other fields can be left blank).  
Then click the **SUBMIT** button.

Don't forget to check in at home!

**amcberkshire.org**

**LATE-BREAKING NEWS & IMPORTANT  
CHAPTER INFORMATION.  
2009 FALL GATHERING DETAILS.**

Take a look at

**Noble View Outdoor Center's web site!**

**NobleViewOutdoorCenter.org**



## MEMBERSHIP IN A BOTTLE

**For the cost of your annual membership, you will receive:**

A Nalgene® water bottle • A \$10 gift certificate good for AMC books, lodging, and workshops • An AMC window decal • A subscription to *AMC Outdoors* • Our Chapter newsletter, the *Berkshire Exchange* • A new member packet with a welcome letter, information brochure, and member ID card.

### – AMC Berkshire Membership Form –

I wish to purchase:

- Individual "Membership in a Bottle" kits (\$40 each – 20% new member discount!).
- Family "Membership in a Bottle" kits (\$60 each – 20% new member discount!).
- Senior "Membership in a Bottle" kits (\$25 each, age 69 and over). Age: \_\_\_\_\_.
- Young Member "Membership in a Bottle" kits (\$25 each, up to age 30). Age: \_\_\_\_\_.

I have enclosed a check for the total amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ made payable to **Berkshire Chapter AMC**.

Please mail the kits to:

Name: .....

Street: .....

City, State, Zip: .....

Phone: .....

E-mail: .....

Is this a gift membership?  Yes  No

(Bottles will be sent to the address above, and the membership recorded in that name, unless you indicate otherwise.)

**Note: This offer is for new members only. Not for renewals, please. Thanks.**

Please mail completed form with check to:  
**Chris Ryan, PO Box 9369, North Amherst, MA 01059**  
Questions? Contact Chris Ryan at  
413-549-4124 or [geolopes@comcast.net](mailto:geolopes@comcast.net)

## Get Chapter Activities Sent to Your Email Inbox

The AMC's new online activity digest allows members to sign up for a weekly, bi-monthly, or monthly email summary of upcoming chapter activities and advance notice trips. Members can sign up for as many as three digests, and select chapters, committees, activities, and regions of interest. Select your preferences through the AMC Member Center at [www.outdoors.org/membercenter](http://www.outdoors.org/membercenter). Delivery preferences for the *Berkshire Exchange* can also be set here.

## Stay 4 Nights, Get the 5th Free at AMC Huts & Lodges

A hut-to-hut hiking trip or vacation in the heart of the Maine Woods are among the most unusual getaways in the U.S. It's easy to make exciting adventures like these a reality with savings of up to 20% when you stay five nights or more at any combination of AMC Huts or Lodges this summer. Discounted pricing has been extended to include all child rates, as well as private and family rooms at the Highland Center, Joe Dodge Lodge, and Cardigan Lodge in New Hampshire, plus private cabins at AMC's Maine Wilderness Lodges. These rates are available Sunday-Friday.

Visit [www.outdoors.org/summerguide](http://www.outdoors.org/summerguide) for more information.

## Check Out the AMC's Top 10 Spring Mountain Flower Hikes on White Mountain Guide Online

White Mountain Guide Online subscribers can access the Top 10 Spring Mountain Flower Hikes, selected by AMC staff naturalists. Not a subscriber yet? You can sample this content when you sign up for a *free* 14-day trial subscription. The White Mountain Guide Online combines expert descriptions of over 500 trails and detailed maps in an online format that is easy to use and continually updated as conditions change. Post your own photos and trip and trail reports, and share them as part of our free online community. You can also take a virtual tour of your hike using 3D Google Earth satellite images! Get started today with a *free* 14-Day trial.

Visit: [www.outdoors.org/wmgonline](http://www.outdoors.org/wmgonline). An annual subscription is just \$15 (\$12 for AMC members).

## Save the Date for the AMC's 2010 Annual Meeting, January 30

Experience interactive workshops, engaging Expo, and club-wide meetings before AMC's celebration dinner and evening keynote speaker. Updates and information can be found at [www.outdoors.org/about/annualmeeting/index.cfm](http://www.outdoors.org/about/annualmeeting/index.cfm).

**Find out about 2009 Fall Gathering, and register online!**

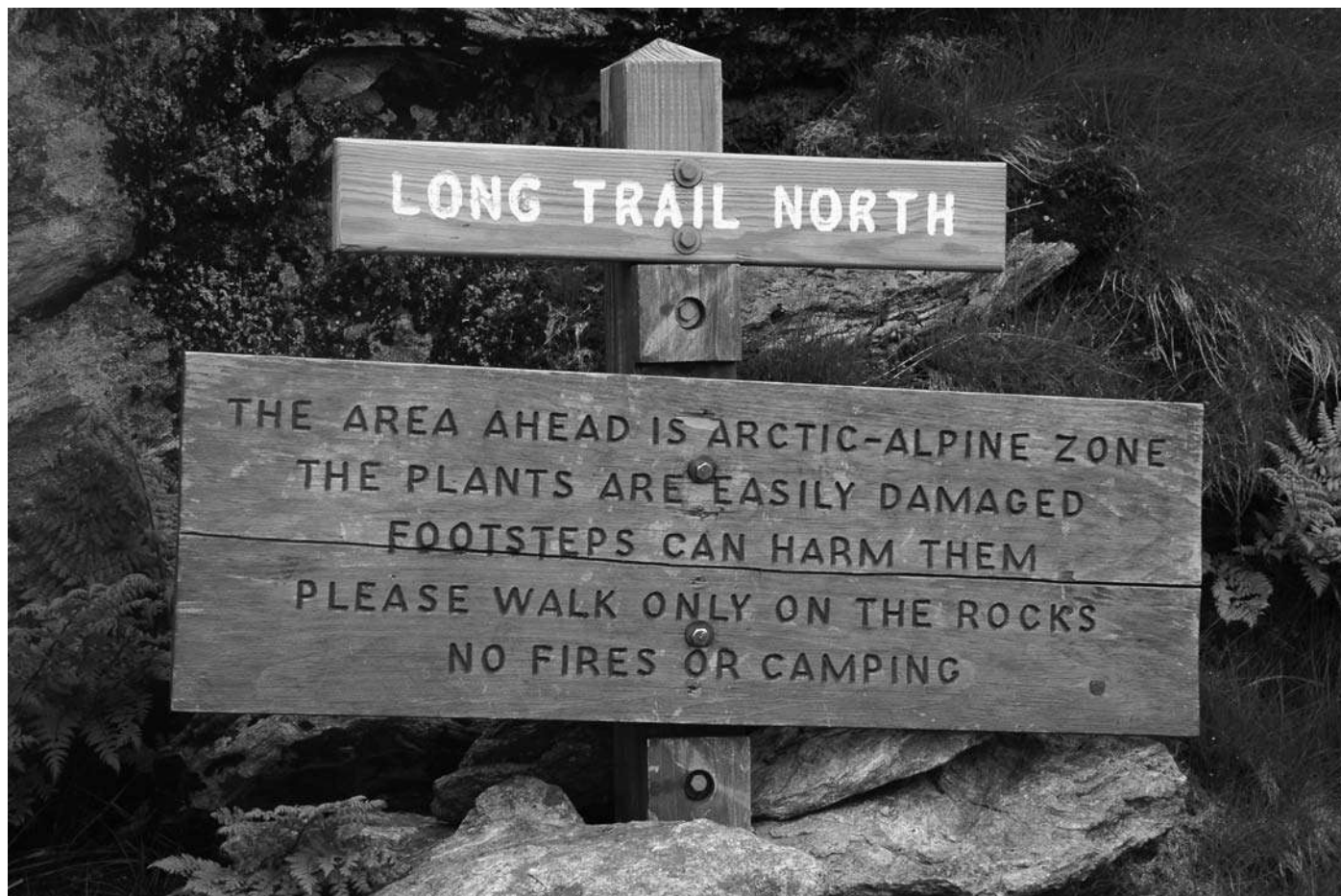
**[amcberkshire.org/gathering](http://amcberkshire.org/gathering)**

# This Could Be Your Last Paper Edition of the BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE!

Berkshire Exchange Online!!

If you are reading this publication, you have the unique opportunity to contribute to conservation, and our budget, by signing up to receive the *Berkshire Exchange* electronically! Just go to the AMC Website ([www.outdoors.org](http://www.outdoors.org)), click on the Member Center, Sign In and update your Chapter Newsletter Preferences. It's that easy. You can also choose to receive e-newsletters from other chapters!

What are you waiting for? Do it now!



Above tree line on Mount Mansfield, Vermont. photo by Mike Furtek

# **Berkshire & Worcester Chapters' Leadership Training, Sat. & Sun., Nov. 7-8, 2009**

**Whether you'd like to become a Chapter leader, or just want to improve your outdoor skills, you're invited to attend. Training emphasizes group dynamics, leaders' responsibilities, trip planning and management, weather emergencies, incident/accident scene management, leader awareness, and decision-making. Fee of \$25 covers day training and materials. Overnight lodging available for \$18. Advance payment requested. Existing leaders attend at no charge. Training held at Noble View Outdoor Center. Please contact Christine Fogarty at 978-857-7078 or [learning@amcberkshire.org](mailto:learning@amcberkshire.org).**

## **Berkshire Chapter Hosting the 2009 Fall Gathering, *continued from page 1***

of Nancy Weld.

The Gathering also provides a club-wide opportunity for committee members to meet and exchange ideas and plans, and for all participants to interact with AMC's leadership.

And après activities are planned as well, with lots of fun, lots of laughs, and lots of opportunities to socialize. There will be Friday and Saturday night happy hours and campfires, and Saturday night Contra dancing with David Kaynor. Bring whatever musical instrument you play—or the fork you bang on a plate—for a musical jam session.

The Hospitality Committee volunteers will ensure that everyone is warmly welcomed and encouraged to participate in the weekend's social activities.

Those who seek quiet time can sit and relax on the shore of the pristine, 100-acre Rudd Pond; observe beavers, otters and other wildlife at Smith Pond; or stroll the trails on the secluded, 1,400-acre Becket-Chimney Corners facility. Check it out at <http://www.bccymca.org/becket/facilities.htm>.

### **Getting the Word Out**

Deb and Rob, co-chairs for the Fall Gathering, and Gail Palmer, publicity chair, worked with AMC's Volunteer Relations and Marketing staff to create a full-color advertisement for *AMC Outdoors*. The ad is also being made available, in both full color and black-and-white versions, to newsletter editors and webmasters, and will be reproduced and distributed as handouts.

We've also distributed a "Save the Date" notice to chapter newsletter editors and webmasters. I hope that by the time this issue of the *Exchange* is in the mail, anyone visiting the AMC website or that of one of the chap-

ters will find information on the 2009 Fall Gathering.

We also will be promoting the Fall Gathering to non-AMC members. Please let Gail know at 413-386-8574 or [galeotis@aol.com](mailto:galeotis@aol.com) if you have suggestions regarding publications we should try to reach, hiking clubs whose members would be interested, and other ideas for our marketing efforts. Plans are in the works for newspaper articles, flyers, press releases and mailings—whatever it takes to spread the word and generate enthusiasm!

Webmaster Bob Bergstrom will ensure that advertising and communications initiatives are appropriately featured on the Chapter's website (<http://amcberkshire.org/gathering>), and the contact for replies to our outreach, Registration Chair Christine Fogarty, has established an email address for inquiries: [amcfg2009@gmail.com](mailto:amcfg2009@gmail.com). In addition to online information and registration resources, Chris will take phone calls at 978-857-7078.

### **We Need You!**

As you can see, a lot of preparation already has taken place, but much work and planning remain to be done. Everyone's help is needed to make the event—and our 80th anniversary celebration—a fabulous success. And if everyone makes a small contribution to the effort, we are assured of a successful, memorable, enjoyable weekend. Assistance is needed with all of the foregoing activities. We'll need people to help with pre-publicity, staff registration and information tables; social facilitators to "meet and greet," compile handout materials and registration packets; outings leaders, and more. So call the chair of the area that most interests you, or contact Deb Levine at 413-584-6065 or [chapterchair@amcberkshire.org](mailto:chapterchair@amcberkshire.org).

## **From the Chair, *continued from page 1***

pings, or whatever you have so that we can highlight and share our history. Please contact me if you have memories or memorabilia to share.

The winter and spring have been busy months for your Executive Committee. Here are a few of the many events that took place: the Young Members Co-Chairs helped plan and lead a club-wide weekend for young member leaders. We also held, in collaboration with the Worcester Chapter, another leadership training weekend, and an introduction to three-season hiking and backpacking. The monthly potluck programs continued with more and more Chapter members attending. In March our New Members Potluck featured Cynthia Barstow, author of *The Eco-Foods Guide: What's Good For The Earth Is Good For You*, with more than 100 Chapter members in attendance. The Executive Committee is also developing a new Chapter website and exploring ways to make trip listings more timely using the web. In addition, we are moving toward making the *Berkshire Exchange* more widely available in electronic format. Thanks to all of the volunteer leaders and Executive Committee members who contribute so much to the success and vitality of our Chapter.

I would like to give special thanks to three Executive Committee members who stepped down in the last year. Cosmo Catalano as Appalachian Trail Committee Chair, Bess Dillman as Publicity Chair, and Jim

Wells as Berkshire County Representative. Thanks also to Pat Stevenson who stepped down as Chapter Secretary in May. Joining the Executive Committee this year are Jim Pelletier as Appalachian Trail Committee Chair, and Sabine Prather as Public Relations Chair. Also, on the Berkshire Exchange Committee, we are pleased to have David Jones join us as the E-Newsletter Administrator. We always welcome Chapter members to join in at the monthly Executive Committee meetings; check the web for the meeting schedule. Look inside this edition of the *Berkshire Exchange* for more information on volunteer opportunities of all kinds.

I look forward to seeing many of you out on the trails and I hope you all have a fun and safe summer.

Very best wishes,  
Deborah Levine  
Berkshire Chapter Chair  
[chapterchair@amcberkshire.org](mailto:chapterchair@amcberkshire.org)  
413-584-6065

# ▶ AMC FALL GATHERING

Explore the beautiful Berkshires during peak foliage season!

- Enjoy great hikes, bike rides, and paddles
- Climb cliffs, climbing walls, ropes courses
- Visit Noble View Outdoor Center
- Family activities—bring the kids!
- Contra dance, socials and campfires, music, new friends

...and much more, with your host, the Berkshire Chapter

**Becket-Chimney Corners • Becket, Massachusetts • October 16-18, 2009**

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