

The Berkshire Exchange



Your Connection to the Outdoors

March 2017

A Message from the Chapter Chair

By Jan Alicia Chair, AMC Berkshire Chapter

Last week, my friend Barb told me about a great and challenging AMC hike she did on Mt. Ascutney in Vermont. The mountaineering committee has its weekly climbs on the rock wall in Hadley. They also assisted a Family Program event at the wall in January. The Tuesday hikers keep on hiking. There also was a winter camping workshop at Tully Lake. So check out the Activities Page on the website.

<http://activities.outdoors.org/search/index.cfm?-type=1&grp=1>

The Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee held its annual retreat at Noble View. We established two priority goals to work on this year. First, we want to hold more trainings and train more trainers. It is the people who go through our trainings that become successful at leading safe and fun activities. And the more leaders we have, the more activities we can offer you. Check out our website for the next Leadership Training. You can be our next new Leader.

Our second goal is to fill open positions and to plan for succession of current members on our Executive Leadership team, including finding our next Co-Chair. We have a great group of people keeping the Berkshire Chapter organized and fulfilling our mission to promote the protection, enjoyment, and understanding of the mountains, forest, waters, and trails of the Appalachian region.



A mix of AMC members from both the Worcester and Berkshire Chapters snowshoe up Mt. Monadnock.

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AMC Berkshire Chapter
Executive Committee
2016

Chapter Officers

- **Chair:** Jan Alicia Nettler
(berkshireamc@gmail.com)
- **Vice Chair:** Martin Mahoney
(vicechair@amcberkshire.org)
- **Treasurer:** Jane Glushik
(treasurer@amcberkshire.org)
- **Secretary:** Roger Beer
(rbeer4@comcast.net)

Committee Chairs

- **Appalachian Trail Committee:**
Jim Pelletier (at@amcberkshire.org, 413.454.4773)
 - **Berkshire County Representative:**
Vacant
 - **Berkshire Exchange Publisher:**
Nate Szymanski (berksexeditor@amcberkshire.org)
 - **Bicycling Committee:** Brant Cheikes and Janine Papesch (bicycling@amcberkshire.org)
 - **Conservation Committee:** *Vacant*
 - **Family Programs:** Margo Chapski
(familyprograms@amcberkshire.org)
 - **Membership/Social Committee:**
Bess Dillman (membership@amcberkshire.org)
 - **Mountaineering Committee:**
Ingrid Nelson and Jim Van Natta
(mountaineering@amcberkshire.org)
 - **Noble View Committee:** Frank Evans
(fevans6568@aol.com)
 - **Nominating Committee:** *Vacant*
 - **Outings Committee:**
Kathy Martin (outings@amcberkshire.org)
 - **Paddling Committee:**
Charles Murray (paddling@amcberkshire.org)
 - **Communications Committee:**
Vacant (communications@amcberkshire.org)
 - **NE National Scenic Trails Committee:**
Heather Wyman, Dana Gronbeck
(net@amcberkshire.org)
 - **Training and Education Committee:** *Vacant*
 - **Website Committee:**
Evan Yeadon (webmaster@amcberkshire.org)
 - **Young Members Committee:**
Nicole Dewberry
(youngmembers@amcberkshire.org)
- Other**
- **Chapter Trips Approver:**
Jon Hanauer (approver@amcberkshire.org)
 - **Noble View Outdoor Center:**
Frank Evans (fevans6568@aol.com)
 - **Regional Director:** Sharon Foster
(regionaldirector@amcberkshire.org)
 - **Regional Trails Coordinator:**
Vacant
 - **Tuesday Hiking:** Lewis Popper
(lewis.popper@gmail.com)
- Past Chair:** Sabine Prather

Subscribing to our E-Newsletter!

If you haven't validated your membership online yet, please do so and create your User ID and Password before proceeding.

1. Go to www.outdoors.org and click on "Sign-in" at the top of the page.
2. Login into your online account.
3. Go to Manage Profiles.
4. Scroll down and look under "E-Newsletter Subscriptions."
5. Click the "Add" button next to the "Berkshire Chapter Newsletter".
6. Enjoy Bi-Monthly Updates about your favorite AMC chapter!

If you have further questions contact AMC's Member Services at 1-800-372-1758 or by e-mail at amcinformation@outdoors.org

Do you have?

... a story...

... news ...

... or a question ...

For The Berkshire Exchange?

Send us an e-mail at berkex@gmail.com

Future and current editions of The Berkshire Exchange can be found at www.amcberkshire.org/berkex/

10 Things You can Do About Climate Change

By Paul Dale,
Former Boston Chapter Chair

2017 is here with record global warmth and record risk to our national commitment to address climate change. Many of us are frustrated by the feeling that whatever action we take will be insignificant. The problem is so large, how can one person make a difference? Your efforts will make a difference, more so than you might think. The US has the 11th largest per capita carbon footprint of 204 countries ranked. Just like voting, each of us can make a difference, and your decision to do something about climate change makes more of a difference than people in other countries. Here are 10 things you can do:

1. Watch Leonardo DiCaprio's movie "Before the Flood" (1hr 30min) Why? It's eye-opening, informative, entertaining, and available online on YouTube (and it's Leo). Google search for "stream before the flood".
2. Investigate solar for your home – the investment can pay back in 5 to 7 years. Why? Solar produces clean electricity right on your rooftop with no pollution.
3. Join the Green Electricity program at Mass Energy Consumer's Alliance. Why? If you cannot go solar, this program ensures your electricity is generated from renewable sources, not fossil fuels. Visit www.massenergy.org/renewable-energy.
4. Eliminate or reduce beef from your diet. Why? Livestock production is the leading source of methane emissions, a greenhouse gas 72 times more potent than carbon dioxide and it takes 1800+ gallons of water to produce 1 pound of beef.
5. Avoid packaged or prepared foods that contain palm oil. Why? Palm oil is in 40-50% of household products in developed nations like the US. We lose 300 football fields of rainforest per hour clearing land for palm oil production. Forests are a necessary defense against a warming planet.
6. Drive less. Perhaps carpooling, biking, mass transit, or walking are options for you. Why? Transportation is now the largest source of emissions in Massachusetts and across the United States.
7. Consider choosing electric or hybrid car models, as your next vehicle. Why? Even when factoring in electricity generation, electric vehicles on average produce 70% less pollution than gas vehicles. Massachusetts offers a \$2500 rebate – see <http://mor-ev.org>
8. Call or meet with your elected officials. Your legislators have meeting times in your district Why? They work for you, but they cannot represent you if they do not hear from you. Find your elected officials at <https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>. Don't be shy, The Massachusetts Sierra Club can help you prepare. Email energyactionbrigade@gmail.com with the subject line "Meet my Legislator".
9. Become more on environmental issues. One way is to subscribe to the EnergyActionBrigade@gmail.com by sending a note with "Subscribe" in the subject line.
10. Talk to your family, friends, and neighbors about these problems and solutions. Help make climate change a common topic of discussion for Massachusetts residents. State level engagement is critical. Host a viewing party of "Before the Flood" at your local library, school, or function hall. Or, volunteer by sending a message to EnergyActionBrigade@gmail.com with "Volunteer" in the subject line.



Look for future climate change articles focusing on what we can do in Massachusetts. If you don't want to wait, learn about the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). This program requires that a certain percentage of the electricity provided to you is from renewable resources such as wind and solar.

Legislative action to strengthen this program is a top priority right now. I'd love to talk with you. Write me at paulbdale@gmail.com or call 617-794-0851

Meet Our New Bicycling Committee!



The Chapter is excited to announce that a new Bicycling Committee has been formed and will start running bike rides this Spring. Interested in participating and/or leading bike rides? Then please take a short survey at <https://tinyurl.com/hkz36xn> to help the committee plan its first cycling season!

Events in the Berkshires

March:

Indoor Rock Climbing - 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22

- Every Wednesday in March 5:30pm - 8pm - Weekly indoor rock climbing at Central Rock Gym in Hadley, MA. Gym fee is \$20. Equipment available with advance notice.

Registration is required for this activity. Please contact the mountaineering committee at mountaineering@amcberkshire.org.

Young Members (20s/30s) - 3/9

- More chatting, food, and beer at Fort Hill Brewery. No need to R.S.V.P. to attend.

<http://activities.outdoors.org/search/index.cfm/action/details/id/95001>

Contact: youngmembers@amcberkshire.org

Chapter Potluck - 3/25

- Come meet other members of the Berkshire Chapter community and enjoy great food at the same time! Members are asked to bring at least one item to contribute as well as conversation.

Contact: berkshirehiker@gmail.com

April:

Young Members (20s/30s) Leadership Retreat - 4/7 Friday, April 7th (evening) - Sunday, April 9th (lunchtime)

- If you've been thinking about getting more involved in AMC then you're welcome to attend the YM Leaders' Retreat. It's a great way to get some insight, and it's a chance for Young Members from all of AMC's chapters to get together and talk about how we'd like to grow the YM community. It will be held at Mohican Outdoor Center in Blirstown, NJ. The cost is \$20 per person, and AMC takes care of the rest. There are two spots available for each chapter. If you're a member of the Berkshire Chapter and you're interested, or if you have any questions, then please get in touch with me.

Contact: youngmembers@amcberkshire.org

Noble View Yurt - 4/15

- In April Noble View campsite will be installing a Yurt onto the property. To celebrate the event come to the campsite and see the new addition to the Noble View property.

Contact: FEvans6568@aol.com

Become A Leader!

Lead any one of the chapter's outdoor activities including:

- Hiking
- Climbing
- Paddling
- Biking
- & more !

AMC Berkshire Chapter wants to be more active in the outdoors and that requires that we have plenty of active outdoor leaders to facilitate activities with AMC members.

To become a leader for the Berkshires or any other chapter register and attend a chapter Leadership Training session.

Sign-up for the next session!

Date:

Saturday, March 18, 2017 -
Sunday, March 19, 2017

Location:

Noble View Outdoor Center
Russell, MA

Registration:

Contact Deborah Herlihy
(508) 380 - 1193
leadership@amcworchester.org

Join Our Executive Committee!

The Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee is the top level of chapter leadership, representing all the committees that keep our chapter moving. Joining the Executive Committee is an excellent opportunity to lead an area you're passionate about and help guide the chapter's activities. This year, we are actively seeking individuals for the following roles. If you would like to nominate someone, please email vicechair@amcberkshire.org.

Conservation Chair

The Conservation Chair leads the Chapter's Conservation committee and serves as liaison between the AMC's Conservation Committee and our Chapter. The Committee's charge is to develop a program to represent Chapter members in matters of conservation of natural resources and/or related environmental problems or issues. Activities of this committee may take the form of organized field trips, workshops, demonstrations, displays, lectures, discussions, etc.

Training and Education Chair

The Training and Education Chair arranges for and helps organize basic level Outdoor Leadership Training and Wilderness First Aid Training. The Chair certifies that new leaders have completed all necessary trainings. The previous chair is available to advise the incoming chair.

Communications Chair

The Communications Chair coordinates all communications of the Berkshire Chapter, including the Berkshire Exchange, monthly member emails, and Chapter website content. The Chair works closely with the webmaster, newsletter editor, and Facebook administrator, and explores other ways to effectively communicate with the members. The previous chair is available to advise the incoming chair.

Nominating Committee Chair

The functions of the Nominating Committee are to assist Chapter Committees in identifying and developing qualified individuals for leadership roles in the Berkshire Chapter and to nominate qualified members to fill the slate of officers each year.

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But we need more of you involved in this Leadership role. I invite you to consider filling the few open positions we have and to consider stepping up next year when a few of us leave our current positions. See our webpage for list of current openings and the list of all Executive Committee positions. <http://amcberkshire.org/excom> or send an email to: vicechair@amcberkshire.org

There is a Swahili word that I cherish. Harambe. It means all pull together or all work together. With harambe, we can make the world a better place. Maybe harambe will help find you a place on our team, or maybe it will help find you a way to make our next activity better, or...

I'm looking forward to seeing you on the trails or at our next potluck on March 25th at the Unitarian Society in Northampton. The focus of this event will be on conservation and on old growth forests in our area. We'll use this as a kickoff for our budding Conservation Committee.

I always encourage you to "lean on the side of yes."
It's an honor to be Chair of the Chapter.

Help Out Noble View!

Noble View Outdoor Center is in current need of a few tools to help continue the maintenance and further develop the property. If you have any of these tools or machinery in working or easily repairable condition...

- Table saw
- Chop saw
- Air compressor
- Push lawn mower for trimming
- Snowmobile for grooming cross country trails
- Snowblower

... please contact Frank Evans at fevans6568@aol.com

Winter 2017

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