

BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE



APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

BERKSHIRE CHAPTER NEWS & EVENTS



amcberkshire.org
outdoors.org

Summer 2008

FROM the CHAIR

An Enthusiastic – and Very Active – Chapter

As we move into mid-summer, I am delighted with the high level of volunteerism in our Chapter. And along with our volunteers—who include many new faces—there comes much enthusiasm.

Executive Committee

Every position on our Executive Committee is now filled, which I can verify has not happened for at least six years. There will, however, be two openings at the end of this year. Bess Dillman will be stepping down, so we're looking for a new Public Relations Chair to fill her place. Also, of course, when Deborah Levine begins her term as Chapter Chair she'll be on the watch for a Vice Chair.

Jim Wells has taken the position of Berkshire County Representative and he'll be working on getting more activities scheduled in the Berkshires. This will give our Berkshire members more options for participating in Chapter events without having to drive to Pioneer Valley.

Nancy Weld has taken the Family Programs Chair position and will be helping to encourage parents to take their children outdoors, so there'll be no child left inside. Nancy has already scheduled three family activities this fall (and she also continues as our Website Editor working with Website Committee Chair Bob Bergstrom).

Diane Furtek, who has given so much to our Chapter and Noble View, is our new Membership

BOOK REVIEW

Monadnock, More than a Mountain

Author: Craig Brandon

Professor of Journalism, Keene State College

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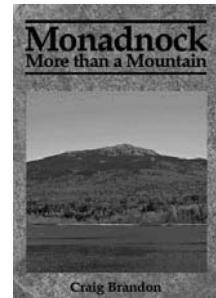
Book's companion website: www.monadnockmountain.com

book review by Sally A. Roberts

Although I have hiked Mount Monadnock before, my most recent trek to the summit in March of 2008 was more than a hike. It was an adventure etched indelibly in my soul, as I felt I was hiking not merely a mountain but a personality surrounded by centuries of colorful history. It truly was "More than a Mountain."

It was a bitterly cold March 9 day when I trudged with a small band of hikers through considerable snow and ice. The gray sky warmed to no more than 15 degrees, and with the wind blowing at 20–30 miles per hour the wind chill at the summit was below zero. It was so cold our water bottles froze. But rather than dwell on the cold, my thoughts were more on the centuries of hikers who had braved their way to the summit, on the untold number of "Monadnophiles" who had rallied around the country and fought valiantly to save the mountain from developers, and on the many artists, poets, writers and dancers who had expressed their enchantment with the mountain in a multitude of ways.

The history of Monadnock is portrayed vividly in a 2007 book, *Monadnock, More than a Mountain*, written by Craig Brandon. I had just finished reading this book before the March hike. In fact, I even brought it with me on the drive up so I could share it with my group. The book has nearly 100 pictures, including many old and rare photos never before published. These photos give one an idea of a past that no longer exists—images, for example, of travelers who came by



Craig Brandon

continued on page 6

continued on page 7



Event Highlights *page 2*

Workshops *page 4*

AMC Fall Gathering *page 5*

Highlights of Upcoming Chapter Events

For complete listings of all Chapter events, please see *AMC Outdoors* or visit trips.outdoors.org

Wed., Sept. 3. Potluck and Book Exchange

A literary stone soup. Just as it sounds, we're getting together and exchanging (new or used) books. There's a theme: all books should be about the great outdoors—fiction, non-fiction, educational, etc. You'll end up with something sure to be interesting. Don't forget to bring your potluck dish to share, and your reusable plate and cutlery. Hadley Senior Community Center, 46 Middle Street, Hadley, MA. Dinner: 6–7, Program: 7–8:30. Contact Diane for more info. Diane Furtek (413-589-5530 after 6 PM; membership@amcberkshire.org).

Thu.–Sat., Sept. 4–6. Tully Lake Campground Weekend, Royalston

Join us for a weekend of car camping, kayaking, and hiking at this Trustees of Reservations campground. Waterfront sites. Share group food, wood, and ice expense. Group size limited to eight. Kayak rentals available. There are 18 miles of hiking trails, 3 waterfalls, and the water is warm this time of year. Registration is \$25. See trips.outdoors.org for more details. Donna Walters (413-475-0938, dwalters@admin.umass.edu).

Sat., Sept. 27. Family Hike, Buffam Falls, Pelham

Meet at 10 AM and hike 1.5 miles. Optional snack or ice cream after. Explore the ravines around Buffum and Amethyst Brooks. Steady rain cancels. Leader: Nancy Weld (413-256-8728; familyprograms@amcberkshire.org). Co-leader: Rob Robertson.

Sun., Sept. 28. No Dog Left Inside

Take Fido out to play on a dog-friendly hike at Noble View! Bring water and snacks for you and your 4-legged companion. Leaders: Nancy Weld (413-256-8728; familyprograms@amcberkshire.org) and Jon Hanauer (413-568-0990).

Wed., Oct. 1. Potluck and a Trip Down Memory Lane

Join some of our own Berkshire Chapter members, see where we have visited, learn about the possibilities life has to offer and quench your palate for adventure. Hadley Senior Community Center, 46 Middle Street, Hadley, MA. Dinner: 6–7, Program: 7–8:30, bring your reusable plate, cutlery and potluck dish. Be a guest storyteller! Contact Diane Furtek for more info at 413-589-5530 (after 6 PM) or membership@amcberkshire.org.

Sat., Oct. 4. Massachusetts Appalachian Trail Day 2008

Fourteen hikes (varying difficulties) sponsored by the Massachusetts AT Management Committee. For details on each hike, visit trips.outdoors.org and contact the appropriate trip leader. More info to come in Sept. *AMC Outdoors* and the fall *Berkshire Exchange*. Cookout afterwards in Tyringham. For general info, contact Jim Pelletier (413-454-4773, @amcberkshire.org).

Sun., Oct. 12. Family Hike to Rattlesnake Knob

Meet at 10 AM and hike 2.5 miles. Optional lunch after. Rattlesnake Knob, part of the Holyoke Range, is a smaller peak just east of Mount Norwottuck. Open to families with children of all ages. Steady rain cancels. Leader: Nancy Weld (413-256-8728; familyprograms@amcberkshire.org). Co-leader: Jon Hanauer.

Fri.–Sun., Oct. 17–19. Day Hikes from the Highland Center, NH

Hikes flexible depending on weather and participants, but likely to be lower Crawford Path Saturday (4–6 miles) and Mt. Willard Sunday (3 miles). Both hikes are fairly easy and afford great views of Crawford Notch and Whites. Cost of \$145 includes two nights at Highland Center, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners. Great views from the rooms. Ambiance of the common room with fireplace! Don't miss this great fall trip to the Whites! Payment due by 9/17. Leader: Sabine Prather (413-949-3914).

Sat., Nov. 1. Big Berkshire Bash

It's our dinner and Annual Meeting! All are welcome: old and new friends, members and non-members. Featured speaker will be Craig Brandon, author of *Monadnock, More than a Mountain*. Summit View Banquet House, Holyoke. Cost of \$25/person includes happy hour, dinner, speaker, and more. Please register with Diane by Oct. 25. Diane Furtek (413-589-5530 after 6 PM; membership@amcberkshire.org).

Berkshire Chapter Executive Committee

– 2008 –

CHAPTER OFFICERS

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BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE

– July/August 2008 –

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Title image:
Canadian tiger swallowtail, by Sally A. Roberts

Need a phone number?

If the person you want to contact by phone has no number listed, please call the Chapter Secretary, Pat Stevenson, at 413-625-2709.

Leader Training – Learning Made Easy and Fun!

Our Spring Leader Training weekend took place at Noble View on April 5 and 6, 2008. We had another record attendance with 23 trainees. While the weather was dicey with cold winds and rain, the atmosphere inside was filled with humor, fun, and camaraderie. The information we presented was serious and important, but our trainers worked hard to make learning fun.

Our trainers have a diverse set of leadership skills. Some of the returning trainers from our last session were Deb Levine, Bob Napolitano, and Rob Robertson, as well as Steve Ciras (our friend from the Worcester Chapter), and Jess Wilson from AMC Staff. We had special presenters Matt Emerson and Alan Doty plus a couple of new trainers, Joan Griswold and Janice Doubleday. Several existing leaders were re-certifying, and they spoke about the kinds of trips they like to lead. Thanks to all of you for making this training a huge success!

I am very proud of what the next three months have in store for the Chapter. This summer, on nearly every outing listed, you will find

a leader-in-training. This is very exciting for the Berkshire Chapter as it means that there will continue to be a diverse selection of activities to choose from year-round. More leaders = more trips = more fun—it's a great equation!

Whether you're interested in leading hiking, biking, paddling, or climbing trips, I encourage you to attend our next training, which will be held October 25–26, 2008 at Noble View. Early registration is strongly recommended as I anticipate the training to fill up quickly.

Until then, see you on the trail!

Chris Fogarty
Training & Education Committee Chair
learning@amcberkshire.org
978-857-7078

Cosmo Catalano and the Massachusetts Appalachian Trail Management Committee

by Bill Scaife

Your first spring outing on the Massachusetts stretch of the AT, especially after a tough winter or a late season ice storm, could be daunting. With the inevitable blowdowns, cracked or missing footbridge planks, and 20 or 30 pounds on your back, it's no joy to bushwhack to regain the trail.

The experience can be altogether more enjoyable when you discover the trail almost entirely free of obstructions. Downed trees hauled off the trail and footbridges in good repair make it an entirely different hike.

Trekkers, whether Berkshire Chapter members or visitors, can thank the decade-long leadership of Cosmo Catalano of Williamstown, who organizes and heads up a band of volunteers to do the nearly continuous housecleaning necessary to keep the Massachusetts section safe and in shape for hiking. As Chair of the Appalachian Trail Management Committee for the Berkshire Chapter, Cosmo, his volunteers, and a partnership with three other groups and agencies, are literally the "eyes on the ground" for those of us who appreciate a relatively unencumbered hike.

"The trails look good now, but there are bound to be a few trees down," Cosmo said in a recent interview. He and the 75 volunteers who maintain and monitor some 90 miles of the trail in Massachusetts will set about finding the obstructions and clearing them. "It's a great excuse to get outside and have some fun."

After 10 years in the leadership role of the Management Committee, Cosmo is preparing to step aside at the end of the year, though, he says, he will probably accept another position on the Committee and keep his hands in trail maintenance activities.

But then, the Committee's role is not terribly different from his "day job," the one that pays the mortgage. It's largely unseen, but essential. Cosmo is the production manager for Williams College's performing arts

center and is the organizer of the people who run it. He also teaches technical theater—the physical elements of a show. His wife, Mary Pfister, is the production manager for the college's dance program. Their children grew up in Williamstown and are now off on their own. "I have more time for the trail," he says.

Cosmo explains that while trail maintenance is done primarily in the spring, the Committee's work goes on year round. It works in partnership with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the National Park Service. In their monthly meetings they organize, plan, and prepare for the 6,000 hours of work done by volunteers each year just in the Berkshires alone.

They not only clear trails, but also monitor trail corridors to keep the boundaries free from encroachment and misuse and keep an eye on several populations of rare and endangered species, whose habitats are close to but generally off the trail. The Committee also has to ensure that the regulations of the two government agencies are followed.

At the same time, development of the trail has not ceased. In 1968, about a quarter of the Massachusetts section was on paved road. Through the joint efforts of interested parties, the last piece of land was acquired in 2004 so it could become almost entirely a natural trail with only a few short road stretches.

In making the acquisitions, said Cosmo, care was given to preserving historical places along the route and providing for a variety of terrain and geography.

Cosmo noted that the Committee could always use another hand or two from volunteers to keep the Massachusetts section of the AT as beautiful and inspirational as it is. Just give him a call at 413-458-5349.

Get the very latest event listings!

<http://trips.outdoors.org>

Just select BERKSHIRE in the Chapter field (the other fields can be left blank).

Then click the SUBMIT button.

Educational Workshops at Noble View

Berkshire Chapter Leadership Training Sat. & Sun., Oct. 25–26, 2008

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/management, weather emergencies, incident/accident scene management, leader awareness, and decision-making. The \$25 fee covers day training and materials. Fee is refundable to Berkshire Chapter leaders once you've completed your three co-leads and have led your first event for the Berkshire Chapter. Overnight lodging available for \$15. Advance payment requested. Please contact Christine Fogarty at 978-857-7078 or learning@amcberkshire.org.

SOLO Wilderness First Aid, offered twice this fall

Sat. & Sun., Sept. 20–21 or Sat. & Sun., Nov. 22–23, 2008

WFA addresses the medical and logistical issues that arise where there is no ambulance, no roof or walls for shelter from the elements, supplies are few, and the length of the wait for help is unknown. Lectures and discussions are supplemented by hands-on scenarios. An emphasis on long-term care and evacuation complications in the backcountry makes this course unique. Fee of \$135 with optional lodging available for \$15/night. For info or to register, contact Gary Forish at 413-519-3251 or forgary@comcast.net.

SOLO Advanced Wilderness First Aid

Sat. & Sun., Dec. 6–7, 2008

Current Wilderness First Aid certification is a prerequisite for this course. Advanced Wilderness First Aid (AWFA) builds on the skills taught in WFA, providing more in-depth information on topics already covered such as medical and environmental emergencies, and presents new skills such as litter improvisation and litter-carrying techniques. More hands-on practice with greater emphasis on leadership is a key element. Practical simulations and scenarios provide practice in backcountry leadership and rescue skills. Fee: \$145 with optional lodging available at \$15/night. For info or to register, contact Gary Forish at 413-519-3251 or forgary@comcast.net.

Farewell and Thanks from Gloria

The big news is that we now have four seasonal coordinators: Diane Crowell from West Springfield is our Spring coordinator (April, May, and June); Grace Ferrante from Haydenville is our Summer person (July, Aug., and Sept.); Bea Robinson from Agawam is taking Fall (Oct., Nov., and Dec.); and Susan Lantz from Northampton is our Winter person (Jan., Feb., and March). Our numbers continue to grow and the Tuesday hikers will be well served with the new coordinators. It has been a labor of love these past 8½ years, but I decided it was time to step down.

I cannot continue without thanking Dave Conley. Dave was my window to our email messaging network, and also a very receptive colleague and friend when there was a need to discuss any questions and problems that came up! Dave has become the pulse of the Tuesday activities. He's doing an outstanding job!

What can I say about our leaders? (Can't say enough!) Without you,

the Tuesday hikes would be nonexistent, and therefore, Tuesdays would be pretty dull! And also what's exciting is that we have four new people with great potential who are in the process of taking the necessary steps to become leaders. "Oh, the Places We'll Go!"

And one more thing about "My Farewell Party," it *was* an enchanted evening! My life has been enriched in so many ways because of the Tuesday hikes. Thank you all, including the Executive Committee, from the bottom of my heart, for your support and enthusiasm through the years. You are the best!! And remember, "Age doesn't matter unless you're a piece of cheese!"

Gloria LaFlamme

Kitchen Patrol: Being Green While Camping

by Lisa Appleton

Most of my friends and co-workers know I hate to waste paper, even if it will be recycled. Paper isn't the only thing I hate to waste, though: I really hate disposable products, especially when they're not necessary—i.e., when reusable products are readily available.

One of the reasons I'm an AMC member is the club's commitment to conservation, including the "leave no trace" ethic and the "reduce, reuse, recycle" concept—clearly visible in the pages of *AMC Outdoors*.

I have heard a couple of "I hate washing dishes" remarks and com-

ments that disposables are more convenient. From a certain standpoint, this may be true. But, if each of us brought a single plate, bowl, cup, fork, knife, and spoon—and washed our own kit as needed—cleanup would not take much extra time. Prices are rising all around, so bringing reusable individual kits might also help save money for food and other trip necessities.

Let us challenge ourselves and one another to work toward a less disposable lifestyle.

Don't forget to check in at home!

<http://amcberkshire.org>

LATE-BREAKING NEWS & IMPORTANT CHAPTER INFORMATION

**A Berkshire Chapter
hike in the
Knightville Wildlife
Management Area,
led by Bess Dillman.**



AMC Fall Gathering 2008 – Hosted by the Washington DC Chapter

Fri.–Sun., Oct. 17–19. Celebrate the Chesapeake in the nearest corner of Maryland. A lovely camp on Elk Neck in the village of North East. Hike, bike, canoe, kayak, explore lighthouses and boardwalks. Learn about the John Smith Voyage of Discovery celebration.

Register online (before Oct. 3) at amc-dc.org, or contact Al Pulsifer (410-626-1163 after 7 PM; ajpulsifer@verizon.net).

AMC Fall Gathering 2009 – Hosted by the Berkshire Chapter

Fri.–Sun., Oct. 16–18, 2009. Save the date! Chimney Corners YMCA Camp, Becket, MA.

Don't miss this opportunity to spotlight our Chapter and our region, and have a great time along the way as we host all AMC members at the annual Fall Gathering. The weekend will be full of outdoor activities, workshops, events, and camaraderie. Look forward to joining in and having a fantastic weekend in the Berkshires.

Many volunteers will be needed for everything from welcoming guests to leading hikes and organizing events. We need the enthusiasm, energy, and expertise of many to make this a success. If you are interested in being a part of the planning or helping out at the Gathering, please contact Deborah Levine at 413-584-6065.

Stay tuned for more information in the *Berkshire Exchange* and on the web.

The Berkshire Chapter is Looking for a Public Relations Chair

Our current Public Relations Chair, Bess Dillman, will be stepping down at the end of this year. We appreciate Bess's help on this position for the last three years. (She continues to lead hikes for the Chapter!)

If you're interested in taking the PR Chair position, and you have the ability to communicate with and send press releases to area publications, we can really use your help. To find out more, please contact Deborah Levine at 413-584-6065.

New Online Member Center Coming to Outdoors.org in September

Create your member account in AMC's new online member center, and access member-only content and special offers. The center will offer the latest news and personalized content from AMC, as well as the ability to renew your membership, update your profile, and manage your preferences for AMC and chapter communications, including e-delivery of the *Berkshire Exchange* (when available later this year). Starting September 1, check out the Member Center at www.outdoors.org/MemberCenter.

Registration for the AMC's 2009 Annual Meeting is Now Open

Join us on February 7, 2009 at the Sheraton Ferncroft Resort in Danvers, MA for a full day of AMC workshops, including "Going Green at the AMC Huts and Traversing the Globe with the AMC." We will wrap up the day with dinner and our keynote speaker, Greg Mortenson. Mortenson is the much celebrated co-author of the New York Times Best Seller and Time Magazine Asia Book of the Year, "Three Cups of Tea." More details can be found at www.outdoors.org/annualmeeting. Seats are selling quickly, so register today!

Chapter Trails Challenge

The Coleman Chapter Trails Challenge has been set up to encourage AMC members to adopt new trail segments outside of those currently maintained by the Club. Since 2005, 185 miles of trails have been newly adopted by AMC members throughout the region. New adopters and current trail maintainers will be eligible for a range of rewards from t-shirts and dinner to complimentary lodging at AMC Destinations.

For more information on trail adoption opportunities or to arrange training in your area, contact Don Hoffses at dhoffses@outdoors.org or 617-523-0655 ext. 358.

Book Review: *Monadnock, More Than a Mountain*, continued from page 1

horse and buggy and stayed overnight at the Halfway House, a three-story hotel that opened in 1860. On our trip up the mountain, all we encountered of this part of Monadnock's past was the marker for the hotel that burned to the ground in 1954.

Now that Japan's Mount Fuji has a paved road with bus service to the top, Monadnock can justifiably and proudly assert its claim as the most climbed mountain in the world. That equates to 100,000 hikers every year. From its summit at 3,165 feet, on a clear day, you can see parts of all six New England states and 100 miles in every direction. The panorama takes in the Prudential Tower in Boston, Newburyport Harbor, Mount Washington in the north, Stratton and the Green Mountains to the west, and parts of the Berkshires including Mount Greylock.

Brandon's book does not concern itself with *how* to hike the mountain. More than enough guidebooks and maps are available, in print or on the Internet. The heart of this book is *why* so many hike the mountain and why they retain a special attachment to it long after their visit. The book is a history of the inspiration part of hiking rather than the perspiration, although there is plenty of the latter detailed in the book. The early explorers and eccentric personalities are carefully recounted here. The more critical message, however, is the amount of persistence, diligence, and hard work it has taken over the centuries to preserve this magical place for future generations. Many dedicated "Monadnophiles" have spent thousands of hours and dollars protecting it from development. Many volunteers and members of hiking clubs know the labor and resources that go into maintaining just a portion of the M-M Trail. An entire mountain? That's a *lot* of work.

Another important focus of the book is the work of the hundreds of painters, poets, writers, composers, choreographers, and photographers who have responded to the call to transform Monadnock into art. The list of those who answered that artistic call includes Henry David Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Edward Arlington Robinson, Mark Twain, H.P. Lovecraft, Amy Lowell, Rockwell Kent, Galway Kinnell, Willa Cather, Rudyard Kipling, Alan Hayhannes, Abbott Thayer, and William Phelps.

It was Ralph Waldo Emerson, in fact, who put Monadnock on the literary map with his long 1846 poem *Monadnoc*. This is one of Emerson's most famous poems, setting out the Transcendentalists' view of nature as something that humans can use as a teacher. Emerson's endorsement of the mountain brought the literary and intellectual leaders of the day to vacation at the Halfway House for a generation after his death. His poetry transformed it into the noblest mountain in literature, one that poet Robert Lowell called the country's "most literary mountain."

Henry David Thoreau made four trips to Monadnock between 1852 and 1860 and wrote the most complete description of the mountain that exists from the nineteenth century. The account in his journal is one of the most renowned descriptions of Monadnock and has made the mountain a part of American literature. Among the frequently visited places on the mountain are "Thoreau's Seat" and "Emerson's Seat." The names on the "seats," however, are entirely honorary as it's highly unlikely that either Thoreau or Emerson ever sat on their "seats."

Abbott Thayer was one of the most celebrated artists in America when he moved to nearby Dublin Lake in 1890 and helped found the

Dublin Art Colony. He painted Monadnock as a white snow-covered triangle against a blue sky. That painting hangs in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Thayer was also a leader in the movement to save the mountain from developers from 1911–1915. When he died his ashes were spread on the summit.

Raphael Pumpelly, a world-famous explorer and professor of geology at Harvard, summered on the southern shore of Dublin Lake. His property bordered the mountain and in 1884 he blazed a trail from his house to the summit. The Pumpelly Trail, a nine-mile round trip trek, is considered the most scenic and interesting on the mountain. He also built a rock house near the summit that he shared with Thayer's son Gerald.

Developers have threatened to build structures on Monadnock for over a century. Each time, grassroots citizens groups successfully saved the mountain. Without their hard work, Monadnock would be full of mansions, a radio antenna, a tramway, a highway up the side, and clear-cut forests where the state park is located.

Philip Ayres, the chief forester for the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, spent thousands of hours between 1911 and 1915 tracking down the ancestors of the "Masonian heirs" who owned the summit of Monadnock to persuade them to sign over their property rights to save the mountain from developers. Allen Chamberlain, the author of *Annals of the Grand Monadnock*, published in 1936, and assistant to Ayres in securing property rights to the summit of Monadnock, was the mountain's spokesman for the latter part of his life.

Grenville Clark, a lifelong advocate of civil rights and world government, was a Wall Street lawyer who spent his summers in Dublin. In 1944, when a Keene radio station announced that it planned to build a radio tower and tramway to the summit, Clark went into action to stop the project.

Working mostly behind the scenes he wrote

hundreds of letters to influential people and raised thousands of dollars. He obtained an option on the Halfway House property, which effectively halted the process until the FCC killed it.

Monadnock has become an icon, almost a grail that pilgrims come to visit. The elements of simplicity, beauty, majesty, and strength are blended into the atmosphere of a great cathedral. Perhaps the secret to Monadnock's siren call and popularity is not that it is all things to all people, but that it relates to people in individual ways. For those who know it best, Monadnock has become a part of their lives and has served as a refuge during troubled times. That helps explain why it became a popular place after the World Trade Center towers fell in 2001. Within days, the summit was covered in flags and local people turned to Monadnock to help them respond.

Craig Brandon's new book magnificently portrays the panorama of history surrounding Monadnock. Like the mountain itself, you will be enchanted by *Monadnock: More than a Mountain*.

I confess that I have fallen under Monadnock's spell and have humbly joined the army of "Monadnophiles."

Paintings can be viewed at <http://www.monadnockmountain.com/paintings.htm>. Poems can be read at <http://www.monadnockmountain.com/poetry.htm>.

Summer is Here at Noble View – Get In On the Action!

Conservation Restriction is Finalized!

The sale of the Noble View conservation restriction closed recently, permanently protecting Noble View from development and generating \$675,000 in funding. We express our deep gratitude to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and the Springfield Water Commission; the people of the Town of Russell and the Russell Select Board, Planning Commission, Conservation Commission; Winding River Land Conservancy, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, and AMC staff members Roger Scholl, Paul Cunha, and Joe Carper. Many thanks especially to Gary Forish, whose idea this was, and whose commitment and perseverance is largely responsible for producing these fantastic results.

It's All About The Bathhouse, Baby!

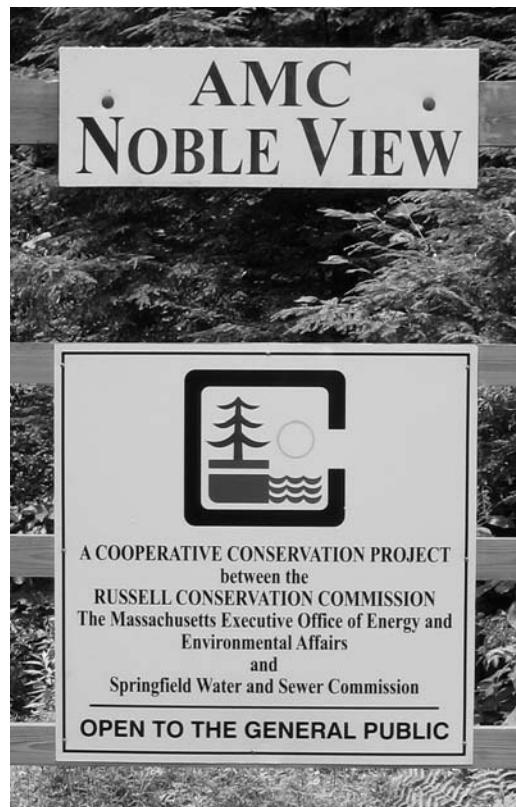
What a happy coincidence—funds are flowing now and the construction season is starting up. As usual, we're looking for volunteers to help out with skilled and unskilled labor during the construction process. First we'll pour the floor slab, and then there'll be lots of rough carpentry work, framing and sheathing the walls and roof. Then we'll nail some shingles, side the building, install doors and windows and interior wall finishes, and paint everything that doesn't move.

For all of this work, we'll welcome as much unskilled labor as we can get here—this work isn't complicated, and we'll have skilled folks on hand to provide direction. We'll also need to do plumbing and electrical work at several points during this process, and if you're experienced in these areas we could really use your help.

Whether skilled or unskilled, everyone is welcome to help out with any part of this project. Don't be afraid—all the skill you really need is the willingness to show up!

SCA AmeriCorps Rocks!

The SCA AmeriCorps crew was at Noble View for a week again this spring, and they accomplished more amazing things for us. Over the past several years, AmeriCorps has worked at Noble View for most of a week



every year rerouting trails and building turnpikes in wet areas. This year, they took on the challenge of the Pitcher Brook Trail and did a remarkable job building a section of stone steps. They also finished work on a turnpike and removed huge rocks from trails.

Other Recent Trail Work

Many thanks also to Dave Conley and Ed Watson! Dave's been leading trail maintenance parties, posted on the Tuesday Hikers listserv, and I'm sure he'll appreciate your help and company if you're available. Ed is working on a GPS trail mapping project that will result in a new map of our trails. Not a moment too soon on this project, is it?

Sign Maker and Lawn Mowers Wanted!

You wouldn't think that it'd be possible to get terminally lost on our 360 acres, but many folks have had this experience recently. Our deteriorated trail signage is the culprit. We're looking for a hardy soul to prepare new trail signs, probably using a router and template, or possibly painting signs by hand.

If you've a hankering to cut lawns this summer, have we got a deal for you! If you have friends and associates with such a desire, so much the better. And if you have a lawn mower or weed whacker in decent condition to donate, please let us know.

Please come to Noble View this summer to relax on the lawn and enjoy the view, take a peaceful walk in the woods, view the bathhouse construction, or donate a couple of hours or a couple of weekends. Whatever the reason, please, come and view your estate.

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Robertson
Noble View Chair
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413-549-4963

From the Chair, continued from page 1

Committee Chair. She already has potlucks for new and prospective members scheduled from September through December (see page 2, and visit trips.outdoors.org). Our Vice Chair and former Membership Chair, Deborah Levine, can now focus her energy on the leadership of our Chapter as she prepares to move into the Chapter Chair role when my term ends.

Our Young Members Committee is now Co-Chaired by Wendy Barbour and Paxton Berardy. Wendy and Paxton have already shown impressive leadership for this Committee as they answer inquiries from young adult members. Also, along with our Young Members activity leaders, they have brought an increase in event offerings.

There are two outgoing Executive Committee members whom I'd like to recognize. A very special thanks to former Family Programs Chair, Bob Wallner, and former Young Members Chair, Steve Beauregard. These guys contributed a great deal to the Berkshire Chapter and their efforts will not be forgotten.

Outings Leaders

We've had lots of folks taking Leadership Training within the last year, and many have done their co-leads and become approved leaders for

our Chapter. Thanks to all these new leaders (too many to name!).

Christine Fogarty, our Training & Education Chair, has been working diligently to organize our Leadership Training weekends (among other workshops). For the great successes of this program we thank you, Chris!

So as I slide into the final months of my Chapter Chair role, it's really wonderful to see so many smiling faces eager to contribute to the Berkshire Chapter. Thanks to all that new enthusiasm, many events are highlighted in the pages of this newsletter, as well as in *AMC Outdoors* and on trips.outdoors.org.

Very best wishes,
Jon Hanauer
Berkshire Chapter Chair
chapterchair@amcberkshire.org
413-568-0990

• In Memoriam •

THOMAS J. LEARY – A member of the Berkshire Chapter since 1986, recently passed away. Tom was Berkshire Chapter Chair, 1994–1995. He leaves his wife, Kathryn B. Leary. Kate was Berkshire Chapter Chair, 1998–1999. Tom was (and Kate continues to be) active with the Tuesday hikers. The Chapter sends condolences to Kate and the entire Leary family.

JOHN PRITCHARD – A life member of the Berkshire Chapter since 1957, recently passed away. John was Berkshire Chapter Chair, 1985. The Chapter sends condolences to his wife, Virginia Pritchard, and the entire family.

• Memorial Gift •

LORNE PARISIEN – The Berkshire Chapter is honored and grateful for the generous gifts received from Jane Marie Lamarre and David Lamarre in memory of Mr. Parisien. These funds have been given to our Appalachian Trail Management Committee to be used for trails in the North Adams area.

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 quarterly 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 (\$50 each).
- Family "Membership in a Bottle" kits (\$75 each).
- 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
bottles@amcberkshire.org

Summer 2008

BERKSHIRE EXCHANGE



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Appalachian Mountain Club

Berkshire Chapter

