



Appalachian Footnotes

Aldo Leopold: *Sand County*
Expanding family activities
American Chestnut hikes
PA Highlands trail progress
Outdoor leadership training,
paddling courses, wilderness first aid,
social events and more!

Delaware Valley Chapter • Appalachian Mountain Club
Spring 2014 • Volume 52 • Number 2



Appalachian Footnotes

the magazine of the
Delaware Valley Chapter
Appalachian Mountain Club
published using recycled electrons.

Chair	Joan Aichele	dvchair@amcdv.org 215-257-3372
Vice Chair	Don Garrido	vicechair@amcdv.org 908-392-0612
Secretary	Allison Hudson	secretary@amcdv.org 215-441-8082
Treasurer	Richard Einstein	treasurer@amcdv.org 732-297-4103
Backpacking	Cindy Crosser	backpacking@amcdv.org 302-757-0604
Bicycling	Tammy Brandon	bicycling@amcdv.org
Communication	Rich Wells	web@amcdv.org 908-521-0374
Conservation	Susan Charkes	conservation@amcdv.org
Family Activities	Cindy Friel	family@amcdv.org 215-206-8022
Hiking	Rick Hudson	hiking@amcdv.org 215-441-8082
Leadership	Lennie Steinmetz	leadership@amcdv.org 610-694-8677
Membership	John Garner	membership@amcdv.org 610-933-2630
Paddling	Eric Pavlak	paddling@amcdv.org 610-650-8926
L Smith Shelter	Patrica Sacks	shelter@amcdv.org 610-437-3227
Social	Geri Chmiel	social@amcdv.org 609-914-1540
Trails	Phil Mulligan	trails@amcdv.org 215-247-8658
Winter Activities	Bill Steinmetz	winter@amcdv.org 610-694-8677
Young Members	Morgan Masterson	youngmembers@amcdv.org 616-843-2115
Lehigh Valley	Phill Hunsberger	lehigh-valley@amcdv.org 610-759-7067
Ombudsman	Bill Steinmetz	ombudsman@amcdv.org 610-694-8677

A detailed directory can be found on our web site.

AMC Member Center

Use the Member Center to get your chapter's newsletter electronically, renew your membership, update your member profile, or get a weekly digest of upcoming chapter activities sent to your e-mail in box! **Click here to log in**



Cover

Debbie Hinks and Greg Hartman ride on the trail in the Chesapeake & Ohio National Historic Park. Terry Berntsens photo.

Membership Information

Moving? Please remember to change your address and desired chapter affiliation by going to the AMC Member Center at www.outdoors.org/membercenter or calling AMC Member Services at 800-372-1758. This will correct your address for AMC Outdoors and for Footnotes. Address corrections cannot be made by the newsletter editor.

John Garner, Membership Chair
610-933-2630, membership@amcdv.org

Lehigh Valley area: Phill Hunsberger,
610-759-7067, lehigh-valley@amcdv.org

AMC Information Sources:

Delaware Valley Chapter Web Site: amcdv.org
DV Paddler's Web Site: paddlenow.com
Chapter e-mail: info@amcdv.org
E-mail Hotline: hotline-requests@amcdv.org
AMC General Web Site: outdoors.org

Chapter Ombudsman

Questions, complaints, concerns or comments about the Delaware Valley Chapter of AMC should be directed to Chapter Ombudsman, Bill Steinmetz, 610-694-8677, or ombudsman@amcdv.org.

When you use Adobe Acrobat Reader to view this newsletter (rather than using a preview program):

Just click on any e-mail or web link.

They all work!

Click on the bookmark icon  and you will get a clickable index!

Editor: Eric Pavlak
Box 542, Oaks, PA 19456
610-650-8926 e-mail: eric@outings.org

Copyright 2014 by the Delaware Valley Chapter,
Appalachian Mountain Club

Appalachian Footnotes is published as a service to its members by the Delaware Valley Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Opinions expressed are those of the listed authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the AMC. We are not responsible for errors or omissions, except to acknowledge them in a subsequent issue. The accuracy of prices, descriptions, availability and safety of all products and services advertised in this publication is solely the responsibility of the advertisers. The Editor welcomes and encourages submissions reflecting all viewpoints for publication in the Newsletter but reserves the right to edit. Material may be submitted by e-mail at newsletter@amcdv.org.

Aldo Leopold: A Sand County Almanac, and the Land Ethic: an Enduring Legacy

by Susan Charkes, Conservation Chair

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

So wrote Aldo Leopold in *A Sand County Almanac*, one of the most influential works in American conservation. First published in 1949, the book's countless insights and beautiful writing still ring true today. In the book's concluding section on a "Land Ethic," Leopold laid out his philosophy that conservation, the "state of harmony between men and land," requires people to adopt an ethical obligation toward land — by which he meant the "community" of soil, water, plants, animals, and people.

Aldo Leopold was born in 1887 and raised in Burlington, Iowa. He was a naturalist from an early age, recording his observations in notes and sketches. Leopold attended the Lawrenceville School in New Jersey for a year; in 1909 he became one of the first graduates of the Yale School of Forestry and joined the US Forest Service (founded by Gifford Pinchot, later Governor of Pennsylvania). Leopold was assigned to the Southwest, becoming Supervisor of Carson National Forest in New Mexico. In 1924 Leopold and his young wife, Estella, moved to Wisconsin where he continued to work for the Forest Service. In 1933 he joined the University of Wisconsin, becoming the nation's first professor of game management.

In 1935 he and Estella acquired an abandoned farm in Sand County, along the Wisconsin River near Baraboo, as a weekend retreat. The poor soils of the aptly named Sand County yielded poor farmers, and the property was "worn out." Rather than just letting it go, the family (now including 5 children) embarked on what was then a revolutionary approach to land stewardship: a long-term project to restore the site's ecological communities by planting trees to grow into new woods and flowers to seed new prairie. They converted a dilapidated chicken coop into a house, which they dubbed "the Shack."

It was at the Shack that Leopold was inspired to write the essays collected into *A Sand County Almanac*. Long a respected and prolific writer of scientific and professional works, Leopold decided that he now would write about conservation for the general public. These essays come out of his lifelong experiences hunting, fishing and exploring nature, and caring for and restoring the Sand County property. They are deeply felt, meticulously observed and poetically written.

The book begins: "There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot. These essays are the delights and dilemmas of one who cannot."

The interweaving of "delights and dilemmas" remains Aldo Leopold's unique contribution to conservation thought. He recognized that we care best for what we love. Leopold loved nature and loved the wilderness. He was a founder of The Wilderness Society, which preserves vast remote areas of natural land. Yet he was also a hunter and a fisherman; a farmer and a forester. It was central to his philosophy that humans are part of an ecological community. Our actions inevitably have consequences that affect our community. It's therefore imperative to try and make ethical decisions.

To give but one example, his essay entitled "Axe-in-Hand"



Photos courtesy of the Aldo Leopold Foundation

"There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot. These essays are the delights and dilemmas of one who cannot."

considers the decision to cut down one of two trees that are crowding each other out. As a forester, Leopold took an active approach to management of his woods. A crowded tree would not be as healthy as a tree freed from competition for light and water. For him the decision was not the felling of a tree, but which of two trees to fell. "I always cut the birch to favor the pine," he writes. In the first place he planted the pine, so he admits to a "natural bias." The birch is also abundant; the pine, scarce. But "if the birch stands south of the pine and is taller, it will shade the pine's

leader in the spring, and thus discourage the pine weevil from laying her eggs there"; weevils kill the leader and deform the tree. And if drought follows the birch felling, "the hotter soil may offset the competition for water, and my pine be none the better for my bias." Musing on these and other considerations he notes: "Such are the pros and cons the wielder of an axe must foresee, compare and decide upon with the calm assurance that his bias will, on average, prove to be something more than good intentions."

One of his most powerful essays is "Thinking Like a Mountain," in which Leopold recalls an incident from his days working in the Southwest: "the day I saw a wolf die." Taking a lunch break while hiking along a rimrock, his group spotted a pack of wolves

Aldo Leopold: *A Sand County Almanac*

crossing the river below. “In those days we had never heard of passing up a chance to kill a wolf,” Leopold remembers. Having pumped the air full of lead, “we reached the old wolf in time to watch a fierce green fire dying in her eyes. I realized then, and have known ever since, that there was something new to me in those eyes — something known only to her and to the mountain.” What that “something” was, he only fully comprehended years later, after he’d seen how deer had devoured every tree and shrub and plant on wolfless mountain after wolfless mountain. “I now suspect that



just as a deer herd lives in mortal fear of its wolves, so does a mountain live in mortal fear of its deer.” He concludes, “too much safety seems to yield only danger in the long run. Perhaps this is behind Thoreau’s dictum: in wildness is the salvation of the world. Perhaps this is the hidden meaning in the howl of the wolf long known among mountains, but seldom perceived among men.”

It’s fitting that Leopold invokes Thoreau, for the two writers are often linked; both are credited with inspiring generations of Americans (including myself) to think deeply about their relationship with nature, and to transform thought into action, to work on behalf of the wild world.

For Leopold, only direct experience of nature will provide the all-important perception that the natural world achieves its multiple forms through evolution and maintains its existence through ecology. But this perception is not dependent

on experience of wilderness. Leopold wrote, “The weeds in a city lot convey the same lesson as the redwoods.” And while he scoffed at the “recreational stampede” of “mass-use” — the “outdoor tourism” that passes for real experience — he believed that what is most critical to the development of the “perceptive faculty” is not outdoors at all, but what is inside the mind: “Recreation ... is not the outdoors, but our reaction to it.”

A Sand County Almanac entered the pantheon of conservation literature in 1949. Unfortunately Aldo Leopold was not able to celebrate its publication. Leopold died in 1948, stricken with a heart attack while fighting a neighbor’s brush fire.

But his legacy continues. In 1982 his children (every one of whom became a prominent natural scientist) founded the non-profit Aldo Leopold Institute, headquartered at the 300-acre Baraboo property, to promote his work to the public. The Institute’s mission is to “weave a land ethic into our society.” It provides education and training and is a source for information on Leopold and his writings. You can purchase *A Sand County Almanac* from the Institute (in several different languages). The Institute produced a DVD on Aldo’s life and philosophy titled “Green Fire.”

Leopold’s profound understanding of the nature of community not only informed the way he articulated the basis for a land ethic. It also led him to one of his most subtle insights: a land ethic, he said, is a product of social evolution. “Nothing so important as an ethic is ever ‘written.’” So notwithstanding that he wrote the land ethic, he asserted that a land ethic doesn’t fully exist apart from a community. “The mechanism of operation is ... social approbation for right actions, social disapproval for wrong actions.”

That is why, although reading *A Sand County Almanac* is typically a transformative experience for an individual, it is also transformative for a community to discover the social meaning of the land ethic through shared reflective experience. Community events that explore and celebrate Aldo Leopold are a tradition in Wisconsin, where the first weekend in March is “Leopold weekend.”

Here in the Delaware Valley, a series of Leopold events in winter and spring of 2014 has been organized by Chester County Library System, Longwood Gardens and the Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County. There is a “Community Read” of the book, as well as many opportunities to explore the Land Ethic through discussions, outdoor activities and screenings of “Green Fire.” (I’ll be helping to lead several discussions and activities.)

For more information, see the Aldo Leopold Institute (aldoleopold.org). The Chester County events may be found at the Longwood Gardens blog (longwoodgardens.org/blog/2014-01-24t000000/community-read-sand-county-almanac), The LCSCC Community Read calendar (tlcforscc.org/community-read-2014) and CCLS calendars (ccls.org). My own events are on my website (susancharkes.com/events.html).

Sand County sand for fracking

“Quit thinking about decent land-use as solely an economic problem,” wrote Aldo Leopold. Land, he argued, is not a commodity, but a community for which each of us has an individual responsibility. Ironically, though, economics has forged a direct connection between Leopold’s beloved Wisconsin land and Pennsylvania’s Marcellus Shale deposits. The hills and bluffs of rural western Wisconsin (which Leopold called Sand County) are being blasted, mined and flattened to extract sand that is then shipped east and pumped back into the ground for use in fracking natural gas. Just as with fracking, frac sand mining has sparked opposition from residents concerned about environmental degradation and support from those for whom the frac sands provide needed revenue. For more information see <http://www.wnpj.org/fracsand>.

American Chestnuts: a family conservation hike

By Mike Manes

Parents who would like to take your children on a conservation-oriented hike are in luck: we will offer one that will talk about chestnut trees and particularly about the American chestnut and a fungus, the chestnut blight, that has destroyed most of these beautiful trees.

Prior to 1904, the American chestnut was the dominant tree in the Appalachian forest. Trees of six feet in diameter were common, and roughly a quarter of the hardwood trees in this area were chestnut. Then a fungus infection, the chestnut blight, was discovered on some chestnuts at the Bronx Zoo in New York City

The disease was probably brought from Japan, and it spread rapidly destroying all large trees. Chestnut blight destroys the bark on large trees, since that is easily penetrated; bark on younger trees is harder to penetrate unless it is damaged. The roots of the chestnut tree are not affected by the blight. These roots will sprout small new chestnuts trees that will grow until they also are infected with the blight.

On Saturday, June 7, Cindy Friel and I will be leading a family-oriented conservation hike, and we will witness some of the efforts to revive the American chestnut at Mariton Wildlife Sanctuary just north of Reigelsville, PA. We will see:

Restoration chestnut 1.0, described below.

A large Chinese chestnut.

Several half-American half-Chinese hybrid chestnuts.

Some American chestnuts growing wild in the forests.

An orchard with American chestnuts from irradiated seeds.

Examples of chestnut blight, unfortunately.



Kieu Manes, standing next to a restoration American chestnut explaining the breeding program at the Mariton Wildlife Sanctuary. —Mike Manes photo.

Family hike, Saturday, June 7 [Click for more information](#)

Adult hike, Thursday, June 12 [Click for more information](#)

The large Chinese chestnuts and some of the American chestnuts may be flowering at the time of the hike. The flowers have a distinct aroma, I wish I could tell you that the aroma was pleasant, but I would not be honest if I said that.

The Chinese chestnut is highly resistant to the blight. The restoration chestnut 1.0, is 1/16th Chinese and 15/16th American. It is a carefully bred variety, after several generations of selective breeding. The goal is to have a chestnut with all the characteristics of the American variety except that it will have the blight resistance of the Chinese variety. The perfect restoration chestnut has not been bred yet, but a large amount of work is being done in the effort to create it. For adults interested in the American chestnut, I will be leading a second hike (without Cindy unfortunately) at Mariton on Thursday, June 12.



Left: Historic photo of large American chestnut trees.

Above: The flowers of the American chestnut tree.

PA Highlands Trail update: Ringing Rocks Trail and Unami Hills Study progress

Two project priorities have commanded the most attention so far this year: the planned Ringing Rocks Trail and the Unami Hills Feasibility Study.

In early February, I joined a project partner from the Natural Lands Trust for a visit with Bucks County Parks Department staff to discuss our proposed connector trail between the D&L Trail and Ringing Rocks County Park.

We are seeking permission to clear a little-known and little-used trail and logging road that has been all but buried by trees that were uprooted during Hurricane Sandy. In addition to the monumental task of uncovering the trail, we're proposing to prepare a PennDot-required road crossing permit for River Road to connect with recently purchased county land that includes frontage along the river and canal. Another component of this multifaceted project would entail developing an interpretive kiosk that describes the diabase rock common to this part of Bucks County.

The Unami Hills Feasibility Study will look at alternative Highlands Trail routes between the Bucks-Montgomery County border and the Perkiomen Trail. The Unami Hills area is also part of the "diabase belt" that runs from the Delaware River near Ringing Rocks all the way to the Hopewell Big Woods area near French Creek State Park.

This project will involve working with Natural Lands Trust, Montgomery County Lands Trust, Montgomery County Planning Commission, and the townships of Marlborough and Upper Salford, with a partner meeting planned for March. In preparation for the project kick-off we're gathering and assessing data on landownership, open space, and existing trails to begin the process of finding viable routes for the PA Highlands Trail.

For more information about the PA Highlands Trail Network contact, me, John Brunner at jbrunner@outdoors.org. Follow the project on Facebook <http://www.Facebook.com/PaHighlandsTrailNetwork> and Hike the Highlands blog: <http://hikethehighlands.outdoors.org/>

— John P. Brunner, AMC Mid-Atlantic Recreation Planner



Top: Megan Boatright (left) and Erin Lee (right) of Natural Lands Trust joined John Brunner to scout and map a trail route between the Delaware Canal and Ringing Rocks Park.

Middle: Blowdowns of large trees will have to be cleared before this section of trail can be opened.

Left: While scouting a trail route through Ringing Rocks County Park we found this rock wall just a few hundred yards from the boulder field.

— John P. Brunner photos.

Family Adventure Week set for Cardigan Lodge in White Mountains

Plans are underway for a family adventure week at Cardigan Lodge in Alexandria, New Hampshire, August 2-9. During your stay there will be opportunities for hiking, swimming and kayaking. Hikes of varying levels of difficulty will leave directly from the lodge.

Mt. Cardigan, with its peak of 3,155 feet tall, has extensive areas of bare granite ledges and alpine scrub, giving it the feel to hikers of a much higher mountain.

Welton Falls is an easy 1.2 mile hike from the lodge. This beautiful waterfall flows right out of a cave!

Wellington State Park boasts the largest freshwater swimming beach in New Hampshire and is only a 30 minute drive from Cardigan Lodge.

Accommodations are in family-style bunk rooms that can sleep three to five people with shared bathrooms. A few private rooms with bath are also available.

Rates are \$440.11 per week per adult. Youths ages 13-17 are \$376.89 per week. Children 12 and under are free with a paying adult.

Breakfast and dinner are provided daily. Lunches can be purchased for an additional charge of \$5 a day. More information will be forthcoming as plans are finalized. Anyone interested in planning their family vacation to Cardigan Lodge can contact Cindy Friel at amcprograms@verizon.net for more information.

Top: *Family visiting Cardigan Lodge.* — AMC photo, Herb Swanson

Lower: *Kayaking on the pond at Cardigan Lodge.* — AMC photo, Jerry & Marcy Monkman,



NY's Finger Lakes, Montauk Point, locations for two bicycling trips

By Terry Berntsens

It's been my tradition to lead a chapter biking-camping trip each Memorial Day weekend, and this year is no exception: our adventure will bring us to the Finger Lakes Region of New York.

Our campground features two glacial lakes with the added prospect to hike, swim, canoe or golf! Of course all the other activities will have to take the back burner to our daily bike ride along the Old Erie Canal, which is designated as a National Recreational Trail.

The nearby Erie Canal Village is a reconstructed 19th century settlement and boasts three museums. And just when you think you can't possibly fit in one more activity, you realize it's time to gather at the campground, shower and get dinner going.

Exploring by bike, scenery & camping: pedaling our way!

Our traditional pot-luck dinners are quite delectable. My personal favorite time is the end of the day sitting around the campfire and sharing stories and humor. Recently we found some of the regulars can sing and play the guitar which just adds another dimension to the camaraderie.

This past summer we added another biking-camping weekend, one to Rhode Island. It was a great trip loaded with fun, adventure and surprise. We spent an entire day biking and exploring Block Island and so much more.

Given the popularity, an additional biking-camping weekend has been added to the schedule. In early fall we will enjoy a five-day adventure and discover Montauk Point, Shelter Island and Orient Point, all at the tip of Long Island, New York.

It will be the first camp-out on the beach for many of us. Just over the dunes from our campsite, a two-mile sandy ocean beach offers walks along the water's edge. We will bike as much as



Montauk Point and Lighthouse, at the eastern tip of Long Island.

— US Coast Guard photo.

possible, ferry to Shelter Island and take a pleasant hike in the Nature Conservancy's 2,039-acre Mashomack Preserve. The rugged seascape, lighthouses, scrumptious seafood, and world class wineries will only enhance our itinerary.

Our biking treks are very relaxed; we stop often, take in the views and landscape, snap photographs, talk to locals, and stop for ice cream. A 30-mile bike may take an entire day — and what a rewarding full day it is!

Both weekenders are wait-listed. Montauk's Hither Hills State Park fills up immediately. Reservations were made the first day reservations opened; there is not one site available at this time.

Perhaps the response to these trips will encourage other leaders to offer similar activities!

2014 Outdoor Leadership Training Workshop set for April 4-6 at Nockamixon State Park

The Delaware Valley Chapter will host an AMC Outdoor Leadership Training Workshop on the weekend of April 4-6, 2014.

To make this event easily accessible for DV Chapter members, this session will take place at Nockamixon State Park and the Weisel Hostel near Quakertown, PA.

Everyone is welcome to attend, including leader wannabes, new leaders, new members, experienced leaders, members who just want to learn what leadership is all about. Topics to be covered are the elements of outdoor leadership common to all AMC outdoor activities:

- Activity planning**
- Leading safe and enjoyable activities**
- Leadership styles**
- Group dynamics**
- Liability issues**
- Decision making model**
- Accident scene management**
- Conservation and minimum impact issues**
- AMC leadership requirements and guidelines**
- How to become a DV Chapter activity leader**
- Map and compass skills**

The instructors are all experienced AMC volunteers and staff.

If you want to step up to leading outdoor activities, the workshop will give you the confidence and skills that you need. If you are already an experienced leader, this workshop will make you a better one.

The cost for the course is \$35 for AMC members, \$50 for non-members, \$20 for AMC members who complete one co-lead by April 1, 2014. If you'd like to stay overnight at Weisel Hostel where the Friday evening session and Saturday dinner will take place, the cost is \$15 for one night or \$24 for two nights. The Saturday night dinner cost is \$15. To register, for additional information, contact DV Leadership Chair Lennie Steinmetz, leadership@amcdv.org or by phone at 610-694-8677.

Paddling, water safety courses offered

An **introductory canoeing** course on canoeing flatwater and basic river paddling, taught in tandem canoes, is scheduled in two parts, with session one on Saturday, May 17, and session two, Saturday, June 7. The first session will be in the New Jersey Pine Barrens, on a lake and a river. The second on the Delaware, near Lambertville, NJ. Members \$85/non-member \$105, for both classes, \$50/\$60 each.

Whether you have some experience or not this course will set you on the right path to a new world of adventure. We work with you at whatever experience level you bring to the water. We teach the strokes and methods that apply whether you paddle on a quiet lake or a ragging river. These classes will start you on the path to whatever end you have in mind. Birding, canoe camping, leisure paddling or adrenaline rush, it all starts here.

Our **solo open canoe** course is set for the weekend of July 12 & 13 on the Schuylkill River near Reading, PA, and will cover basic solo paddling up to entry level whitewater. \$25/\$35.

Our annual **swiftwater safety** session is marked for July 19 at the Lambertville Wing Dam on the Delaware. \$15/25.

All of these courses have modest fees, and all equipment is provided. For the latest information go to paddlenow.com.

2014 Social Events

New Members Social, Saturday, March 8, at Peace Valley Nature Center

So you enjoy the outdoors — great! Whether you're new to the AMC, or you've been a little hesitant to actually come out and participate, now is your chance to meet like-minded people and learn about the AMC and all it has to offer.

The social will take place for approximately two hours at the Peace Valley Nature Center at 170 N. Chapman Road, Doylestown, PA starting at 2 PM. www.peacevalleynaturecenter.org/

You are also invited to join the highly recommended optional event kick-off hike starting at 1 PM. We will show a short video that explains details about our club and activities. Some of our activity leaders will be on hand to answer your questions.

This event is free and light refreshments will be available. In the event of bad weather please check the status of the social at www.amcdv.org/Calendar/ to see if it is canceled or contact the leader no later than 10 AM on March 8. There is no rain or snow date. Leader: John Garner (610-858-9482, jegarner7@yahoo.com), Co-leader: Midori Wakabayashi.

Chapter Activities' Social, Saturday, April 12 Ottsville, PA, Fire House

DV Chapter's fun, entertaining, Activity Social, Saturday, April 12, at the Ottsville Firehouse, 249 Durham Road, Ottsville, PA 18942. Begin the day with a fun, pre-social event, look for separate listings. Activity social kicks off with happy hour at 4:30 PM. Appetizers & non-alcoholic beverages will be served; BYOB!

A delicious buffet dinner, sure to satisfy all that attend, at 6 PM. Awards & recognition of members for their outdoor accomplishments/contributions will be given. Special entertainment, drawings and an awesome dessert bar will cap off the evening. Guests welcome! Cost is \$10 per person. Payment with credit card/Paypal or checks payable to: DV-AMC, sent to Geri Chmiel, 268 Schoolhouse Road, Wrightstown, NJ 08562.

RSVP required by April 1: social@amcdv.org or 609-914-1540, call before 9 PM.

Chapter Picnic, Saturday, June 28

Fort Washington State Park near Flourtown, PA. It will be at the Militia Hill Pavilion L-1. Free food and beverages, but bring a dish to share. Contact: social@amcdv.org or 609-914-1540 before 9 PM.

Wilderness first aid training available

Wilderness First Aid training will be offered at the Mohican Outdoor Center on March 14-16, May 9-11 and September 12-14.

This is a very worthwhile course, and one that we hope all DV leaders will take at some point. Fifty percent reimbursement is available, as described below.

Leaders offered education reimbursements

The DV Chapter offers reimbursements to DV activity leaders for a variety of specific training programs. This includes Outdoor Leadership Training, Wilderness First Aid, Map & Compass, Leave No Trace, Chapter Youth Program, Water Safety, Chainsaw Safety, and Mountain Leadership School. The reimbursement rate is 50 percent of course fees, not to exceed \$150. Applicants for reimbursement must have led a minimum of two activities within one year before or after taking the training event.

For more information or to apply for training reimbursement, contact the chapter leadership chair at leadership@amcdv.org



Available Now!

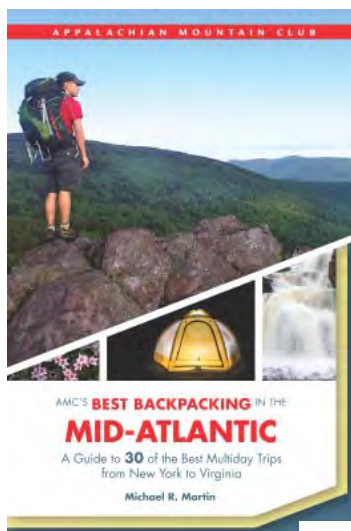
By Susan Charkes
Our chapter's
Conservation Chair

Member Price: \$15.16

Outdoors with Kids Philadelphia is the latest addition to the AMC's Outdoors with Kids series. Providing comprehensive guides to low-cost adventure, the book includes destination and trip information for locations in and around Philadelphia. It focuses on the "pay-off" for children of each age group while specifying which locations are good for hiking, swimming, paddling, biking, etc. It features safety tips and a "Plan B" for each destination.

AMC Books are available wherever books are sold, or order directly from AMC at outdoors.org/amcstore or by calling 800-262-4455.

Coming this Spring from AMC Books

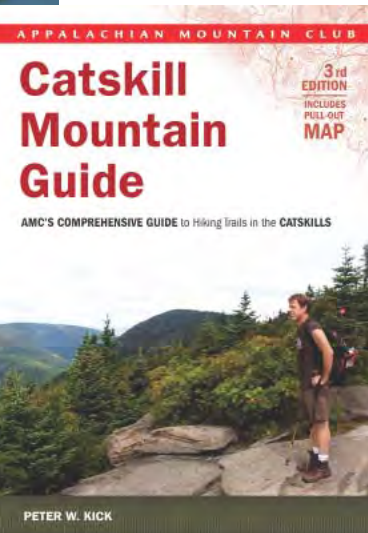


AMC's Best Backpacking in the Mid-Atlantic: A Guide to 30 of the Best Multiday Trips from New York to Virginia

By Michael R. Martin
Paperback
Member Price: \$15.96
Pub date: 3/18/14

Catskill Mountain Guide: AMC's Comprehensive Guide to Hiking Trails in the Catskills, 3rd edition

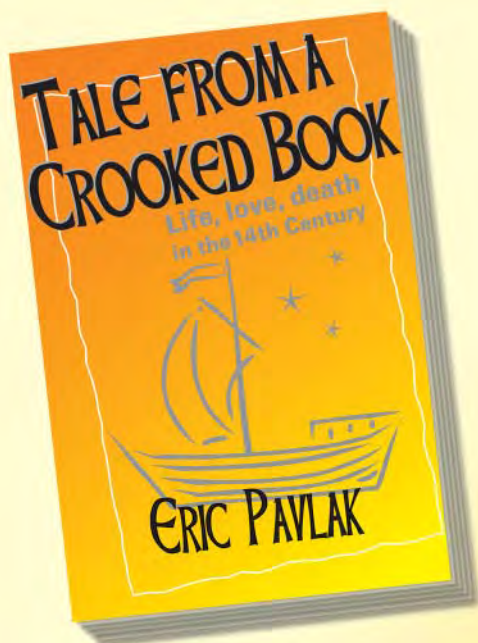
By Peter W. Kick
Paperback
Member Price: \$19.16
Pub date: 3/4/14



advertisement

Love your book!!

The characters and their adventures will stay with me for a very long time. —C. L.



Available from Amazon, Barnes & Noble and other booksellers in both paper and electronic editions!

A story of life, love, art, food and some happiness while traveling about: pack on back, skis or boots on foot, in a world distant in time, but in many ways so much like our own.

Visit acrookedbook.com and check out the 14th Century recipes, plus the information on period travel, skiing, ships, navigation and more!

For a limited time, by request, AMC readers can get free e-books.

www.acrookedbook.com

Mt. Rainier National Park is site of AMC's August Camp in 2014



Photo of Mt. Rainier by Jim Borowski.

In 2014 August Camp experiences the incredible beauty of Mount Rainier National Park.

Marvel at spectacular scenery while walking among towering hemlocks, relive the drama of Mt. St. Helens, and hike on the shoulder of the fifth highest peak in the lower 48 states. Camp will be set up in the small former lumbering town of Packwood adjacent to the park.

August Camp is an adult hiking and outdoor activities camp that changes location from year to year. It is a club tradition that dates back to 1887.

After a day of the activity of your choice, relax around the nightly campfire. This will be the time to listen to ranger talks, hear reports from the day's hikes, learn about the next day's activities, and enjoy singing and conversation.

This full service tent village for 64 campers each week offers home-cooked meals, daily hikes at all levels, nightly campfires and wonderful camaraderie.

The designated airport is Seattle-Tacoma International, and the camp fleet of vans provides transport between camp and SeaTac each Saturday.

The application and camper information forms, as well as detailed camp information can be found on the August Camp website at <http://www.augustcamp.org/>.

Plan your one or two week adventure now and be part of one of the AMC's oldest traditions.

Week 1: July 19 - July 26

Week 2: July 26 - Aug 2

Week 3: Aug 2- Aug. 9

Week 4: Aug. 9 - Aug. 16

Questions about August Camp? Contact DV Chapter member and August Camp leader Lennie Steinmetz at steinmetz.lennie@gmail.com or by phone at 610-694-8677.

Get free weekly list of all chapter activities

If you are not currently receiving our electronic Weekly Activity List every Wednesday evening, you may be missing out on opportunities to find out about many of our scheduled activities.

For those not familiar with the Weekly Activity List, it is an e-mail containing all scheduled DV Chapter activities for the upcoming nine days. It includes announcements, cancellations, scheduled activities such as hiking, paddling and biking; plus advance trip notices and links to important conservation information. It is a great way to stay informed about what is happening within our chapter.

It is a free DV Chapter member benefit. All you need is an e-mail address. To begin receiving the Weekly Activity List, simply e-mail your full name and AMC membership number (which can be found above your name on the mailing label of your AMC Outdoors magazine) to: hotline-requests@amcdv.org. You will receive one e-mail a week. You will not be slammed with a lot of e-mails.

**Participate in AMC's
Conservation Action Network**
Click here for more information.

Traditional post-holiday hike begun by Jane Shepard marches on

Story and photo by Ed Sawin.

On December 1, the club once again held their annual hike from Chestnut Hill to Center City Philadelphia. This is a traditional hike where we do this 12 mile walk on the Sunday after Thanksgiving. The goal is to burn off all that turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy that we ate on Thanksgiving day. What better way to do it than to walk all the way to center city from a distant part of the city. Jane Sheppard started this hiking tradition many years ago, and it is now being carried on by me.

It is kind of an easy walk, nice and flat on established trails; other than the 12 mile distance, which is longer than most hikes. Many people never consider it possible to walk from a distant part of Philadelphia such as Chestnut Hill all the way into the city. After all, this is the type of distance where people would commute by car or train to get to work. But for us hearty hiker types, it is not difficult at all. It is always exciting to watch the center city skyscrapers get larger and larger in our vision as we approach the center of Philadelphia. Then, once the hike is over, we simply take the train back to Chestnut Hill. We aren't crazy enough to walk back to Chestnut Hill, but that can always be an option for next year.

This year we had wonderful weather. Clear blue skies, no wind, no rain; who cares that the high was only 46 degrees. Hey, it is almost winter, and very close to the shortest day of the year. Everyone enjoyed the route, with great views of the Wissahickon Creek and the Schuylkill River. We were never far from these flowing bodies of water.

Early in the walk we passed by the Valley Green Inn. This is an old historic inn that dates back many years. From the outside we could see that had a fire started in one of the fireplaces in the restaurant. This was marking the start of their Sunday brunch meal. A couple of hikers walked in and saw a delightful fire, with just a great smell. There were several tables right next to the hearth. We told ourselves that at some time in the future we would come back and enjoy a meal there; of course right next to the fireplace.

Along the way, we stop and eat a little bag lunch that everyone brought with them at the start. It has always been a tradition to eat a meal at the upper boat houses, approximately three or four miles from the end of the hike. There is always a variety of food, from healthy salads and vegetables to the venerable ham sandwich and other leftovers from Thanksgiving. Everyone at this point is feeling pretty good about completing this walk.

This hike holds many options. First of all, once you get to center city, there are many things to do, especially at Christmas time. This includes art galleries, museums, Holiday displays, shopping, etc. Also, another option is to get back to Chestnut Hill and enjoy all the great shops and restaurants that this area has to offer. I personally stopped in at the Iron Hill Brew pub afterwards and watched the end of the Eagles game, with a pizza and a celebratory drink.

Everyone on the walk this year had a great time. I would highly recommend that you consider doing this hike next year. From beginning to end, the total hike time was five and a half hours to get back to Chestnut Hill. All participants felt really good at the finish, and it was a great way to end the Thanksgiving Holiday.



Catskill Trip February 1-2

John Thomas photos

