



Appalachian Footnotes

Delaware Valley Chapter • Appalachian Mountain Club
Spring 2016 • Volume 54 • Number 2

Go, Eagles!
Shelter Top
New Leader Training
Gear Swap
Activity Awards Social
Highlands Trail Progress
Pipeline Update
Kent Johnson Remembered






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	Lois Rothenberger	vicechair@amcdv.org 215-661-1073
Secretary	Kathy Kindness	secretary@amcdv.org
Treasurer	Joe Nanfara	treasurer@amcdv.org 908-392-8787
Backpacking	Cindy Crosser	backpacking@amcdv.org 302-757-0604
Bicycling	Tammy Brandon	bicycling@amcdv.org
Communication	Rich Wells	communication@amcdv.org 908-521-0374
Conservation	Adrian Noble	conservation@amcdv.org 215-284-5222
Family Activities	Annette Sheldon	family@amcdv.org
Hiking	Malcolm Preece	hiking@amcdv.org
Leadership	Lennie Steinmetz	leadership@amcdv.org 610-694-8677
Membership	Denis McCartan	membership@amcdv.org 610-933-2630
Paddling	Eric Pavlak	paddling@amcdv.org 610-650-8926
L. Smith Shelter	Patricia 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
X-C Skiing	Sue Bickford-Martin	ski@amcdv.org
Young Members	June Gondi	ym@amcdv.org
Lehigh Valley	Phill Hunsberger	lehigh-valley@amcdv.org 610-759-7067
Ombudsman	Allen Male	ombudsman@amcdv.org

A detailed directory can be found on our web site, amcdv.org.

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Just click on any e-mail or web link.
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Click on the bookmark icon  and you will get a clickable index!**

Chapter Leaders' Hotline: stay in touch

Communication with our Chapter leaders is very important. The main source for communicating with our leaders is our DV Leaders Hotline through Yahoo Groups.

If you are a DV Chapter leader and feel you are not currently receiving e-mails sent out over our Leaders Hotline it is possible we do not have a current e-mail address for you. If you have changed your e-mail address within the past few years and have never notified us about it, we need your current e-mail address.

Please contact our Communications Chair, Rich Wells, at communication@amcdv.org with your current e-mail address and he will send you an "invite" to join our DV Leaders Yahoo Group. You must accept this invite to begin receiving e-mails through our Leaders Hotline. We cannot simply edit your e-mail address due to spam considerations. Please help us to keep the lines of communication working by staying current with your contact information.

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.

Denis McCartan, 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, Allen Male at ombudsman@amcdv.org.



Cover: Sharon Liu climbs the east side of Lehigh Gap on the Appalachian Trail while on a chapter hike led by Rich Pace last May. Sue Bickford-Martin photograph.

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

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Return of the Bald Eagle



American Bald Eagle Makes Dramatic Comeback

Story and photographs by Cliff Hence

The resurgence of the American bald eagle has been one of the greatest recovery stories in the environmental field today. The number of eagle nests in the US has grown in the past 30 years from a low of less than 500 in the entire country in the 1960s to estimates of about 5,000 at the present time. This recovery has resulted in the bald eagle being taken off of the Endangered Species list in 2007. This is quite an accomplishment, considering that the eagle is one of the only 28 species that have been de-listed because of recovery. The Endangered Species Act list has added more than 2,000 species since the act was enacted in 1972.

Symbol of Young Nation

The bald eagle has had a checkered history in this country, despite the fact that the bird was named the symbol of the new democracy in 1782. The eagle was chosen over Benjamin Franklin's suggestion, the wild turkey, because of its fierce façade. It was thought to be a better symbol of the new country than the more passive, but tasty, turkey.

The sight of a bald eagle launching from a nearby branch and snatching a fish from the surface of the water is one of the most spectacular sights in all of nature. The birds will feed as well on other birds and some mammals, but they are also opportunists and scavengers. They will steal prey from other birds like osprey, and are not above feeding on fish washed up on the shore or any other type of carrion.

Despite the honor of being the symbol of the country, there was originally no protection for the bird. Considered vermin by many, it was shot, trapped and poisoned by early settlers who believed that the eagle preyed not only on their barnyard fowl, but also live-stock. An early silent movie showing an eagle snatching a baby from its mother's grasp also did not help its image, despite the fact that there is no record of such an incident.

There were also bounties paid well into the 20th century for eagle feet for as low as dollar a pair in many states. The result of this pressure was that by the early 1900s, many believed that the

bird was in danger of being extirpated (locally extinct) in the lower 48 states.

The bird finally received some protection in the 1940s when the Eagle Protection Act was passed. This legislation provided fines for the harassment of bald eagles as well as made the possession of bald eagle feathers illegal. This legislation went a long way to help with the return of the eagle from its low numbers. However, just as the road to recovery seemed promising, the bird encountered an even more insidious threat to its recovery. This was the introduction of widespread spraying with a new class of more powerful insecticides used to control mosquitoes after WW II.

Effect of Pesticides

American bald eagle numbers, and those of some other raptors like the osprey and the peregrine falcon, plummeted due to the widespread use of these insecticides, especially DDT. These insecticides were long-lasting chemicals that built up through the food chain. With the birds of prey at the top of this chain, they received the strongest doses of the insecticide. The effect of this poisoning was that the birds' production of calcium was seriously harmed. This resulted in the thinning of the eggshells of the birds. Because of this shell weakness, the roosting birds ended up crushing their own eggs. This widespread nest failure was devastating for the eagle and caused the numbers of nesting pairs to plummet to record low levels in the 1950s and 60s. But the effect of this nesting failure was even more severe for the osprey and peregrine falcon, which were extirpated from much of the East Coast.

It was the pioneering work of Rachel Carson and other chemist-environmentalists that finally led to the ban on DDT in this country in the 1970s. As the chemical was slowly removed from the environment, the eagles began their recovery. Fortunately the eagle is a long-lived bird — they can live 30 to 40 years — so they were able to survive this period and continue to reproduce. Birds like the osprey and the peregrine falcon had their numbers reduced to the point that they were returned to the East Coast only with the help of captive breeding programs, and with the reintroduction of the species from other areas of the country.

Eagle Sightings Increased

Fortunately, eagles have now become an almost daily sight on our lakes and waterways. There are also a number of nests in the Delaware Valley area accessible for viewing. There are two within the City of Philadelphia alone. One is located at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum near the Philadelphia Airport. The other is along the Delaware River at the mouth of Pennypack Creek in Pennypack Park in northeast Philadelphia.

There are at least six nests along the Delaware River from just north of Easton down to Bristol on both sides of the river. Eagles have also been spotted at Nockamixon State Park by the dam, Peace Valley Park in Bucks County, Pennypack Ecological Trust in Huntington Valley, PA and the Lehigh Gap just to name a few locally.

Besides the nests, there are some unique Gatherings of Eagles which are called: an Aerie, Convocation, Jubilee, Soar or Tower of Eagles. The most outstanding one is during the months of November and December when there is an incredible "Eagle Show" at the Conowingo Dam on the Susquehanna River in Northern Maryland. As many as 200 eagles can be seen there daily. The birds have come to this location for the migration of several fish species whose progress is impeded by the dam and therefore easy pickings for the birds.

Eagle ID

Adult bald eagles are easily identified by their large size and striking white head and tail. Their flight pattern is also very distinct, as they have a very flat wing profile. It has been described as a flying board or plank of wood. Immature birds are a bit more difficult to identify, but their large size and similar flight profile usually make them stand out. Immatures usually outnumber adults, because it takes at least five years for the bird to develop its adult plumage.

So when you are out hiking or paddling, don't forget to look up to see one of the true survivors of the avian world.

Paddling to the eagles

Since bald eagles' preferred food is fish, paddling is a great way to see eagles. The undeveloped parts of the Chesapeake Bay shoreline are home to many eagles. Particularly good areas are Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge and Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge.

I have seen eagles soaring and catching fish along the length of the Delaware River, from its headwaters to the tidal creeks of the lower estuary,

Once, on a club trip on the Schuylkill River just above Gibraltar, our group witnessed an adult eagle fly up river toward us, passing 10 feet overhead.

— Eric Pavlak, *Paddling Chair*



Above: Immature eagle and adult dispute possession of a fish.



Left: An immature eagle.

Below: A mature eagle catches a shad.

Cliff Hence photos.



View local nesting eagles on live video cameras (click on the links below)

Hanover, PA (no ads) <http://hdontap.com/index.php/video/stream/bald-eagle-live-cam>

Hillsborough, NJ <http://dukefarms.org/eaglecam>

Bucks County awards engineering contract for 3.3 mile trail link

The Bucks County Commissioners voted on January 6 to select the Doylestown based firm Boucher & James to provide design and engineering services for the planned Upper Bucks Rail Trail, which will be developed along a 3.3-mile stretch of unused track between Veterans Park in Richland Township and the Bucks-Lehigh County line near Coopersburg.

The new rail trail in Bucks County is a key part of the Pennsylvania Highlands Trail Network, a regional trail system that has evolved over the past several years under the leadership of the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) and a locally based Steering Committee that includes representatives from Bucks, Montgomery, Lehigh and Northampton Counties.

According to John Brunner, AMC's Mid-Atlantic Recreation Planner, success in getting the Upper Bucks Rail Trail underway was due



to a "perfect storm of support" from municipal and county officials as well as residents who have been advocates for trail development across Bucks County, especially in the Quakertown Region.

"In just a few more years, people will be able to enjoy a new trail that runs between Quakertown and Coopersburg, connecting to the Saucon Rail Trail, and ultimately the South Bethlehem Greenway into downtown Bethlehem.

This new section of the rail trail began with a shared vision of trail connectivity and it wouldn't have been possible without the support of our Highlands Trail Steering Committee, Richland and Springfield Townships, and the Bucks County Planning Commission and County Commissioners provided huge support," said Brunner.

He added that residents and businesses in the area will benefit from having "increased access to safe places for outdoor activities like walking and bicycling."

In addition to serving as a key component of the Highlands Trail Network, the Upper Bucks Rail Trail has also been identified as a priority trail in several other local and regional plans such as the recently adopted Springfield Township Park and Recreation Plan, the Bucks County Bicycle Plan, and as a component of greater Philadelphia's growing network of trails known as The Circuit.

Planning is taking place to extend the Upper Bucks Rail Trail south through Quakertown and to areas west of Route 309 using a combination of existing local trails, sidewalks and side-paths along roadways.

The existing Saucon Rail Trail in Lehigh County will be extended by 3.3 miles through Bucks County once the new rail trail is open to the public/

Mariton Wildlife Sanctuary garlic mustard removal set for April 30, family friendly

Help improve the health of this Natural Land Trust Preserve by removal of an invasive species on Saturday, April 30, 1 to 4 PM.

No experience necessary; instruction will be provided. This is a great family-friendly volunteer project, as the plant is readily identified and easy to pull. A good activity for children age 8 or above.

Please note that participants under 18 must be accompanied by their legal guardians. Bring water, snacks, and work gloves (no tools necessary).

Wear sturdy shoes and be prepared to walk on uneven terrain, and get dirty. Wear long pants and long-sleeve shirt; poison ivy and brambles are present. For more information, directions and to register, [click here](#).



AMC Continues to Speak up for the Outdoors as PennEast Permitting Process Progresses

AMC has gone on the record with concerns about the proposed PennEast pipeline project ever since the scoping process began in early 2015.

The proposed 36-inch pipeline would transport natural gas 114 miles from the Marcellus Shale to New Jersey and Southeast Pennsylvania, posing significant threats to outdoor recreation, including negative visual impacts to the Appalachian Trail viewshed, noise pollution during the construction period, and an increase in air pollution that would both hurt hiker health and contribute to climate change.

Our comments have effectively resulted in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission requiring that the applicant provide answers to our questions about siting and visual impacts. This winter, AMC also intervened in the licensing process, giving us the ability to continue having a voice in the process and speaking up for outdoor recreation and our natural resources.

We are currently awaiting the release of a draft Environmental Impact Statement, expected in summer 2016, which will provide another opportunity for public input.

To read AMC's submitted comments and to stay informed about next steps, visit outdoors.org.

2016 AMC Delaware Valley Activities Social & Gear Swap

Perkiomen Township Fire Hall 485 Gravel Pike, Collegeville PA, Saturday, March 19

A full day of fun, beginning with a great pre-social hike or bike ride, attend the Gear Swap & Sale and end the day socializing with fellow AMC members!

Optional pre-social activities are listed on the web activities calendar: <http://amcdv.org/AMCCalendar.php>

Happy hour begins at 4:30, with appetizers and non-alcoholic drinks. BYOB. Lindingers will be catering a delicious buffet dinner with vegetarian options, followed by awards and recognitions, more socializing and desserts!

Guests are welcome. Register now! Payment of \$10 per person can be made at <http://amcdv.org/social.html>

Questions? Contact Geri Chmiel at social@amcdv.org or call 609-914-1540, 9 AM to 9 PM

Gear swap & sale; backpack cook-off planned for Spring Activities Social

Closet getting a little crowded? The Delaware Valley Chapter will host our first Gear Swap and Sale event along with our annual Activities Social. This is a garage sale for outdoors enthusiasts of all kinds and is open to all comers.

Buy! Sell! Barter! Come and find that piece of equipment that never seems to go on sale! Put a little cash in your pocket while you do your spring cleaning and help others gear up for the coming season. Everyone's inner gear geek will be satisfied as we peruse the tables. Just be sure equipment is in satisfactory condition and apparel should be recently washed and not torn or frayed.

We'll be organizing volunteers to provide skills demonstrations and tips on lightening your load. If you fancy yourself as a chef, you can compete for bragging rights for best backpack meal so bring that lightweight stove and titanium pot and just enough ingredients to share with our "hungry hiker" judges.

If you plan on selling some stuff, share a little knowledge or register for the backpack cook-off, contact Denis McCartan at dmac7154@gmail.com



Red goes Green

Volunteer, get free Phillies game, free food

Enjoy an afternoon with AMC friends and see the Phillies play the Atlanta Braves, Sunday, May 22, while helping collect recyclables at Citizen's Bank Park in South Philadelphia.

"Red Goes Green" volunteers collect plastic bottles and aluminum cans between innings through the seventh inning. Between innings enjoy the game and a free ball park snack while chatting with AMC friends.

To participate, you must be able to stand the entire game and walk up and down steps between innings. Children are encouraged and welcome to attend, but child volunteers between the ages of eight and 16 must be accompanied by one adult volunteer for every three children attending.

Mandatory volunteer orientation is at 1 PM at the ball park on game day.

When registering, provide full names of all participants by Tuesday, May 13. E-mail is preferred, and the deadline is firm. Any participant not listed on the registration at game time will not be able to volunteer.

Meeting place and additional details will be provided to registrants. To register, contact Katherine Kindness at secretary@amcdv.org.

There is no cost to participate, and a limited number of free parking passes are available. Taking public transportation and car pooling are encouraged.

Chapter Weekend set for Harriman SP Sept. 16-18, registration opens July 1



Our Delaware Valley Chapter Weekend will be held this year September 16-18 at the new AMC Harriman Outdoor Center located on the shores of beautiful Breakneck Pond in the southern part of scenic Harriman State Park, in southeastern New York.

Harriman Outdoor Center is only about a one and a half to two and a half hour drive from our area.

At over 47,500 acres, Harriman State Park is the second largest park in New York State. It offers spectacular vistas, forested mountains, numerous lakes, unique rock formations, hidden mines and abundant wildlife.

Throughout the weekend we will offer several different level hikes that will include many of these natural gems. The New York City skyline is visible from some of the mountaintops we will be visiting. There will be free time to swim or paddle in the lake. Our weekend stay will be enhanced by a full moon, adding to the fun and excitement.

Registration will open on July 1. Lodging accommodations will be a choice of two style cabins, one with full bathroom facilities and the other very close to a common bathhouse. Six meals will be provided.

More detailed information will be available when registration opens. Space will be limited to 24 persons. For now mark your calendars. You do not want to miss out on all of the fun.

Outdoor leadership training, scholarship programs set for 2016

The Delaware Valley Chapter will host an AMC Outdoor Leadership Training Workshop on the weekend of April 15-17, 2016.

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.

Everyone is welcome to attend: 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

Instructors: 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, 2016. If you'd like to stay overnight at Weisel Hostel (four miles from Nockamixon), the cost is \$15 for one night or \$24 for two nights. The Saturday night dinner cost is \$15.

To register, or for additional information, contact Leadership Chair Lennie Steinmetz, leadership@amcdv.org or 610-694-8677.

Free dinner for all AMC-DV leaders!

Saturday, April 16 — 5 to 9 PM

Since last year's event was a big success, we will once again host a Leaders Dinner for all DV Chapter leaders on the same weekend as our Outdoor Leadership Training course for future leaders. This will provide an opportunity for the trainees and experienced leaders to become acquainted, as well as for DV leaders to connect with fellow leaders and to learn about new programs in AMC.

- Practice using the ActDB (online trip listing) system with a personal tutor
- Learn how to add GPS coordinates and photos to your trip listings
- Find out about the new AMC website and the features that may be of particular use to you
- Susannah Hatch, AMC Staff and Volunteer Relations Coordinator, will present info on the new AMC Activities Style Guide
- Meet the Leadership Training Class of 2016 and help them get acquainted with AMC-DV
- Participate in planning our chapter activity schedule for 2016, with an emphasis on a variety of new offerings
- Connect with other DV leaders to share ideas and plan future trips
- Win EMS gift certificates. Plan a trip to co-lead with one of the trainees and increase your chances of winning!

Pennridge Community Center 146 East Main Street, Silverdale PA

Rt. 113 just south of Rt. 152

GPS coordinates:
40.349583, -75.269540

Register by April 8, [click here](#).

The dinner is free for DV leaders, \$15 each for their guests

Pre-dinner hike at Nockamixon 1:30 PM

Seven miles, moderate pace
Registration required, [click here](#)

AT corridor monitoring volunteers needed

We are looking for 15-20 volunteers for a few days, mainly in the early spring and again in the late fall, to work as a team to help monitor the boundaries through parts of the 15-mile section of the Appalachian Trail our chapter maintains.

If you hike the trails, and specifically the AT, this is a great opportunity to give back.

Corridor monitors walk the AT boundaries by bushwhacking, sometimes through difficult terrain, to locate monuments, reference trees and line trees. They report any signs of inappropriate use, external threats or other types of corridor misuse, and they repaint boundary markings and keep a consistent watchful presence along the AT boundaries.

Once we have lined up all of our volunteers, a workshop will be offered to explain the details of corridor monitoring and boundary maintenance.

For more information on what this involves, see the Appalachian Trail Conservancy [website](#).

If you would like to be part of this dedicated team of volunteers, please contact our chapter AT Corridor Monitor Coordinator Greg Bernet at atmonitor@amcdv.org.



Adventure Travel with AMC

Travel the world with the AMC! Island hop along the Turku Archipelago, explore Spain's greatest secret (Picos de Europa), or wander across Easter Island.

Visit www.outdoors.org/adventuretravel for a complete list of offerings.

Remembering Kent Johnson: Chapter Chair, Regional Director, Mohican Founder

Kent Johnson, former Delaware Valley Chapter Chair (1987-89), AMC Southern Regional Director, founding father of the Mohican Outdoor Center, and Mohican's first manager, passed away on January 29, 2016 at his home in the Poconos.



Kent was the Southern Regional Director for AMC and an avid trail worker in the early 90s when he asked National Park Service staff in the Delaware Water Gap if there was a place that the chapter could store trail tools in the area.

They showed him a storage barn at Camp Mohican, near Blairstown. Kent did some additional investigating at the site, and found out that it was an extensive property with multiple lodges and cabins. It had been used most recently by Trenton State College as an environmental education center, but they decided not to renew their lease with NPS in 1992.

Since Kent and AMC had been involved in a "five year search for an ideal center to serve southern chapter members" (quoting Kent from an AMC Outdoors article, April 1994), he was very excited by the potential of this location and managed to persuade Executive Director Andy Falender and AMC President Sandy Saunders to travel from Boston to take a look in April of 1993. Various AMC staff members and DV Chapter officers who were in attendance at the Spring Gathering hosted that year by the DV Chapter took part in this tour on a beautiful spring day. That tour and Kent's continuing persuasive efforts as Regional Director resulted in a memorandum of understanding being signed by AMC and the NPS in November of that year for AMC to lease Mohican.

Starting in the fall of 1993, Mohican was operated by a volunteer committee, with Kent as its first chair. By June of 1994, Mike Torrey (AMC's Facilities Director) had proclaimed "Mohican is a success," and AMC had green lighted the hiring of a full-time caretaker.

In August, the Caretaker Selection Subcommittee selected Kent to assume the new position, effective October 1994. He remained in that position as genial host, devoted trail worker, and Mohican visionary until 1997.

In more recent years, Kent continued to live in the Pocono area, working at the Home Depot in Stroudsburg. He was a writer for the Pocono Record and for the Pocono Environmental Education Center and maintained an active role in environmental causes and local trail work projects.

Kent loved the outdoors and was a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club from the 1970s on. In his younger years, he hiked extensively in the Andes and North America, including climbing 20,310 foot Denali (Mount McKinley) by the arduous traditional route. He also was a talented photographer who took many outstanding photos of his adventures.

A memorial service for Kent is being planned by the family, to take place in the Delaware Water Gap sometime in May. The family has requested that donations in his memory should be made to the Mohican Outdoor Center. Donations can be sent to: Appalachian Mountain Club, 5 Joy Street, Boston, MA 02108.

— Lennie Steinmetz



Left: Kent in 2013 at the Mohican 20th Anniversary event; above, Kent in 1993 helping a customer at the Mohican camp store.

I first met Kent when he asked to have a breakfast meeting with me and Katherine Cox, our chapter chair. In the diner, I saw this red bearded giant, who told us about an abandoned Reading rail line that he and some friends had been following and which he thought would make a good hiking trail. At this time, preserving old rail lines was just becoming popular.

Once Kent initiated a project he pursued it relentlessly and quickly gathered a bunch of fellow hikers to his cause. There were myriad problems including land ownership problems, deteriorating bridges, which made walking on them an adventure, opposition from NIMBY'S, and lack of money. Eventually a county commissioner became supportive, and the trail became a reality, largely due to Kent and his enthusiastic supporters. [It is the Perkiomen Trail]

Despite his continuing heart problems, Kent was always upbeat and cheerful and was probably the kindest person I ever knew.

— Jane Shepard



Trail volunteers needed for Harriman, Mohican

As many of you already know, AMC will be opening its doors to Harriman Outdoor Center (HOC) this year. Located at the former site of a youth camp on Breakneck Pond, HOC is part of the organization's broader commitment to expand its impact in the greater New York area. Numerous AMC groups will use the center, including AMC-led youth outdoor education and leadership programs, as well as chapter-led programs open to the general public.

In addition to the Harriman Outdoor Center, AMC has hired a NY/NJ Trails Volunteer Programs Supervisor, Jonathan Martin. Jonathan will be primarily responsible for staff led volunteer trail programming, including week-long Teen Trail Crews and week-long Adult Volunteer Vacations. He will also be responsible for the implementation of trail programming based out of Mohican Outdoor Center, where, in addition to the week-long opportunities there will be a single day opportunity on the 2nd Saturday of each month starting in April as well as an Adopt-A-Trail program.

If you would like some more information regarding staff-led trail volunteer opportunities in NY and NJ or simply just want to say hello, please contact Jonathan at jmartin@outdoors.org.

Get the schedule for more information on AMC volunteer opportunities at <http://amcdv.org/volunteer.html>

Citizen science.

Real environmental science you can do.

Real conservation science!

Click here or see amcdv.org/conserv2.html



AMC mid-Atlantic office settled in to Illick's Mill

The three person staff has completed the move, and we are now using the mill for their offices, for business meetings, Lehigh Valley Group meetings, and other events.

Illicks Mill, 100 Illicks Mill Rd, Bethlehem, Pa 18017

Available soon from AMC Books

1. AMC's Best Day Hikes in the White Mountains, 3rd edition: Available late February
2. AMC's Best Sea Kayaking in New England: Available late March
3. AMC's Best Sea Kayaking in the Mid-Atlantic: Available late March
4. Massachusetts Trail Guide, 10th edition: Available late March



Paddling, water safety courses offered

An introductory tandem canoeing course on paddling flatwater and basic river paddling is scheduled in two parts, with session one on Saturday, May 21, and session two, Saturday, June 18. The first session will be in the New Jersey Pine Barrens, on a lake and a river.

The second, on the Delaware River, near Lambertville, NJ. Members \$85/non-member \$105, for both classes, \$50/\$60 each. Member rates apply to both AMC members and members of the Churchville Nature Center, who is a joint sponsor of this activity.

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 9 and 10 on the Schuylkill River near Reading, PA, and will cover basic solo paddling up to entry level whitewater. Members \$25/ non-members \$35.

Our annual **swiftwater safety** session is marked for July 23 at the Lambertville Wing Dam on the Delaware River, \$15/25.

All of these courses have modest fees, and all equipment is provided. These events may be rescheduled due to water levels and weather conditions. For the latest information go to the paddler's web site, paddlenow.com.

Leaders: make your activities sound like fun; improve your trip descriptions

DV Chapter leaders, one of AMC's missions is to get more people outdoors. To experience the joys and benefits of time spent outdoors recreating. To help you with this mission a committee of volunteers from the Chapters Committee has created a helpful Activities Database Style Guide with suggestions and guidance on how to improve your activity descriptions.

Your descriptions should make your activities sound fun, interesting and welcoming. When you are writing your descriptions try to include as much information as possible to reduce the number of questions you will have to answer from participants. This easy to use Style Guide can be found on our website at the following link: amcdv.org/assets/activities-database-style-guide.pdf

AMC Volunteers give the Leroy Smith Shelter on the AT a new roof for Christmas



The old roof on the Leroy Smith Shelter was replaced on December 27 with a new green metal roof that should last for many years. There were three small places the roof was rotted but they were able to patch those with new wood prior to attaching the new roof. The entire cost of the materials was well below our budget of \$600. The final cost was \$343.52.

All of the labor was donated by 14 dedicated volunteers. Two of them, Todd Kluska and Jay Coleman, were experts in construction and took the lead on the task at hand. Dan Schwartz efficiently organized and led the entire work party, which included Noelle, Benton and Dimiti Schwartz, Mike and Kieu Manes, Tom George, Greg Bernet, Joan Aichele, Charlie Ogle, John Rogers, Jerry Srodes, Jay Colman and Todd Kluska, plus other volunteers who previously removed a dangerous overhanging tree that threatened the shelter.

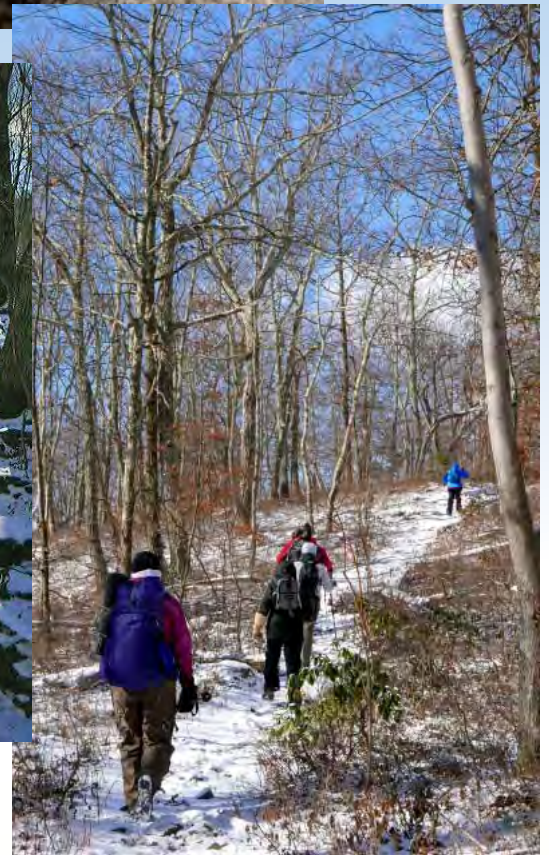
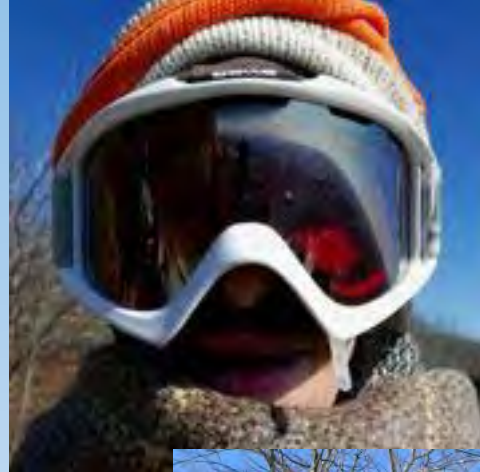


December 27, 2015

The shelter, built and maintained by our chapter, is located on the AT about four and a half miles south of Wind Gap, PA,



Winter Trail Days



Snowshoe Weekend at Mohican, February 12-14, Jennifer Percival photos,



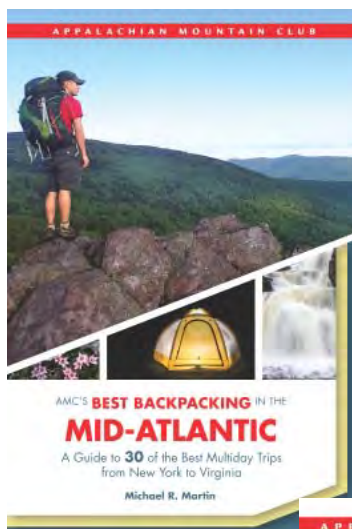
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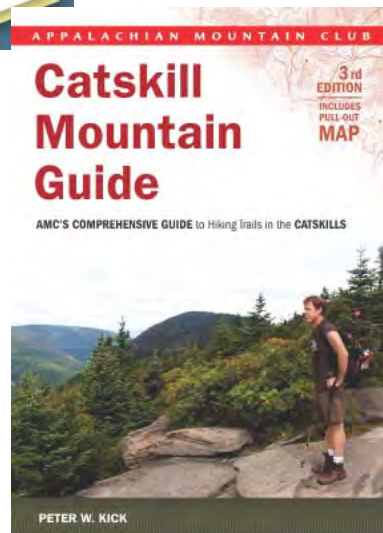
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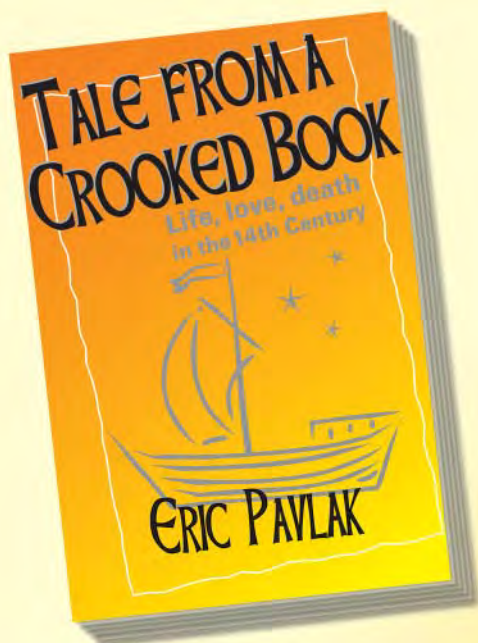
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Electronic trip reporting: you no longer need to mail forms!

With our new on-line trip report system, AMC-DV leaders can file trip reports electronically, instead of mailing them to the appropriate activity chair. You will need to:

1. **Get a User ID and password for the chapter trip reporting system.** This is not the same thing as having a user ID and password for entering trips into AMC's on line activity system. However, you can keep things simple by using the same user ID and password for both.

(Explanation why: AMC's on line activity system is located on a secure server controlled by the staff at AMC headquarters in Boston. The trip reporting system is located on the secure server that hosts this web site, our DV Chapter site. This site and the trip reporting system was created by two local volunteers. We are actually a step or two ahead of what the folks in Boston are doing. For security and technical reasons, we have no access to your log in credentials on the trip listing server.)

If you have not yet been sent a link to set up your User ID and password, or if you have forgotten your ID, please contact login-help@amcdv.org. This help mailbox is monitored by a volunteer, so it may take a day or more to get a response, particularly on weekends. Please be patient!

2. **Scan or photograph your trip sign in sheets.** We just need the side with the signatures. The file format should be either PDF or JPEG. [Click here for some very useful help](#) with scanning or photographing your sign in release sheets. After you are done scanning, look at the file, and make sure that you could read it.
3. **Fill out the trip report** on line at <http://amcdv.org/TripReport.php>

When you report on line, here is what happens:



Sign-in sheet,
plus on-line trip report..

This goes to the activity chair. You can get a copy e-mailed back to you if you check the appropriate box.



A copy automatically goes to our volunteer activity logger, who enters the trip and participant information. This is how we track miles hiked, rivers paddled, trails worked on, etc. This will be used for our new annual awards.



A copy automatically goes to AMC headquarters in Boston, where it is used for statistical purposes, and kept as a legal record.

Click Here to go to the log in page
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