



Appalachian Mountain Club

Delaware Valley Chapter

Annual Report for 2019

Overview

It is truly a humbling experience to become Chair of an organization like the DV Chapter of the AMC and to realize that such a DEEP, BROAD, and STRONG organization exists due to the contributions of many people over many years. Every day our chapter is providing great activities for our members, welcoming new people into the outdoors, maintaining trails, and providing support services to make all of these things happen seamlessly. Our DEEP reservoir of volunteers use their talents to make all of this happen, every day, and year round.

Leadership training is the beginning of preparation for many of our volunteers. After many years of preparing new leaders and doing recent double duty as the Chair of AMC August Camp committee, Lennie Steinmetz passed on the DV Leadership Chair role to Jeff Fritzinger. Jeff led a very successful training weekend in April and along with Barbara Beatrice assists other chapters with training.

Having a BROAD appeal to our members and potential members is important to keep outdoor clubs relevant. This year our chapter has tried to encourage a broad range of activities-from easy beginner to strenuous expert activities. We have increased shorter introductory activities and also high mileage, high challenge activities. Denis McCartan of the DV Chapter is leading the way in promoting trail running and worked closely with our Hiking Chair John Rogers and a team of others to develop fast hikes and trail running guidelines.

Other ways our chapter continues to reach out to a broad population is through our beginner backpacking workshops led by Cindy Crosser, our rapidly growing cycling program led by Bob Liston, our paddling training events led by Eric Pavlak, and the great social activities led by Jeanne Mantell. If you have been at any local outdoors community events this year, Kathy Kindness (membership) and Bill De Stefano (publicity) have probably been present to promote AMC with a creative display. Our Inclusion Committee led by Christine Loch has stimulated discussions during group events to help us continually improve the way we welcome others to AMC. And a great chapter weekend was led by Annette Sheldon in September at the Mohican Outdoor Center.

Moving into the future the DV Chapter is a STRONG organization. Our trail work programs led by Phil Mulligan continue to expand and our involvement continues in building the Highlands Trail with crews led by Greg Bernet. All leaders have now been given permission to lead conservation activities such as tree planting, invasive species removal, and trash clean-ups under the coordination of Adrian Noble. Our communications through our *Weekly Bulletin*, our excellent *Footnotes* newsletter, and well-functioning chapter website keep members informed and are a great first stop for those new to the DV Chapter. Our secretary Midori Wakabayashi and treasurer Joe Nanfara do much hard work behind the scenes to keep our chapter organized.

As part of the recognition of our strengths, the DV Chapter was asked to step in when another chapter did not have the capacity to host Fall Gathering 2020. We were able to rise to the challenge and will be hosting Fall Gathering 2020 at the Pocono Environmental Education Center October 16, 17 and 18. I hope I will see many of you there to celebrate all that is great about the DV Chapter.

Our past chair, Lois Rothenberger, was elected as a Regional Director for AMC this year and has been nominated to become

2020 Executive Committee Nominees

Chair – Susan Weida
Vice Chair – Bill DeStafino*
Secretary – Midori Wakabayashi
Treasurer – Margaret McDonald*
Backpacking – Cindy Crosser
Bicycling – Robert Liston
Communication – Eric Pavlak
Conservation – Adrian Noble
Diversity - Janet Penner*
Family Activities – Annette Sheldon
Hiking – John Rogers
Leadership – Jeff Fritzinger
Membership – Kathy Kindness
Paddling – Eric Pavlak
Social – Jeanne Mantell
Trails – Greg Bernet*
20s &30s – Kate Prisby

* new to this position

the treasurer of the entire AMC by the AMC Board of Directors beginning in 2020. What an incredible honor for Lois and for the DV Chapter!

None of these efforts would happen however, without you, our DV Chapter members. We appreciate your participation in all of our activities and the positive fellowship you offer to new participants. Please feel free to communicate your thoughts and ideas with your executive committee members. Hope to see you on an activity soon.

— Susan Weida, Chapter Chair

Appie Awards for 2019

Kathy Kindness, Appie of the Year
Mike Manes, Golden Appie of the Year

Backpacking

This year we had 40 backpacks on the schedule which is more than last year. However, the number of participants was down significantly relative to previous years. Trips overall were poorly attended and there are complaints of many participants canceling at the last minute.

The beginner backpacking workshop that was run in the springtime had a record breaking number of paid attendees. I canceled the second workshop that is usually run in the summertime.

We had three leaders start leading trips for our chapter that are from the Potomac Chapter.

Our leadership training did not yield new leaders beyond Katie

Barok whom I just completed training with. Blase and Richard are in the training process.

— *Cindy Crosser, Backpacking Chair*



Bicycling

Statistics provided by Margaret McDonald were used to summarize trends in the bicycling program for 2019. Margaret's report covers activities in 2019 up to the end of September only. The data for the first nine months allow a comparison to a report for the same period in 2018. The reports do not describe all activities for either year.

Some trends in the data are evident. There has been a 31 percent increase in trip reports, representing a commensurate increase in the number of activities. 199 individuals participated in bicycle rides, as compared to 161 last year. This represents an increase in participants of 24 percent. We added four leaders this year; 19 leaders led trips this year. This compares to 18 active leaders last year. Since we are reaching a larger audience, it is hoped that we are reaching a wider geography and a more diverse population.

It is also hoped that we will be able to develop more new bicycling leaders from our participants. Doing so will allow us to continue to grow the program in both participants and the number of activities in future years.

Our bike rides seem to have a higher average participation rate than in previous years. On one bike ride there were 25 participants; this is the largest number of participants I have seen on an DV chapter bike ride. I have some concerns about the bike rides with large number of participants.

While these rides tended to be on trails that can support many riders, however we must consider the impact to others who use the trails. On some rides it would be helpful if we could break into smaller groups. This may be advantageous as we try to accommodate riders of differing abilities. We must also be conscious of the impact to pedestrians when crossing sidewalks and sharing paths over bridges. Pedestrians should always be given the right-of-way.

During 2019 I led weekly trail bike rides on Tuesdays; Noelle Schwartz led weekly road bike rides on Thursdays, and a group of leaders led weekly trail bike rides on Fridays. Most of our bike rides were one-day rides during weekdays. Many of the

participants in these rides are retirees. Last year we had weekly rides on Thursdays and Fridays. Tuesday rides were added this year. The Tuesday rides were listed in Meet-up. This allowed us to reach a wider audience of those available on weekdays.

We have had some participants using e-bikes. E-bikes provide an assist for some who might not otherwise be able to participate in the distances and at the speeds we normally ride. There have not been any problems associated with e-bikes on our rides. The use of e-bikes should be encouraged to accommodate those who would not otherwise be able to ride with us.

We continue to have a small number of bike-packing and multi-day activities that are popular with some of our participants. Though most of our bike rides are trail rides, there are a few road rides as well. We have not had as many rides on weekends as during the week. It would be desirable to increase the participation and leadership of younger riders. There has also been an interest in bike rides of shorter distances and slower speeds. We often accommodate such rides with multiple routes and groups on a single activity.

— *Robert Liston, Bicycling Chair*

Communication

Bulletins: We now have more than 1,090 subscribers to the *Weekly Bulletin*, including 83 who were not members at the time they signed up.

The bulletin provides a list with full description and contact information of all chapter activities for the next two weeks. They also get the *Advanced Notices Bulletin*, which provides the same information for all chapter multi-day activities that are currently posted to the database.

Web sites and web services: We have now had almost two years with virtual private server with our own unique IP (Inter-



net Protocol) address. This was done to solve problems with the trip reporting system's automatically generated e-mails being blacklisted or otherwise interfered with. There have been few problems with this system, and generally it is working very well. Almost all our trips reports are now filed electronically. We are the only AMC chapter with this capability.

In addition to myself, who handles web design and content, there is John Rowan, who does the behind the scenes coding necessary for our web calendar and electronic trip reporting

system, and Mike Ahern, who helps with the *Weekly Bulletin*.

The leader hotline was moved to simplelists.com after a test period with EC members. I exported the list from the old Yahoo Groups site, checked each of the 280 subscribers, and found out that we had only 130 actual leaders with valid addresses. Many on the old list were invalid addresses, not leaders or not even AMC members. Many of the old listings were e-mail addresses only, with no full name, or with only a first name or nickname. In the new system, all are listed with first and last name and e-mail address. The leader hotline is now moderated. Joan Aichele and I are the moderators.

John Rowen and I participated in a series of eight hour-long electronic meetings along with representatives of other chapters and club units on the redesign on the activities database {ActDB}. The result was a design specification for developments that will take place over the next few years.

Footnotes continues as our quarterly chapter newsletter with electronic distribution. Typical issues run nine to 14 pages. The upcoming winter issue will be the 60th I have edited.

— Eric Pavlak, Communication Chair

Conservation

We continued to publicize current important conservation issues on the chapter web site and Facebook to encourage and



easily allow members to comment to the appropriate authority, coordinating national campaigns with AMC HQ and adding local issues. This was done for:

The Trump Administration's proposed rollback of Clean Water Act protections.

Commenting on New Jersey rejoining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

Providing input for Pennsylvania's 2020-2024 Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Providing dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

We made a change so any qualified leader could post a conservation event. Previously, only specific leaders could post

them. We gave some presentations at the leader's dinner and other meetings to publicize this. The number of leaders running such activities is slowly increasing and we hope it will further increase next year.

The number of conservation specific events was about the same as last year, and included:

Planting American chestnut trees in the spring and harvesting nuts for seed in the autumn.

Cleanup's on the Delaware Canal and Monocacy Creek.

Invasive species removal at Mariton Wildlife sanctuary and Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve.

Tree plantings at various Natural Lands Trust properties, Monocacy Creek, and the Bethlehem Municipal Water Authority.

— Adrian Noble, Conservation Chair

Diversity, Equality & Inclusion

The following provides a summary of the 2019 accomplishments of the DEI Committee which celebrates its second year as a committee within the DV Chapter. This committee has the sole focus of identifying and ensuring the membership and activities of the chapter align with the DEI goals set forth by the central AMC headquarters, and to identify existing and potential barriers relevant to chapter membership, activities, and processes which may create bias, limit diverse outreach, and create unintended exclusion. To ensure these goals are put to action, the DEI Committee focused on three key areas for 2019, these included chapter education and awareness within the leadership and membership; enhance the sense of inclusion within the DV Chapter culture for members and activity participants; and to expand the diversity of the clubs outreach within the community.

Chapter Education

A diversity and inclusion activity was integrated into the annual leadership training program for new leaders, with an additional activity included as part of evening activities for all AMC leaders.

A leadership tip sheet was developed and made available to the chapter leaders, to educate them on simple methods to enhance a culture of inclusion within their activities.

Our goal is to enhance the sense of inclusion for members and activity participants.

In collaboration with the family activities chair, social events were integrated into chapter weekend. Events included the first annual SOAR event, whereby participants shared lessons learned from their outdoor experiences.

A DEI Committee member was included in the 2019 nominating committee. Her role was to identify and reduce unintended barriers to the selection of leadership candidates, enhancing the selection of a diverse representation of the DV leadership.

In collaboration with the membership and social chairs, ice-breaking activities were integrated into the annual chapter picnic.

Access to chapter picnic and leadership dinner has been improved with the offering of regular shuttle service to and from local train stations to the event locations.

All executive committee meetings are now listed as an activity by the vice chair in the activities database in order to publicize them and encourage attendance by chapter members.

Community Outreach

The chapter web site now includes a DEI page for posting inclusion information and skills for all interested stakeholders.

In collaboration with the membership chair, several tabling events were integrated into local community festivals and fairs.

Also in collaboration with the membership chair, a tabling

event at a Delaware Water Gap trail head, whereby entry-level hikes will be offered, and information on basic hiking skills will be provided two times in the fall.

In collaboration with like-minded organizations (NextGen Advisory Council, and the AT Conservancy) DEI committee, participated in web-based discussion groups with a focus on tackling issues related to inclusion on the trail.

Upcoming Goals and Initiatives for 2020

The DEI committee is exploring the following opportunities

Conduct annual online town halls for the members to engage with the chapter leadership, providing opportunities for input and participate in discussion without having to commute to a meeting place. Travel may be a barrier to chapter participation.

Explore the concept of developing a web-based gear swap, whereby gently used equipment may be purchased or traded.

Explore the concept of web-streaming LV Group meeting presentations and discussions, improving access to all members.

Continue to identify opportunities to collaborate with local like-minded outdoor clubs

Continue to identify needs in the community, where outdoor opportunities may be limited or education is needed; identify creative approaches to address these needs.

— Christine Loch, DEI Chair

Family Activities

A family hike-and-explore at Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge (Galloway, NJ) on November 23, 2018 by Sue and Seth Bergmann drew 19 participants, including six kids for various length hikes. A recycling service event at a Philadelphia Phillies baseball game, “Red Goes Green,” by Kathy Kindness drew 30 attendees, of whom five were kids.

An early-summer Family Adventure Getaway Weekend program at Mohican June 13-16 by Annette Sheldon drew three families, 10 participants total, including six kids. Another seven families indicated interest, but cancelled after registration difficulties with the AMC-Reservations group event reservation process.

A families-invited New Members Family Weekend at Harriman on July 26-28 by Carrie Ho (cross-listed from North Jersey chapter) drew 19 participants; including seven families. A Plainsboro (NJ) Audubon Preserve mid-autumn family hike on October 12 by Annette Sheldon drew only three participants. one family, besides the hike leaders.

We note again that only existing large-scale events, and occasionally hikes at prominent parks, have demonstrated potential for attracting family participants to AMC events. The multiple-leaders, multiple-lengths hike as per the Bergmanns’ listing above may work, but requires an appropriate trail network, sufficient leaders, and proximate families population. Co-listings with local, established hiking groups (usually connected with a specific park area) are also possible.

In the wider world, all leaders should be encouraged to chat with hikers they meet on trails, to invite them to check out the AMC. They may eventually join, individually or as families. Additionally, leaders should be trained to encourage carpooling (invite a neighbor) to include those who might attend a hike, but would welcome additional adult supervision or companionship during the drive to an event.

— Annette Sheldon, Family Activities Chair

Hiking

At the core of DV’s strong hiking program is a team of 100+ hike leaders with a passion to share their love of the outdoors with others. Each leader brings a unique and valued set of skills, knowledge, and enthusiasm to the path and trail that is deeply appreciated.

In 2019, our exceptional leaders are continuing a long tradition: organizing a wide variety of walks and hikes in all seasons, from the hottest days of summer when entire groups glisten in the sun to winter climbs wearing show-shoes or crampons in snowstorms. In the first nine months of this year, DV leaders have led an average 65 hikes every month. Nearly 1,500 individuals have joined and enjoyed these outings. 135 members reached 100-miler status this past year. Friends new and old



made many a memory together.

Special recognition should be given to our very dedicated leaders who schedule on-going hike series. These include weekly hikes at Wissahickon, Valley Forge, Perkiomen, Phoenixville, French Creek, Delaware River, central New Jersey, and more. DV leaders also organize repeating seasonal events that include multi-day winter peak-bagging adventures, full-moon night hikes and visits to AMC lodges, to name a few. New activities have also been added during the past year, most notably fast hikes and trail running.

A review of DV’s hike program wouldn’t be complete without mentioning health and safety. DV leaders continue their



emphasis on participant and group safety. Around our region, DV leaders have a well-deserved reputation for competence and quality leadership. Hikers know we won't leave them behind, and that when things happen we will be there for them.

And DV remains committed to improving even more over time. Both our chapter and club encourage and sponsor on-going training and education for both leaders and members. Programs offered include leader training, wilderness first aid, map and compass, leave-no-trace, advanced back-country skills and on-going peer teaching during hikes.

— John Rogers, Hiking Chair

Leadership

Outdoor Leadership Training Course

The DV Chapter's annual Outdoor Leadership Training course took place this year on the weekend of April 6-7. As in prior years, the training took place at Nockamixon State Park, which we are grateful to have as a partner promoting both outdoor education and conservation. The Chapter is fortunate to have an excellent training program established by past Chair, Lennie Steinmetz.

In 2019, we began a few new initiatives to get more leaders involved in training. This included having a few recent OLT graduates return to assist in facilitating. In addition, we invited a trainer from another chapter to enhance inter-chapter collaboration. These initiatives will continue into the future to provide opportunities for new facilitators to gain exposure to the process as well as expanding our depth of trainers.

I want to thank our instructors for the 2019 training, Barbara Beatrice, Cindy Crosser, Stan DeRiel, Bill DeStefano, Jeff Fritzinger, Karla Geisler, Pete Jarrett, Mark Kern, Bob Liston, Jeff Mayes (Worcester Chapter), Denis McCartan, Phil Mulligan, Adrian Noble, Rich Pace, Ron Phelps, Kate Prisby, John

Rogers, John Rowen, Annette Sheldon, Amy Williams, and Dean Witman. Feedback themes from participants included the noticeable energy and enthusiasm over the entire weekend, high regard for the experiential learning model and the knowledge and contributions from all instructors.

The leader training process does not end when the course is completed. Trainees must complete two co-leads in the activities they wish to lead. This requires mentors to guide them in that next step. Without the dedication of our mentors, DV's leadership program would not be a success. We had 22 different leaders mentor trainees this year, which demonstrates the outstanding camaraderie we share in our Chapter. Special recognition and appreciation go out to those who mentored our new leaders in 2019.

DV's 2019 OLT class produced 21 graduates, including two from other chapters. To date, ten of our 19 DV trainees completed both required co-leads and became leaders for the chapter, across several different activities. Six additional grads have completed their first co-leads, several of whom are planning their second, which should be completed by year-end.

I am pleased to congratulate our new leaders from the class of 2019: Katie Barok (BP), Kristen Falzon (H), Grant Gaston (H), Jesse Gusler (H&T), Hong Hammarberg (H), Karen Rossino (B), Susan Schmitt (B), Julie Watson (H), Ann Wolf (H), Sharon Wunner (B&H).

We also welcomed other new activity leaders to our Chapter. Jean MacFarlane (BP&H), David Mong, NY/NoJ backpack chair (BP,H&B), Jill Watkins (BP&H), Dean Witman (BP&H).

Note: (BP) Backpack, (B) Bike, (H) Hike, (T) Trails

Other Leadership Training Activities

As part of the Leadership Training weekend, we held our annual Leaders Dinner. This event is always well attended by our existing leaders and offered free of charge to show appreciation for all they do throughout the year. It is also provides a catalyst for trainees to network with our leaders and meet some of the mentors. The dinner always includes fun learning activities and interesting presentations. This year, we included a roundtable exercise focused on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as well as managing potential Code of Conduct issues.

This event is a large undertaking by our chapter, but very rewarding. In addition to our Leadership facilitators, who also assisted in the dinner event, I would like to give special thanks to Margaret McDonald (Dinner Chair), Lennie Steinmetz, Jeanne Mantell, Mary Jane Martin, Kathy Kindness, and Ellen Berry for all of their hard work and dedication to make this event a huge success.

In June, Barbara Beatrice, Michel Daage and myself conducted a map & compass workshop targeted at bringing trainees together, as well as opening it to existing leaders and new members. The event was well attended and was a good mix of all constituencies.

With a mission of inter-chapter collaboration on leadership training, Barbara Beatrice and myself helped to plan and facilitate leader training for the Potomac and NY/NoJ Chapters. Both chapters, as well as Connecticut have reciprocity status with DV.

The AMC Center for Outdoor Learning & Leadership (COLL) offers a "Train the Trainer" course, emphasizing experiential techniques to enhance outdoor education platforms. Barbara Beatrice and myself continue to be very active in planning and instructing for this highly recommended program, open to all

leaders. At least five members from our DV leadership team are planning to attend the next class later in November 2019.

In summary, I've had fun this year finding my way through leadership training from a different lens. I owe Lennie Steinmetz a debt of gratitude for her many years and building a best in class training program. I look forward to continuing that reputation for the years to come.

— Jeff Fritzingerz, *Leadership Chair*

Lehigh Valley Group

The Lehigh Valley Group has now completed its twenty-seventh year of existence. Meetings take place on the third Wednesday of every month (except December, July, and August). These meetings now take place at Illick's Mill in Bethlehem, the home of the AMC's Mid-Atlantic Region office.

Programs this year have included presentations on a wide range of topics. AMC Bethlehem staff members Mark Zakutansky and Tricia McCloskey frequently share information on conservation efforts and concerns, and Chapter Chair Susan Weida provides information on upcoming AMC-DV events.

The LVG monthly meetings also include a short discussion on upcoming outdoor activities and a social time with refreshments. Meeting attendance ranges from 30 to 50 people, including longtime AMC members as well as potential members who have read about the meeting in local media posts or on Meetup. The group looks forward to continuing these monthly get-togethers for years to come.

— Phill Hunsberger, *LV Group Chair*

Membership

The year 2019 was an incredible year for our membership team. In January, Bill De Stefano came on board as publicity chair. This chair "promote[s] the mission and activities of Delaware Valley Chapter AMC to persons and communities in the AMC-DV area." Bill not only improved our chapter's presence on Facebook and Instagram, but he also made our community tabling displays more interesting with slide shows showcasing our chapter's activities.

In terms of community outreach, over a dozen DV leaders and other volunteers presented interactive displays at the Banff Film Festival, Blue Marsh Lake's Go Outdoors Day, Lehigh Valley's Step Outdoors Day, Warren County Heritage Days, the Bucks County Peace Fair, the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and the Lehigh Gap Nature Center. We also hit the college circuit at Rowan University's Employee Wellness Day, Temple Ambler's Great American Campout, and Earth Day programs at Lehigh University and Temple University-Ambler. We talked to hundreds of people about the club and taught lessons about leave no trace and hiking 101. Our informative programs proved so popular that we've been invited back to many locales in 2020.

Our membership team did more than talk. While all our chapter leaders create a welcoming environment for activity participants, some leaders planned introductory and new member welcome hikes specifically for prospective and new members. DV leaders Cindy Crosser, Raun Kercher, Jay Gross, Jennifer Percival, Linda Watsula, Barb Beatrice and others led hikes in Tyler State Park, Peace Valley Park, French Creek

State Park, Valley Forge, White Clay Creek State Park, the Karl Stirner Arts Trail, Duke Farms, and Lehigh Gap, as well as in downtown Easton and Bethlehem. DV leader Cindy Friel also organized many joint programs with the Bucks-Montgomery County Hiking Group, which has been an effective way to introduce other outdoor-minded people to all that AMC has to offer.

Finally, we offered some unique programs to attract new and re-energize existing members. In March, the gear swap at the Activities Social was a huge success. In April, we celebrated new members by co-hosting at weekend at the Mohican Outdoor Center with AMC's New York/North Jersey chapter. In June, we cheered on the Philadelphia Phillies at a "Red Goes Green" volunteer event, collecting recyclables during a game. On National Trails Day we cleaned up wild garlic mustard at Bowman's Tower Wildflower Preserve and learned about native plants.

From June to September, our outdoor-themed summer book club read and discussed books such as *Grandma Gatewood's Walk* and *The Nature Fix*. In addition to learning about AMC's activities and adventure travel trips, readers even experienced forest bathing with a certified forest bathing practitioner.

It has been a pleasure to cheerlead for AMC this year, to meet new and prospective members, and to work with dedicated and talented leaders. I look forward to an exciting 2020!

— Kathy Kindness, *Membership Chair*



Paddling

Flat water trips remain popular, and are often filled to capacity. For eight years, we have been running numerous flat water trips using Meetup to successfully fill trips to capacity. White-water, which once dominated our paddling schedule, is now completely absent.

This season we ran 22 trips, including a two-day base camp trip on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River.

There were no new paddling leaders this year, but we have a leader in training we hope will become a leader next season.

The one-day swiftwater safety course took place July 20 on the Delaware River at the Lambertville wing dam. Eleven students and two instructors participated. The course was taught at an introductory level, to match the skills and needs of the class members.

A full list of the year's trips and pages of photographs are available at paddlenow.com

— Eric Pavlak, *Paddling Chair*



Shelter: Leroy Smith shelter on the AT

The shelter watch care taking program is on-going since the shelter watch's dedication in 1994. Summer watch is scheduled April 15 to October 31 with a volunteer visiting once every week. Winter watch follows November 1 to April 15 with a volunteer visiting the shelter once every two weeks, weather permitting. The summer and winter watches total 325 hours.

The watchers check the condition of and remove debris at the Shelter itself as well as the composting privy, the adjacent camping site, three lower springs, and the Katellen trail, and report their findings to the Shelter chair on pre-addressed postcards.

As always, the shelter receives special attention from Charlie Ogle and Dan Schwartz who paint, repair, replace damaged parts, saw/carry-out broken tree limbs, and, with the watchers, weed-whack and clear trails.

This year Steven Matthew Read was an outstanding ridge runner in the 27th year of the program. The ridge runner is an AMC employee who works on the AT five days a week including weekends and holidays between Memorial and Labor Day. Not only did Steven meet and greet users, educate hikers on the Leave No Trace program, and clean and preserve the trails, but he took many photographs (100+) and received exceptional comments from hikers.

In early June, there was an incident near the Leroy Smith Shelter. A hiker came in contact with two men with a machete and axe. The hiker feared he was going to be assaulted and robbed. A State Police helicopter and on-ground officer established contact and conversation, and reported that all parties realized a misunderstanding. No charges were filed. Given background information on the shelter watch program, the Lehigh-ton unit responded, "Thank you! We're entering the AMC's contribution to our Good Deeds-of-the-Month files."

The spotted lantern fly, an invasive species, was spotted by hikers along the AT and jumping around the shelter. Identified in Berks County in 2014, Pennsylvania appears to be one of the eastern states losing ground in attempts to extinguish it.

— Patricia Sacks, Shelter Chair

Social

No one can say that AMC-DV members are standoffish! We always enjoy each other's company at our gatherings and make new acquaintances. The Activities Social, held at the New Hope Eagle Fire Department on March 10, was no exception. We started as usual with our gear swap and sale then rolled right in to happy hour. It was a great way to get some great buys to help us enjoy our outdoor adventures plus introduce new people to our mission. Dinner was followed by recognition of our hundred milers, leaders and volunteers. Priscilla Estes gave a brief overview of her new book *AMC's Best Day Hikes in New Jersey: Four-Season Guide to 50 of the Best Trails in the Garden State, from the Skylands to the Shore*. A signed copy of the book was given to leaders as a token of thanks for their efforts throughout the year.

More than 60 attendees welcomed summer at our annual picnic held on Saturday, June 22, at Peace Valley Park in Doylestown, Bucks County, PA. We had an afternoon of feasting, fun and camaraderie among new friends and old. An ice breaker that had people add a word describing one of their interests to their name tag facilitated conversation and an opportunity to learn something new about individuals. Hamburgers, black bean burgers and hot dogs were hot off the grill and enjoyed with delicious sides and desserts. Guests were encouraged to bring their own reusable plates, cups and flatware to aid in our conservation efforts.

Transportation from SEPTA Lansdale/Doylestown Regional Rail station in Chalfont was offered as a potential way to reduce our carbon footprint by utilizing public transit. Although no one required pick up at the station, one attendee did arrive by bicycle.

Our largest and potentially most important gathering of the year, the Delaware Valley Chapter's Annual Meeting and Dinner, was held at the Pennridge Community Center on November 2.

In addition to socializing, our time together will be spent recognizing the contributions of dedicated chapter members including our Volunteers of the Month, our Appie and Golden





20s & 30s

Throughout the first seven months of 2019 nearly two dozen 20s & 30s trips were offered within the Delaware Valley Chapter. These ranged from events like hiking, trail running and socials.

In addition, Delaware Valley Chapter members partook in the multi-chapter 20s & 30s takeover weekend at Harriman State Park.

In terms of expanding the 20s & 30s leadership base, five 20s & 30s members participated in the Delaware Valley's Outdoor Leadership Training in April. Some have completed the requirements to become leaders, while others are still in the process.

— Kate Prisby, 20s & 20s Chair

Treasurer's Report

Overall Financial Assessment

The activities of the Delaware Valley Chapter resulted in a surplus for the 12 months ending on September 30, 2018.

Financial Details

The Delaware Valley Chapter operates as a branch of the Appalachian Mountain Club, a non-profit corporation with headquarters in Boston, Massachusetts. Chapter financial activities comply with rules established by the AMC, including the AMC fiscal year from January 1 through December 31. The chapter's books are maintained on a cash basis in a computerized accounting system and the chapter provides an annual financial report for AMC audit and review within a month after completing the fiscal year.

Chapter income comes primarily as an allocation of a portion of the AMC dues paid by members who reside in the Delaware Valley area. In the 12 months covered by this report, the dues allocation provided most of the chapter's income similar to previous years.

Because this report occurs before the end of the official fiscal year, it follows the format from recent years and covers a 12-month accounting period from October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018.

— Joe Nanfara, Treasurer

Financial statement follows on the next page.

Appie of the Year, and spectacularly we will be recognizing our 25 and 50 year members. In addition, we elected our 2020 Executive Committee. Our featured speaker was Steve Tatko, AMC's Director of Maine Conservation and Land Management. Steve was an engaging speaker who presented *AMC's Maine Mission: Conserving a Northeast Legacy Landscape*. AMC is undertaking a new model of large scale conservation work that pairs ecological protection with sustainable economic development in the Maine Woods.

Once again, public transportation was offered from the SEPTA Lansdale/Doylestown Regional Rail station in Chalfont to our event. — Jeanne Mantell, Social Chair

Trails

The Trails Committee is active at many sites: At Valley Forge National Historic Park we continue with monthly trail work on Mts. Joy and Misery. The heavy rains in summer 2019 greatly eroded the trails.

Valley Forge also noted the damage and we held a major trails event for National Public Lands Day, September 28. Amazingly, this attracted 14 volunteers, mostly through park publicity. They contributed 41 hours of work that day. Valley Forge is bringing a team from AMC New Hampshire early in 2020 to assess the trails and make suggestions.

On the Appalachian Trail. Dan Schwartz and company continue to work on the trails and attend countless meetings.

Mike Manes continues his work to reestablish the American chestnut tree. This is a conservation activity, but trails is part of Conservation at the AMC's top level.

Greg Bernet tirelessly leads work on the Pennsylvania Highlands Trail and plus other trails in the northern New Jersey area.

Greg will be taking over as trails chair for next year. I would like to thank the AMC-DV members and leaders for their help over the years while I was trails chair.

— Phil Mulligan, Trails Chair



Operational Income vs. Expense for the 12 month period from 10/1/2018 thru 9/30/2019 compared to prior 12 month period

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	Current Period	Prior Period		
Allocation from AMC Dues	\$ 15,021.25	\$ 16,495.25		
Membership sales	\$ 2,490.00	\$ 503.00		
Reimbursement from ATC	\$ 7,590.52	\$ 7,432.80		
Other Income	\$ 7,423.28	\$ 11,043.01		
Interest from Bank Accounts	\$ 5.33	\$ 5.72		
Activities-Trips	\$ 21,756.58	\$ 24,885.72		
Total Income	\$ 54,286.96	\$ 60,365.50		
Communication	\$ 1,307.34	\$ 1,598.39		
Attendance at Club Wide Mtgs	\$ 2,992.20	\$ 2,898.60		
Trails & Shelter Maintenance	\$ 9,498.20	\$ 9,629.73		
Recognition	\$ 1,703.85	\$ 1,793.64		
Chapter Social Events	\$ 4,872.09	\$ 4,744.33		
Committee Expenses	\$ 1,745.57	\$ 1,550.28		
Membership Activities	\$ 21,878.74	\$ 25,165.74		
Leadership and Outdoor Skills	\$ 4,269.61	\$ 4,064.16		
Other Expenses	\$ 2,008.87	\$ 1,031.78		
Donations	\$ 750.00	\$ 5,148.85		
Total Expenses	\$ 51,026.47	\$ 57,625.50		
Surplus/Loss - income less expenses	\$ 3,260.49	\$ 2,740.00		

Cash Assets on 9/30/2018 compared to 9/30/2019

	10/1/19	9/30/18	Increase (Decrease)
Checking Account	1,171.43	4,474.75	(3,303.32)
Money Market Account (savings)	24,778.39	31,373.28	(6,594.89)
Operating Cash Assets	25,949.82	35,848.03	(9,898.21)
AMC Investment Account*	77,486.00	61,085.00	16,401.00

* The AMC Investment Account is managed by AMC and is available to Chapters to provide long term growth opportunities for funds not needed for current operations. Deposits and withdrawals of these funds are restricted to specific periods of each calendar quarter.

Checking and money market funds are in FDIC insured bank accounts

Cash assets are divided between two categories as:

	Current Period	Prior Period
Operating Funds	25,949.82	35,848.03
Reserves in Boston(held in cash)	39,755.00	42,955.00
Excess Reserves (Invested)	37,731.00	27,816.00
	103,435.82	106,619.03

Operating Funds are the funds and reserves for day-to-day operations of the Chapter

Reserves held by Boston are set aside for Chapter needs

Excess Reserves are invested for long-term growth

Questions or comments on this report are welcome and can be addressed to the Treasurer at the Annual Dinner or by e-mail to treasurer@amcdv.org - Joe Nanfara, Treasurer

Recognition of Past Service and Awards

Appie of the Year is awarded to a newer chapter member who has provided extraordinary service to the chapter. Past winners:

2018 Jay Gross	2005 Jim Catozzi
2017 John Rogers	2004 Jennifer Decker
2016 Greg Bernet	2003 Kevin Perry
2015 Denis McCartan	2002 Chris Cayer
2014 Sue Bickford-Martin	2001 Andrea Deaton
2013 Terry Berntsen	2000 Paul Davis
2012 Rich Pace	1999 Bill McCaughey
2011 Midori Wakabayashi	1998 Kevin Burkman
2010 Rhoda Eisman	1997 Kevin Kramer
2009 Anne Murphy	1996 Rajat Tandon
2008 Joan Aichele	1995 Rich Kajander
2007 Rich Wells	1994 Marty Seibert
2006 Craig Smith	1993 Kathy Kelly-Borowski

Golden Appie of the Year is awarded to a chapter member who has provided extraordinary service to the chapter over many years. Past winners:

2018 Phill Hunsberger	2007 Eric Pavlak
2017 Jim Catozzi	2006 Lennie Steinmetz
2016 Pat and Ken Sacks	2005 Walt Underhill
2015 Rich Wells	2004 Dan Schwartz, Lois Nichols
2014 Esther Underhill	2003 Gary Leander
2013 Nancy & Cliff Hence	(None for 2002)
2012 John Rowen	2001 Bill Steinmetz
2011 Mark Kern	2000 Helmut Gude
2010 Allen Male	1999 Malcolm White
2009 Peter Jarrett	1998 Jane Shepard
2008 Joseph Bell	

Chapter Committee Recognitions. The Appalachian Mountain Club and the Delaware Valley Chapter gratefully acknowledge the volunteer hours and many contributions of all outgoing and continuing Chapter Executive Committee members as well as the Nominating Committee members.

Past Chapter Chairs

Lois Rothenberger 2017-18	Alan Kahn, 1990-91
Joan Aichele 2014-16	Kent Johnson, 1987-89
Allen Male, 2012-13	George Heckler, 1985-86
Craig Smith, 2010-11	Kay Cox, 1982-84
Jim Catozzi, 2009	Jane Shepard, 1980-81
Paul Davis, 2007-08	Malcolm White, 1978-79
Andrea Deaton, 2005-06	Win Howe, 1976-77
Chris Rapacki, 2003-04	Fred Cox, 1973-75
Peter Jason, 2001-02	Gardner Dean, 1971-72
Priscilla Estes, 2000	Ruby Horwood, 1969-70
Lennie Steinmetz, 1997-99	Martin Davenport, 1967-68
Bill Steinmetz 1994-96	Ted Talbot, 1965-66
Tom Stress, 1993	Dr. Robert Tyson 1962-64

Outgoing Executive Committee Member

Joe Nanfara, Treasurer; Phil Mulligan, Trails;
Christine Loch, Diversity

Many thanks to the members of the 2018 Nominating Committee. The nominating committee consists of Delaware Valley Chapter volunteers, only one of which may be a member of the Executive Committee. This years nominating committee: Bob Liston, Chair, Joan Schultz, Dan Loughner, Raun Kercher, Larry Priori and Marcia Telthorster.

Member Anniversary Recognitions

The Delaware Valley Chapter is proud to recognize the following for their many years of membership with AMC. We thank each of them for their commitment and continued support of AMC. If you have reached either the 25 or 50 year milestone and are not on this list, please contact the membership chair so you can be included at next year's annual dinner.

Fifty years: These members joined AMC in 1969 and have faithfully continued their membership for the past 50 years:

Agnes Hepler
Peter Manoogian
Kenneth Sacks
Patricia Sacks

Twenty-five years: These members joined AMC in 1994 and have continued their membership for the past 25 years:

James Batts	Anita Meiser
Jane Batts	Andrew Moroz
Leslie Benoliel	R Thomas osato
Ronald Bortz	Ellen Sahl
John Chalikian	Jon Sahl
Yolanda Elmes	Marie Skalka
John Gauker	Rudolph Skalka
Kelli Gauker	James Slovik
L. Hamilton	Elaine Stogo
Helen Hartman	Katie Tandon
Jim Hartman	Rajat Tandon
Mark Kern	Andrew Van Orden
Robert Ley	Bruce Wagner
Jean McCoubrey	

Electronic copies of this report are available at:

<http://amcdv.org>

and

<http://paddlenow.com>