

Appalachian Mountain Club Delaware Valley Chapter Annual Report for 2024

This has been my first year as chair. I have learned much, primarily to temper my expectations. There are opportunities and challenges for our chapter and the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) as a whole, but a nearly 150 year old, non-profit, volunteer organization does not move fast.

The Delaware Valley (DeVal) Chapter added many new activity leaders this year which presented the opportunity to increase the number of activities. DeVal activity chairs and leaders pursued this opportunity, and the result is that DeVal led all chapters in the number of activities provided per member. The challenge is in knowing if we are providing outdoor experiences to non-members. With our chapter membership continuing to decline, and correspondingly the membership-based budget allocation, it is important for us all to encourage non-members who regularly attend our activities to join the AMC.

The AMC technology team, led by Crystal Sandler, Vice President, Technology, plans to deliver Phase One of the Outdoors Connector by year end. This application will allow the chapters, where activities are created and delivered, to be interconnected with other AMC organizations (such as lodging, retail, adventure travel etc.). This provides the opportunity for AMC to deliver a customized, in-depth membership experience, which is essential in providing recreational experiences to customers today. The challenge is ensuring that the deployment of Outdoors Connector effectively replaces the aging

2025 Executive Committee Nominees

Chair	George Cagle
Vice Chair	Peni MacMeekin
Secretary	Lisa Lombardo
Treasurer	Marty Mersky
Backpacking	Steven Campanelli
Bicycling	Terry Berntsen
Communication	Piljo Yae*
Conservation	Adrian Noble
Education	Karla Geissler
Family Activities	Annette Sheldon
Hiking	Joe Nanfara
Community	
Engagement	Lisa Kleiman*
Leadership	Mary Toomey
Membership	Lisa Chou
Paddling	John Chalikian*
	Rich Pace*
	Mike Ahern*
Social	Annette Sheldon
Trails	Greg Bernet
20s & 30s	Elizabeth Danovich*
	Sarah Best*
	Peter Brown*

*new to the Executive Committee

Awards for 2024

- Appie: Dave Hoke
- Golden Appie: Tammy and Roger Brown
- Trailworker of the Year: Paul Schulke

and no longer supported Activities Database and that training is readily available to DeVal activity leaders.

The most exciting opportunity/challenge for this year was the 50th anniversary of Ruby Horwood becoming the first female president of the AMC. That certainly could not go by unrecognized. The Ruby Committee developed a program that would make Ruby proud of the chapter she once led.

With all its storied history, the AMC is changing, slowly, but on the move. The changes will eventually affect the DelVal Chapter. Change is necessary to not only turn around the DelVal membership decline, but to more than double it by 2030. DelVal chapter leadership is actively involved, along with the leaders of other chapters, in working with AMC staff on the restructuring necessary to achieve and deliver on membership growth. To ensure we represent the interests of the chapter, I will set up listening sessions directly with DelVal members so we can hear your thoughts.

In closing, I must say I greatly benefitted from the support of the members of the Executive Committee. Their experience and desire to provide the best for leaders and members produced much of what you all enjoy about the chapter.

Finally, I must doff my hat (actually a buff) to Eric Pavlak for his decades of service to the chapter. In addition to overseeing the chapter's paddling experiences, he kept the technology working that runs much of our chapter's activities. He also has many stories about the chapter and I expect a book to be forthcoming, with pictures. Eric will be stepping down from his Executive Committee roles and other management activities, but he will continue to be involved with the chapter. Thank you, Eric, for always being there.

-George Cagle, Chapter Chair

Backpacking

The Delaware Valley Chapter had a successful year in 2024, offering a diverse range of backpacking trips that catered to various skill levels. With a total of 14 trips, including winter, spring, and fall outings, the chapter has provided ample opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts to explore the scenic trails of states like New York and Pennsylvania. The completion of several trips to full capacity reflects the high demand and enthusiasm for these backcountry adventures.

In addition to the trips, AMC-DV's commitment to education and community engagement is evident through our comprehensive backpacking workshops that offer participants the chance to learn essential skills for exploring the wilderness, emphasizing safety and environmental stewardship. AMC-DV also participated in a collaborative effort with Pennsylvania Department

of Natural Resources and French Creek State Park for their Big Woods event; this program hosted an array of women-only workshops that encourage more women to engage in outdoor activities, fostering a sense of community and empowerment among attendees.



Looking ahead, the chapter is nurturing future leaders, with aspiring backpacking leaders progressing through the ranks, ready to guide more trips. The anticipation for the upcoming winter backpacking workshop in 2025 and the planning of fall and winter trips signal a continued dedication to offering enriching outdoor experiences.

Our well-attended backpacking workshops are set to continue, promising newcomers a supportive environment to start their backcountry journeys. With all of these impressive accomplishments for 2024 and future plans in motion, 2025 is shaping up to be another exciting year. It is clear that AMC-DV will continue to be a beacon for those seeking outdoor adventure and connection with nature. Stay tuned for more backcountry quests at a trail near you!

-Steven Campanelli, Backpacking Chair

Bicycling

We had a significant increase of 59% in completed bike rides from last year. Our 2024 total of 43 rides were led by Tammy and Roger Brown, Susan Weida, Peni MacMeekin, Sue Bickford, Joe Nanfara, Mark Kern, Mike Ahern, Jeff Lippincott, Gale Maleskey, Marty Keck,

Jenifer Rizzo, Rich Pace, Steve Leibrock and Linda McAdams. We welcomed five new bike leaders: Joe Nanfara, Gale Maleskey, Marty Keck, Linda McAdams and Jenifer Rizzo.



Twenty-eight AMC participants enjoyed a week-long trip to the Northeast Kingdom, Vermont biking the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail and the beautiful Island Line Trail that travels across Lake Champlain. While in Vermont, our last bike ride took us across the Canadian border on the Beebe Spur Rail Trail. In addition, we added a great full day of hiking in this beautiful part of the state.

Congratulations to the DeVal members who completed the Delaware Valley Chapter's 2024 Bike Challenge: Joe Nanfara, Tammy Brown, Roger Brown, Marty Keck, Bob Hileman, Peni MacMeekin and yours truly. If anyone needs an extension to complete the challenge, please let me know. Overall, it's been a great year for bicycling, and I am looking forward to exploring new bike trails in 2025.

-Terry Berntsen, Bicycling Chair

Communication

This is my last year as Communication Chair. During my tenure, many technological and operational improvements have been made to support chapter operations. Highlights are included below.

Newsletter

After editing *Footnotes* for almost 80 issues, my final issue will be the upcoming winter issue. Joanie Schultz will be the new editor beginning with the Spring 2025 issue. I will help her.

Annual Report

For the past 15 years I have produced the chapter's annual report. Prior to that it was done by the Vice Chair. We are returning to that procedure this year.

The Weekly Bulletin

The Weekly Bulletin in place now evolved from an old Yahoo Groups mailing list that was awkward and complicated to join, had many bad addresses, and activities had to be manually selected. John Rowen wrote a program to extract the next two weeks of trips from ActDB. I cleaned up the mailing list, set up a free account on Mailchimp, and set up a simple self-registration system that verifies email addresses and allows people to self-manage their email addresses.

Today, there are approximately 1,300 subscribers to the Weekly Bulletin, up from 700 before these improvements were made. I will continue to handle the Weekly Bulletin, but am looking for a backup.

Leader Hotline

The Leader Hotline also originated as a Yahoo Groups list. Many email addresses on this list were bad, and many subscribers were not leaders. The email traffic was unmoderated and resulted in many people unsubscribing because of the volume of emails they received. I switched to the current system that allows any leader to send a message out to other leaders, with attachments, if desired. All messages are screened by either me or my co-administrator Susan Weida. We also verify each subscriber's leadership status. Both of us will stay on as administrators.

Email Blasts

Procedures for email blasts are controlled by AMC. Email blasts now go out to a much broader audience than in the past that includes chapter members, plus anyone that ever contacted AMC in our region. The change in audience will require

a more careful analysis of content before using email blast as a communication method. I will continue to manage email blasts until the end of the year.

Chapter Website

The chapter website has evolved significantly over the past ten years. I secured ownership of the amcdv.org domain name, set up server space with a new hosting company and launched a new website that I designed. John Rowan developed the first version of the Activities Calendar. I introduced the new email system, and John began work on the electronic trip reporting system.

I was webmaster until the introduction of the current site in August 2021, when Raun Kercher took over and introduced a new website that he designed that was easier to use on mobile devices.

The electronic trip reporting system has been operational since 2015. It is unique to our chapter. It replaced the cumbersome process of sending liability waiver forms by mail or fax to AMC Headquarters. It provides activity chairs with prompt reports of trips, and allows tracking of member activity participation. As completed activities are entered, the liability waivers are electronically sent to AMC Headquarters and to the activity chair along with a leader's trip report. The participants, activity type and applicable mileage are logged. This system requires a private virtual web server with adequate storage and our own exclusive IP address. This has the added benefit of greatly improving email and web security.

In the more than 10 years of operation, our website has been down less than four hours. The trip reporting system has been unavailable for a few hours for maintenance and upgrade. When it occurs, it is indicated on the log-in page. John will continue as web programmer. I will continue to maintain the server and email system. Raun Kercher will continue as webmaster but is looking for an additional assistant and eventual replacement.

-Eric Pavlak. Communication Chair

Conservation

We continued working with Natural Lands to remove invasive species at their preserves, including Mariton Wildlife Sanctuary and Saunders Woods Preserve; and also started working at Sourland Conservancy. Trail Work leaders have also been incorporating invasive

species removal into trail maintenance work at French Creek State Park, Nockamixon State Park and along the stretch of the Appalachian Trail (AT) corridor that DelVal maintains.

Three Earth Day events were held this year. We continued participation in the annual Earth Day clean up at Nockamixon State Park with the DCNR and the Friends organization (unfortunately cancelled last year), with the majority of participants being AMC members. We also participated in a clean-up in conjunction with the Friends of the Delaware Canal; and held a hike and clean up at Peace Valley.

For the first time an AMC crew participated in CRC Watershed Association's 26th Annual Streams Cleanup.

One of our events was a little out of the ordinary. At the beginning of the summer we were approached by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and asked if we could help with a survey they wanted to do in September of mussel health in Paulins Kill, a tributary of the Delaware River in northwestern New Jersey. Their Senior Scientist, Dr. Erik Silldorff, had put together a proposal and needed people and funding. We were able to get them a grant from the AMC's Waters and River Protection Fund and AMC members participated in some of the five sessions snorkeling and surveying mussels in the river.



Online we asked our members to provide input to the 2025 Pennsylvania Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan, which guides where and how Pennsylvania state tax dollars allocated to recreation will be spent. The survey was publicized on the Weekly Activity Bulletin; on the Conservation page on our website; and on our Facebook page.

We continue to work with leaders who lead on the AT (or nearby) to promote a Citizen Science project using iNaturalist to add observations of plant flowering times to AMC's project Flowers and Fauna along the Appalachian Trail Corridor. We are hoping to continue to increase in-person events next year.

-Adrian Noble, Conservation Chair

DEI

The committee sponsored an LGBTQ hike on a very hot day in Philadelphia this summer. The Women's hike in New York City was canceled due to heavy rain. The ad hoc Ruby Committee was formed to recognize the contributions of Ruby Horwood, the first female President of AMC who served 50 years ago. The activities consisted of Ruby Hikes, Ruby Moments, and outdoor workshops for women. Exceptional communication materials were created and implemented by the committee: Piljo Yae, Lisa Lombardo, Lisa Kleiman, Annette Sheldon, Lennie Steinmetz, Susan Weida, Lois Rothenberger, with special assistance from Julia Watson and Denis McCartan on the workshops. Midori Wakabayashi and Jin Xu continue to be extremely supportive of this work.

- Marcia Telthorster, DEI Chair

Education

To support the DV Chapter's strong training and mentoring program, an Education Committee was formed to better support the existing training programs: Outdoor Leadership Training (OLT), Wilderness First Aid (WFA) and Backpacking, as well as expand our educational outreach and promote educational activities for Chapter members.

Backpacking and First Aid education continue under the lead of their respective chairs. While the newly formed Education Committee will collaborate on education programs with these

committees, they have autonomy for their specialized training.

Delaware Valley held their annual Outdoor Leadership Training the first weekend in April with 20 Leaders in Training (LITs) in attendance. The program was well received by attendees, and facilitators came away with a plan to expand the program for 2025.

Extending our education outreach beyond the Delaware Valley, OLT facilitators Barbara Fritzingler, Jeff Fritzingler, Denis McCartan and Karla Geissler spent a rainy April weekend in Maryland assisting the Potomac Chapter in their first Outdoor Leadership Training in 5 years. While Potomac was able to find indoor facilities to accommodate us on Saturday, much of Sunday morning was spent huddled under pop-up canopies during the final hours of classroom instruction. We then took to the trails with the students for some practical training.

Most recently, Delaware Valley offered a Women's Hiking and Car Camping workshop at French Creek State Park. This workshop recognized that women have unique obstacles that can make enjoyment of the outdoors challenging. The event was inspired by Ruby Horwood, former Delaware Valley Chapter Chair and the first female President of the AMC organization.

We look forward to continuing to form relationships with like-minded organizations, and present activities that can help others learn about AMC as well as advance stewardship of the outdoors.

-Karla Geissler, Education Chair

Family Activities

There were two family activities during the reporting timeframe, both hikes. Details of hikes:

- 24 NOV 2023 Hike and Play, St. Michael's Preserve, Hopewell NJ, three miles, two adults, two children
- 04 JUL 2024 Mercer Forest Family Tour, West Windsor, NJ, 3.3 miles, two adults, 1onr child

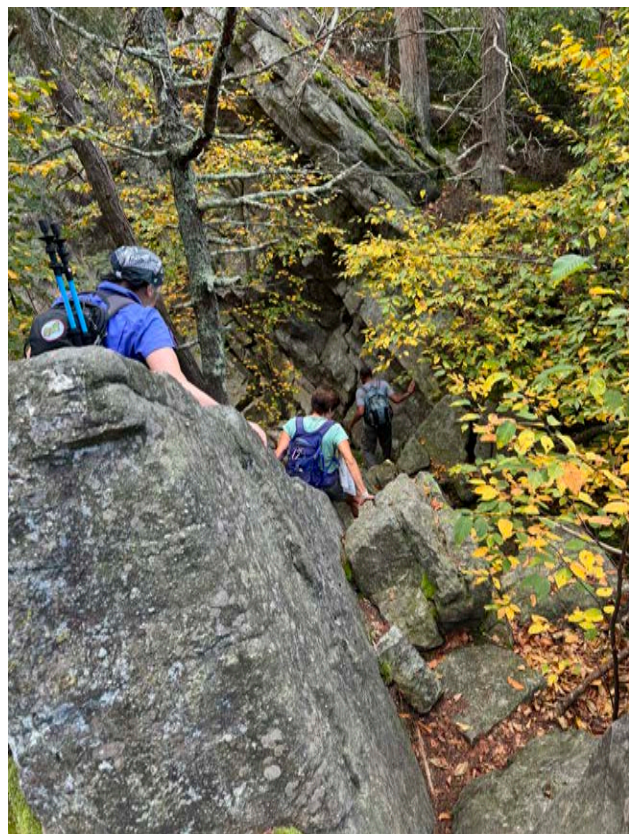
-Annette Sheldon, Family Chair

Hiking

Our hiking activity continues to increase year over year. Our results in 2024 showed an increase of five hikes per month over 2023. For the first nine months of 2024, our chapter

averaged 50 hikes per month. This represented the efforts of 91 dedicated and talented volunteer hike leaders who plan, design and lead hikes.

- On almost any day of the week there is a hike available in our Delaware Valley Chapter area. The bulk of our activities are hikes ranging from easy to moderate, with the remainder ranging from vigorous to strenuous.
- In 2024, we added two new weekly hikes: a Yardley, PA, town tour and a Valley Forge, PA afternoon hike.
- Our innovative DeVal hike leaders continue to post a wide range of interesting and increasingly popular hikes that expose hikers to art, history, music, nature and more.



We also attract potential new members, and leaders, by cross-posting our activities on [Meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com).

Our DeVal Chapter multi-day hiking trips generally have a waitlist and attract members from other AMC chapters. These activities often involve complex planning for travel, accommodations, activities and meals. Leaders

who coordinate these trips demonstrate outstanding design and planning skills.

The volume and quality of DeVal's hiking activities is a direct result of individuals who freely provide their time, talent and effort for our members and communities. These individuals are our volunteer "AMC-DV Hike Leaders." Please join me in letting them know how grateful we are for their efforts by saying a simple "Thank You" on your next hike.

Check out our calendar at amcdv.org and select "Activities Calendar" to find an outdoor adventure near you.

See you on the trails!

- Joe Nanfara, Hiking Chair

Leadership

Starting in 2024, the Outdoor Leader Training (OLT) and Wilderness First Aid (WFA) transitioned from a Leadership Chair responsibility to the responsibility of the newly created Education Chair.

The Leadership Chair assisted graduates of OLT in being assigned a mentor, assisted in finding Leaders of Record for qualifying activities to become a leader, and helped with many other areas of transitioning from a Leader in Training to an official leader. Of the 17 graduates of OLT in 2024 (15 of whom are in the Delaware Valley area), nine have become official leaders as of October 2024. Many of the new leaders have already posted activities. Of the remaining OLT graduates, three have completed their first co-lead. Additionally, graduates of the 2023 OLT continue to work on finishing their qualifying co-leads and several became official leaders in 2024. The new leaders from the 2023 and 2024 trainings include hike leaders, bicycling leaders, and a trailwork leader.

Two hike leaders finished their qualifying co-lead to become bicycling leaders, and are now able to lead either activity.

In May 2024, a new initiative to train leaders to post activities in the AMC Activities Database was held to promote increased activity offerings. This much-needed training addressed the needs of leaders who have never used the ActDB, or who have not used it in a long time, or who had questions. This Webex training was taped for those who could not attend.

In July 2024, the first Leader Appreciation Picnic in several years was held in Green Lane

Park, PA. There were 30 attendees, including 26 leaders, 2 Leaders in Training, and 2 guests. A presentation by the Chapter Chair on dehydration was well received. The post-picnic hike and campout were not well attended, but the pre-picnic bicycle ride was popular.

AMC leadership announced that the Delaware Valley chapter has been leading more activities per member than any other chapter. This honor is due to the hard work and dedication of our many chapter leaders.

-Mary Toomey, Leadership Chair

Lehigh Valley Group

The Lehigh Valley Group, now in its 32nd year of existence, has continued to hold meetings on the third Wednesday of the month both in-person and via Zoom in 2024. Thanks to the assistance of AMC staff members Mark Zakutansky and Danielle Guttman from the Bethlehem office and the technical support of AMC member Bill Steinmetz, we have been able to enjoy the opportunity to connect with AMC friends in person as well as online. The monthly programs, which are shared via link on the DV website, have attracted good audiences on the meeting night and even larger audiences in the weeks following the meeting.

Programs this year have included presentations on a wide range of topics including: **Japan: Land of the Rising Sun** (Lisa Lombardo, DV Chapter member), **Zion and Bryce Canyon** (Beth Zimmer, AMC Adventure Travel leader), **The Colorado Trail** (Margot Lacey, long-distance hiker & Western Mass Chapter member), **Appalachian Trail Museum** (Larry Luxenberg, museum president & Greg Cook, museum volunteer), **Alaska's National Parks: A Glimpse of Alaska's Natural Treasures** (Holly Adams, DV Chapter member), **The Wildlands Conservancy** (Christine Murray, part-time Wildlands Conservancy Environmental Educator), **Cambodia - Worth the Trip!** (Phill Hunsberger, DV Chapter member), **Gros Morne National Park and More** (Welles Lobb & Terry Oravec, DV Chapter members), and **Hiking Provence**, (Lisa Lombardo, DV Chapter member).

Special thanks to AMC-DV Communications Chair Eric Pavlak and Webmaster Raun Kercher, who have been extremely helpful in getting the word out about our programs and in posting the Zoom recordings on the DV website after each

presentation so that they could be viewed at a later date.

We are delighted to be celebrating our 32nd year of existence and to have had such an interesting group of guest speakers sharing their presentations with us this year!

*- Phill Hunsberger, Lehigh Valley Group Chair
- Lennie Steinmetz, Lehigh Valley Group Co-Chair*

Membership

2024 has been an amazing year for our chapter! We have experienced a growing number of 20s and 30s members and I hope this will continue to bring new life and energy into our activities. "Young members", as they are called, are eager to fill up our posted trips and get out there, and it's up to our more experienced members and leaders to keep them safe as they try a new activity or new gear. Let's welcome and cherish our 20s and 30s members, who I expect will be running more of their own trips in 2025.



The Activity Social and Gear Swap/Sale in spring was well-attended and had an impressive array of gear available for purchase or swap. 100 miler awards and leader awards were presented at the event. Leaders who had led even one hike were celebrated and those who led multiple trips rewarded with swag.

Membership ran plenty of new member events, including four geocaching hikes and a few hikes with social outings. Attendees were encouraged to become members in order to support AMC's mission of conservation, education, and sharing the love of the outdoors.

We hope to see you at the Annual Meeting and Dinner scheduled for November 3rd in Doylestown, PA to recognize 25 and 50 year members, elect new and returning officers, and celebrate the life and legacy of Ruby Horwood, the first female president of the newly-formed AMC, on its 50th anniversary.

-Lisa Chou, Membership Chair

Paddling

This year we ran 24 trips with 308 participants, from April to mid-October. There are two more scheduled before the end of October. The Delaware River and Lake Nockamixon were the most often used waterways. We also paddled several Delaware tributaries, including the Raritan, the lower Lehigh, Crosswicks Creek and the Schuylkill. Also the Oswego in the Pinelands and Giving Pond and the west branch of the Susquehanna. Plus a saltwater trip at the Sedge Islands in Island Beach State Park. All are flat water.



This will be my final year as paddling chair. I have served since 2003, plus during 1990, for a total of 22 years. During 17 of those years, we ran a full schedule of whitewater trips, including some very difficult trips and many beginner whitewater trips. We also held swiftwater safety classes.

Our leaders of both whitewater and flatwater activities are to be praised for their and our excellent safety record.

-Eric Pavlak, Paddling Chair

Social

There were 3 activities run by the Social Committee during this year. They were:

- Fall Dinner + Annual Chapter Meeting 29 OCT 2023 Guest speaker: Anthony Broccoli on Climate Change (also N. Sussman) at Central Bucks Senior Center, attendance ~ 85
- Spring Social 21 APR 2024 Central Bucks Senior Center, attendance ~ 65
- Annual Picnic 08 JUN 2024 Peace Valley Park Pavilion 3, attendance ~ 50

-Annette Sheldon, Social Chair

Trails

Three big developments occurred in 2024. First, the Highlands Trail connector trail in Nockamixon State Park, which we have been working on for more than three years, finally opened. An opening ceremony which included breakfast, speeches, and a ribbon cutting was held on June 1, National Trails Day, and was attended by representatives of the Pennsylvania state government, Nockamixon state park officials, AMC representatives and others. Adrian Noble and I also both led hikes on the new trail that day.

Second, also in June, our work was completed on the new privy on the Appalachian Trail (AT) near Kirkridge Shelter. We had worked on framing the structure off-site over the winter, then worked on the on-site construction and painting starting in May. We also demolished the old privy and installed a heavy duty bear box for



the shelter.

Third, in October 2024, the Delaware Valley Chapter was selected by the Keystone Trails Association as the Club of the Year Award for 2024!! Unfortunately, due to short notice, no one from our chapter was available to attend the KTA meeting on the Susquehanna River to receive our award. We are in the process of trying to arrange a presentation.

A formal recognition ceremony of the 50th Anniversary of the Leroy Smith shelter was scheduled in June but had to be canceled due to excessive heat warnings. This event is now planned for Sunday, November 24, 2024. A plaque commemorating the event will be installed at that time.

I have recruited new shelter steward volunteers and trained new corridor monitors for our newly adopted section of the AT from Fox Gap, PA to Delaware Water Gap, PA and we are now relatively fully staffed in our new section.

After completion of the new trail at Nockamixon, the PA Highlands Trail Stewards began work on constructing a new trail in Bridgeton Township Park, Upper Black Eddy, PA. Adrain Noble and I did numerous scouting and flagging sessions, and had ongoing consultations with Bridgeton Township officials as well as with the Executive Director of the Tinicum Conservancy. Actual crew work on the new trail was begun on 9/14.

Our trail work at Valley Forge National Historic Park (VAFO) under Jose Ibarra continues to expand. After training 5 new trail leaders with both AMC-DV and VAFO, volunteer crews are now meeting every week and have now expanded the number of trails (formerly only 2) on which they work. The number of work trips there have about doubled this year.

Our trail volunteers in French Creek State Park under Jay Gross and in the New Jersey Highlands under myself have also been active again in 2024.

One area that was lacking this year was with our AT maintenance crew. Due to various issues, only 2 crew work trips were held, whereas normally we do 5-6 trips. 3 trips were done with one person along with our Ridgerunner, John Czartorjiskij, but the overall crew effort was less than I would prefer. Thank goodness for John this year, because he singlehandedly maintained our 22 mile sections of the trail! He was a veritable madman when it came to doing trail maintenance, which is technically only a minor part of his job.

Having said that, many AT hours were put in building the privy and with administrative tasks, including administering the ridge runner program, the shelter, and work with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC).

I am proud to report that our trail activity has grown significantly under my Trails Chair tenure. The following is a tally of the number of work trips for the individual areas from January 1 to October 9, 2024. There will also be more work trips happening before the end of the year.

Valley Forge—34
Appalachian Trail Maintenance—2
Appalachian Trail Shelter Watch—19
Appalachian Trail Corridor Monitoring—4
French Creek—12
PA Highlands Trail—13
NJ Highlands Trail—2

Other notes: I took over as Chair for the AMC Interchapter Trails Committee at the AMC Summit in Norwood, MA, January, 2024.

I also sustained an injury to my hand which is currently inhibiting my ability to do manual labor, which will decrease the number of upcoming work trips.

Recipient of the Trailworker of the Year Award for 2024 is Paul Schulke.

-Greg Bernet, Trails Chair

Treasurer

The major change this year is the AMC's restructuring of the Chapter financial accounts. In particular, the Chapter excess reserve funds are in the process of being eliminated, and thus will end the program of chapter spending for special non-AMC projects. Also, AMC now has all Chapter bank accounts with Chase Bank only. This year the money in the Delaware Valley Chapter's Citizens Bank checking account as well as that in the Citizens interest-earning money market account was transferred to a non-interest Chase Bank checking account. Changes slated for the beginning of 2025 include AMC's reduction of Chapter's checking account balance to 6 months worth of budgeted annual expenditures; and need for Chapter to request AMC's permission for expenditures that are significantly greater than what is allotted in the annual budget.

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:

2023 Jerry Taylor
2022 Annette Sheldon and Stanton de Reil
2021 Lisa Kleiman
2020 Larry Priori 2006 Craig Smith
2019 Kathy Kindness 2005 Jim Catozzi
2018 Jay Gross 2004 Jennifer Decker
2017 John Rogers 2003 Kevin Perry
2016 Greg Bernet 2002 Chris Cayer
2015 Denis McCartan 2001 Andrea Deaton
2014 Sue Bickford-Martin 2000 Paul Davis
2013 Terry Berntsen 1999 Bill McCaughey
2012 Rich Pace 1998 Kevin Burkman
2011 Midori Wakabayashi 1997 Kevin Kramer
2010 Rhoda Eisman 1996 Rajat Tandon
2009 Anne Murphy 1995 Rich Kajander
2008 Joan Aichele 1994 Marty Seibert
2007 Rich Wells 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:

2023 Adrian Noble
2022 Jeff and Barbara Fritzingler
2021 Susan Weida 2009 Peter Jarrett
2020 Joe Nanfara 2008 Joseph Bell
2019 Mike Manes 2007 Eric Pavlak
2018 Phill Hunsberger 2006 Lennie Steinmetz
2017 Jim Catozzi 2005 Walt Underhill
2016 Pat and Ken Sacks 2004 Dan Schwartz, Lois Nichols
2015 Rich Wells 2003 Gary Leander
2014 Esther Underhill (None for 2002)
2013 Nancy & Cliff Hence 2001 Bill Steinmetz
2012 John Rowen 2000 Helmut Gude
2011 Mark Kern 1999 Malcolm White
2010 Allen Male 1998 Jane Shepard

Trailworker of the Year is awarded to a chapter member who has provided extraordinary service in trail work. Past winners:

2023 Jane Richter

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 Ruby Committee and the Nominating Committee members.

Past Chapter Chairs

Karla Geissler 2022-23	Tom Stress, 1993
Bill De Stefano 2021	Alan Kahn, 1990-91
Susan Weida 2019-20	Kent Johnson, 1987-89
Lois Rothenberger 2017-18	George Heckler, 1985-86
Joan Aichele 2014-16	Kay Cox, 1982-84
Allen Male, 2012-13	Jane Shepard, 1980-81
Craig Smith, 2010-11	Malcolm White, 1978-79
Jim Catozzi, 2009	Win Howe, 1976-77
Paul Davis, 2007-08	Fred Cox, 1973-75
Andrea Deaton, 2005-06	Gardner Dean, 1971-72
Chris Rapacki, 2003-04	Ruby Horwood, 1969-70
Peter Jason, 2001-02	Martin Davenport, 1967-68
Priscilla Estes, 2000	Ted Talbot, 1965-66
Lennie Steinmetz, 1997-99	Dr. Robert Tyson 1962-64
Bill Steinmetz 1994-96	

Outgoing Executive Committee Members: Eric Pavlak, Communications, Paddling, Newsletter; Marcia Telthorster, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

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 in next year’s annual dinner.

Fifty years: These members joined AMC in 1974 and have faithfully continued membership for the past 50 years:

- William Krisak
- Barbara Krisak
- Norman Smith
- William Steinmetz
- Lennie Steinmetz
- Robert Vetter

Twenty-five years: These members joined AMC in 1999 and have faithfully continued membership for the past 25 years

Alan Adler	Jamie Kamph
Bethany Barnes	Jeremy Kwiatkowski
Mary Ann Boyer	Nadine Lowry
Charles Buchbauer	John Luneau
Kathleen Clarke	Anthony Meyer
Caroline Coleman	Steve Miller
Chris Donahey	Maria Palmisano
Lawrence Durfee	Wesley Perkins
Richard Einstein	Maryanne Price
Steve Fink	Amy Romanelli-Girardi
Eric Girardi	Marc Schwarzman
Maurice Harding	Lesley Schwarzman
Richard A. Hudson	Steven Sykes
Allison Hudson	Richard Taylor
Andrew Huemmler	Barbara Weir
Robert Hurka	Brian Weir
Jamie Kamph	