

NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER

100
YEARS

1921 2021

YOUR CONNECTION
TO THE OUTDOORS

MOUNTAIN PASSAGES

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NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHAPTER
YOUR CONNECTION TO THE OUTDOORS

Winter Hiking, Enjoy the Splendor

BY: JOHN WILLIAMS

Reject cabin fever and get out to enjoy winter's splendor! Winter for some means long dark and gray days, but it doesn't have to. You can keep yourself feeling good through the long season by going outside and embracing winter's cold crisp air. Go for a walk in the neighborhood where you live, during the day or after dark when you may want to bring a flashlight. There is something about a walk when the snow is falling, the traffic is off of the streets, and sounds are quieted by a blanket of fresh snow. Put on your boots, hat and gloves and enjoy the soft sound of snow beneath your cleated soles.

Go beyond the leg stretching walks in your neighborhood, and explore your local town parks and forests. The trails take on a new feel when the winter cold sets in. Be sure to have micro spikes in your pack and snowshoes when the depth is sufficient. Start early after new snow falls and you can place your fresh tracks down on the trail. Look for the other fresh tracks placed by local wildlife. Identify prints and signs left by squirrels, mice, rabbits, fox, deer, beaver, bobcat, turkey, grouse, and more. See the fresh bear track from November in Lyme, NH on page 3.

The New Hampshire Chapter offers great hikes around the state during winter. This can be a good way to venture out more than you have in the past by joining an easy to moderate winter hike and make use of your winter gear. Hikes are offered on weekends and weekdays. "Over 55 hikes" are posted for hikers who seek an easier pace, often to moderate destinations. "Young members" offer events for 20's and 30's adventurers. These events are all posted on the AMC activities



Two hikers on a glorious winter trail. Photo by John Williams.

website, <https://activities.outdoors.org/search/>
To select activities led by New Hampshire volunteer leaders, select Group/Chapter: New Hampshire, Committee: Excursions > Search.

OUR MISSION

The Appalachian Mountain Club is the nation's oldest outdoor recreation and conservation organization, and promotes the protection, enjoyment, and understanding of the mountains, forests, waters and trails of the Appalachian region. AMC has more than 100,000 members, 16,000 volunteers, 450 full-time and seasonal staff. The New Hampshire Chapter is the second largest of the 12 Chapters within the Club.

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WINTER 2023/2024

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Welcome to the Winter 2023 issue of *Mountain Passages*. We experienced our first snows in early December, and the skiers were beginning to enjoy the new season. Unfortunately, warm temperatures and heavy rain followed and then we experienced the “spring floods” of December 2023. The weather has now again turned cold and snow is in the air. Has winter finally arrived? Only time will tell. However, the winter issue of *Mountain Passages* is here!

Needless to say, this issue has a number of articles about winter activities. John Williams in “Winter Hiking,” encourages you to get outdoors and enjoy what winter has to offer even if you choose to stay close to home. We also have the annual announcement of the New Hampshire Chapter’s Winter School and the ski calendar. Ham Mehlman outlines the development of skiing in New Hampshire in “The AMC’s Century of Breaking Trail for Backcountry Skiers in New Hampshire and Beyond.” Finally, for the long winter nights, we offer some reading recommendations in “White Mountain Bookshelf/Tales of Search and Rescue.” The four books discussed are consistent with the winter weather and provide interesting inside view of the dedicated folks who perform search and rescue for hikers who get into trouble in the Whites as well as the stories of the people they go out to save.

As part of our continuing series, we have a second installment of our series of articles on artists who painted the White Mountains focusing on Benjamin Champney, Edward Hill and Samuel Lancaster Gerry. We will continue this series in the spring issue. There is also another “Where in the Whites?” photo to consider.

Frances Richardson continues her series of articles on people who helped create the White Mountain culture that we all appreciate. In this article, Frances offers a profile of her uncle Leroy, who spent years as part of the AMC hut crews and created iconic art works that are still familiar.

We also are thinking ahead to warmer times. Joe D’Amore offers another free verse poem on a hike on which women shared and bonded with each other and nature while experiencing the great outdoors. LuAnn Laquerre and Steve Zimmer offer an invitation to become involved in the “Over 55 Group” and emphasize their group is not really just for senior citizens but is for anyone interested in relaxed pleasurable hiking. Alan Snyder offers his view as a first-timer at AMC’s August Camp. Our fall issue carried a parallel article by Joe D’Amore.

Our next issue, the spring issue, will begin *Mountain Passages* Fiftieth Year of publication. We plan to mark this milestone throughout the year and are trying to compile a complete collection of past issues. While we have a few copies of the issues going back to the April 2006 issue, and AMC Archives has a few scattered issues older than that, we would be very interested if anyone has older issues of *Mountain Passages*. We would also be very interested in hearing from past editors. You can reach us at mntnnpassage@gmail.com.

Finally, I would like to welcome Ham Mehlman, Julie Anne Giandek, Joe D’Amore and Diana Moore as coeditors of *Mountain Passages*.

AMC’s August Camp 2024 Central Cascades Sisters, Oregon



Three Sisters Wilderness

Hike miles of trails in the beautiful Deschutes and Willamette National Forests and the pristine Three Sisters and Mount Jefferson Wilderness Areas. Each day you can choose from many hikes of varying length and difficulty.

Tents, cots and all meals included. Shuttle service will be provided from and back to the Portland Airport.

Camp Dates

- Week 1 - July 20 to July 27
- Week 2 - July 27 to August 3
- Week 3 - August 3 to August 10
- Week 4 - August 10 to August 17

We will be taking applications beginning 9 AM on January 2, 2024. All applications received in the first 10 days will be treated equally. There is no advantage to being the first in line; selection is by lottery. Applications will continue to be accepted after the lottery period to fill open spots. Watch our website in December for details.

Cost is \$1700 per person for AMC members; \$2040 for non-members.

augustcamp.org

Shane Kucera photo

Moderate level hikes can be found throughout the state, including the White Mountain region and north of the Notch. If you want to try moderate level winter hikes, be sure you have winter experience and gear including snowshoes, know the weather and carefully select what goes in that larger winter pack.

Hikes to 4,000 footers in winter are a thrill to experience, but require a higher level of preparation, equipment, skills and fitness. The NH Chapter offers excellent training for winter hiking annually at the Winter Hiking Series (WHS), and the Mount Cardigan winter workshops in January and February. The WHS is offered starting in August and targets the high peaks of the Whites. The Cardigan winter schools are posted in November, and provide training for novice and intermediate levels. These popular events always fill up fast.

Here are a few winter hike ideas.

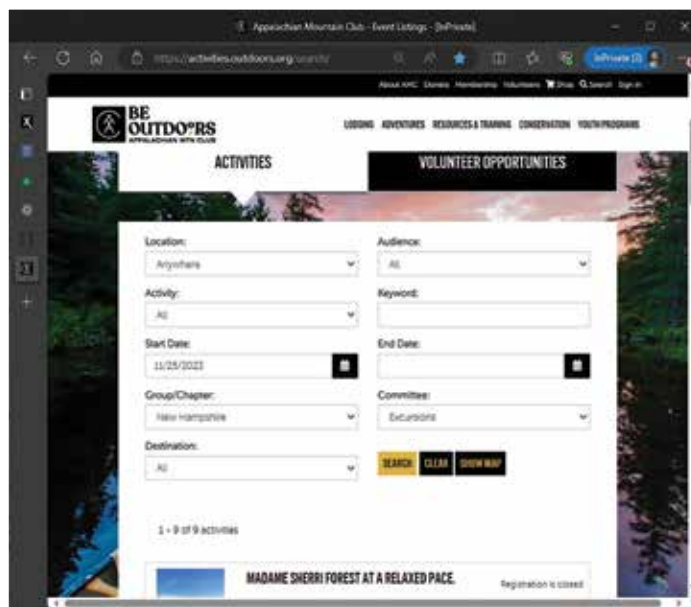
Easy and local: Beaver Brook Association Trails, Hollis, NH, Pisgah State Park, Lake Massabesic Trails, *Moderate:* Pawtuckaway State Park, Bear Brook State Park, Belknap Range, Sandwich Range, Lonesome Lake in Franconia Notch, and the trails to waterfalls from the Appalachia trailheads. *Strenuous:* White Mountain trails to the summits

In addition to hiking, there are great opportunities to cross country ski on lower elevation trails across the state when we are fortunate to have enough snow depth.

Always carry the 10 essentials, during winter and summer. Dress in layers, not a winter parka. You want to manage your body temperature based on how hard you are hiking. Strip layers to avoid sweating. It is essential to have a surplus of warm layers in your pack to manage unexpected challenges. In winter you need a larger backpack to carry extra layers and safety items. Bring high energy snack foods, such as trail mix and gorp, and keep your water bottles from freezing by insulating them within your pack, and by packing them upside down so they don't freeze closed. Bring some extra food, always bring a headlamp or flashlight. Make sure you keep your batteries warm. Get out and enjoy what winter has to offer!



Bear print in snow. Photo by John Williams



Search for and register for hikes and other activities on the AMC website.



When you venture out anytime, but positively in the winter, make sure you carry your 10 essentials and know how to use them.

Landscape Artists in the White Mountains in the 1800s: Part II

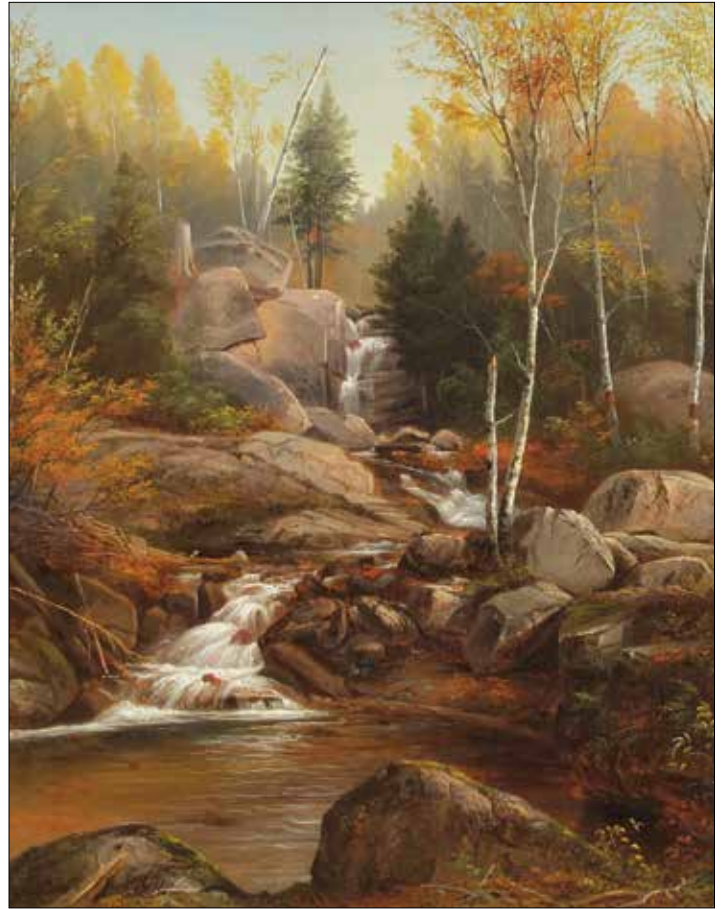
BY: BOB MCLAUGHLIN

In the Fall Issue of *Mountain Passages*, we began a review of the landscape artists of the Nineteenth Century who painted in the White Mountains. The first article discussed the lives and works of Thomas Cole and Albert Bierstadt. While both of these painters worked in the White Mountains, their primary focuses were the Hudson River Valley and the Catskills. In this issue, we continue our exploration with later landscape painters who were based in the White Mountains.

Benjamin Champney

Benjamin Champney (1817-1907) was the first artist who dedicated most of his works to the White Mountains. Born in New Ipswich, NH, Champney became a lithographic illustrator and portrait painter as a young man and eventually saved enough to study and paint in Europe. Champney traveled to France in 1841. After returning to the United States briefly in 1846, Champney returned to Europe and painted a massive Panorama of the Rhine which established his reputation as a painter and provided a source of income. The panorama was exhibited in Worcester, MA, New Haven, CT and New York City. Unfortunately, the painting was destroyed in a fire in the Crystal Palace in New York in 1857.

Champney first visited Conway in the White Mountains in 1838, and returned in 1850. Champney ultimately chose to make North Conway his summer home for over 50 years. Thereafter, except for a painting trip to Germany and Switzerland in 1854, Champney focused on painting in the White Mountains. In 1853, Champney married and he and his wife purchased a house between Conway and North Conway.



Artist Falls and Brook in Autumn painted in 1857 captures a cascade emptying into a placid pool.



Champney sketched in the field to develop his compositions and then returned to the studio to paint. His workflow is demonstrated in the sketch in pencil and finished painting of Chocura.



Champney frequently focused on smaller elements in the landscape rather than the sweeping panoramas. Big Boulder captures the beauty of an erratic and surrounding vegetation that is typical of trailsides throughout the White Mountain trails.

Champney's studio became a popular social gathering point with his most recent works displayed. Ultimately, Champney's studio became the epicenter of a North Country Colony of painters and other artists, and Champney painted the White Mountains extensively. Consistent with his previous work as a lithographer, Champney reproduced many of his most popular paintings as chromolithographs (colored lithographs), which could be reproduced and sold to tourists who could not afford to buy the original paintings.

In addition to providing a center for art in the White Mountains, Champney was active in the Boston art scene and was one of the founders of Boston Art Club and served on a triumvirate of joint presidents of the Club when it was created in 1854.

Champney Falls on Mount Chocura is named after Benjamin Champney as is Champney Place on Beacon Hill in Boston. As with earlier artists in the White Mountains, Benjamin Champney would sketch in the field, and then return to the studio to complete the painting on large stretched canvas. As an example, a field sketch in pencil and finished painting of Chocura appears on page 4.

Champney departed from earlier landscape painters in the Whites by his focus on smaller elements in addition to the grand landscapes. For example, his Big Boulder captures the beauty of an erratic and surrounding vegetation that is typical of trailsides throughout the White Mountain trails. As another example, Artist Falls and Brook in Autumn painted in 1857 captures a cascade emptying into a placid

pool. That said, Champney was also drawn to capturing the grand views. For example, Crawford Notch from Mount Willard beautifully captures the spectacular view that most of us have enjoyed, and his paintings of Cathedral Ledge and Echo Lake captured the beauty the lake near Conway in the twilight.

Edward Hill

Another prominent artist of the White Mountains was Edward Hill (1843-1923). Hill was born in Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, England in December 1843 and his family moved to the United States the next year finally settling in Gardner, MA, in 1860. Hill married Sarah Loria Brown in 1869. In 1870, Hill set up a studio in Bethlehem, and then in 1874 moved to Littleton, NH. Beginning in 1877, Hill was the "artist in residence" at the Profile House in Franconia Notch for about fifteen years. During his time as artist in residence, Hill maintained his studio at the hotel during the season, and established a gallery to sell his paintings to guests.



Edward Hill maintained his studio for years at the Profile House at the northern end of Franconia Notch and focused on painting in the Notch.

Top: Hill, Eagle Cliff from Profile Lake demonstrates that Hill could also paint in vibrant colors.

Bottom: Hill captured the view that many of us have enjoyed driving north on I-93 but did it before the interstate changed the foreground landscape. Hill, Franconia Notch from North Woodstock. Hill's choice of pigments in this painting are more subdued and realistic than many other artists painting at the time.



Top: Champney also painted expansive spectacular landscapes. Top: Autumn Landscape with Waterfall (1878) is an expansive view of Franconia Notch.

Bottom: Champney beautifully captured the spectacular view from Mt Willard which most of us have enjoyed.

Continued on Page 6

While the artist in residence at the Profile House, Hill concentrated on painting in the area of the hotel. After about fifteen years at the Profile House, Hill moved his studio to the Glen House (1884), then the Waumbek Hotel (1885), the Flume House (1894), Nashua (1895 to 1898) and New Boston (1899 to 1901). Subsequently, Hill left the White Mountains for the mountains of the western United States.

Hill was a prolific painter, but his work often suggests that he was attempting to cater to the clientele that frequented the White Mountain hotels. His paintings are smaller (typically no more than 26 inches by 18 inches) suitable for display in a typical dining room or parlor in the home of a prosperous family in contrast to the six foot canvases painted by artists like Thomas Cole. Hill also tended to be repetitive in composition, and more sentimental. Nevertheless, Hill's paintings were carefully constructed and worthy of attention.

In addition to painting, Hill established himself as a poet, songwriter and newspaper correspondent. While Hill was financially successful and acclaimed in his earlier years, his later years were filled with disappointment. After he moved to Hood River, Oregon, he had increasing difficulty finding buyers for his work. Hill died in Oregon in 1923 and was buried in an unmarked grave. Sixty years after his death, a collector of his paintings, Robert A. Goldberg, arranged for a marker reading "Edward Hill, 1843 1923, ARTIST" to be placed on his grave.

Samuel Lancaster Gerry

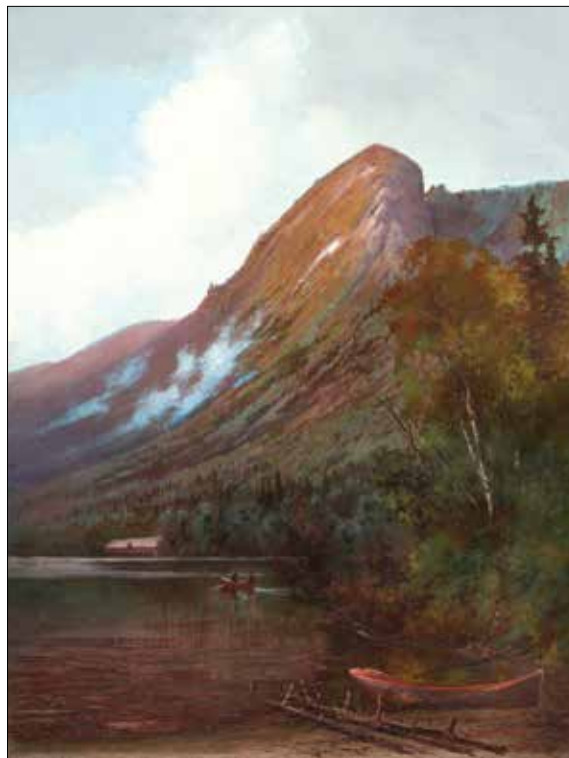
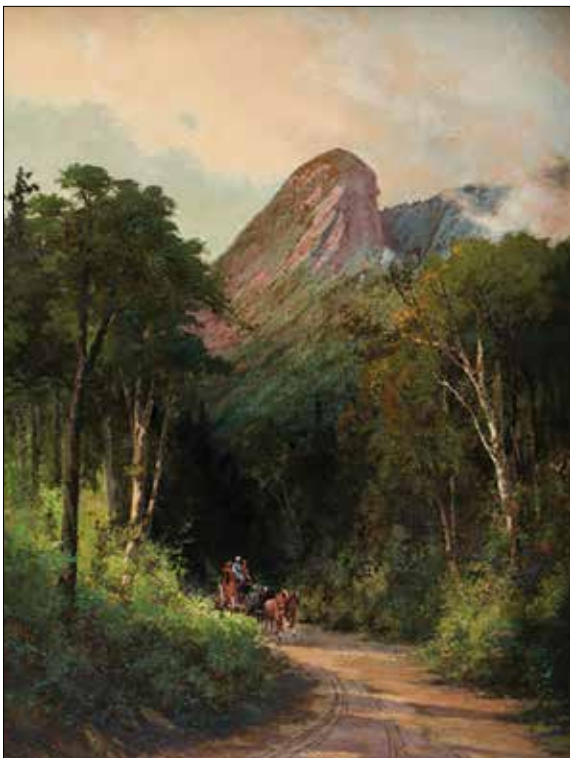
Samuel Lancaster Gerry (1813-1891) was born in Boston on May 10, 1813. Although Gerry had no formal art training, he had a wealth of experience and was partner in a Boston sign and ornamental painting business with artist James Burt from 1834 to 1839. Prior to 1834, Gerry had exhibited paintings in Boston. In 1835, Gerry visited the White Mountains. The following year, Gerry married Martha Caroline Jewett and produced his first dated painting of the White Mountains, a scene in Jackson, NH. Subsequently, while continuing to paint scenes around Boston, Gerry painted

extensively in the White Mountains and the Lake District. In fact, for over 60 years Gerry spent at least part of each summer in the White Mountains or Lake District. However, unlike Benjamin Champney, Gerry apparently stayed in rented accommodations and changed his base of operations throughout the years.

Unlike the earlier painters of the White Mountains who were romantics who idealized the grandeur of the landscapes in their paintings, Gerry sought to more realistically capture his subjects. Throughout these years, Gerry was a member of the thriving artistic community in the Whites that critiqued and supported each other's work. Gerry in his paintings tended to focus on the foreground of his compositions either placing his subjects in a secluded scene such as a forest, or if the scene was more open, the expansive panorama was frequently reduced to a backdrop. These tendencies are not apparent in all of Gerry's work but become more pronounced in Gerry's later work.

Final Thoughts

When studying paintings of these artists, it is interesting to remember that as they were painting idyllic White Mountain landscapes, lumbering was already devastating the very landscapes they idealized. To a large extent, the artists, particularly the second generation of artists, were recreating an idyllic vision of what they dreamed had been rather than what was. This creative decision likely reflected their artistic preference, but also clearly reflected the preference of their potential clientele. Through this choice, the artists also fostered public appreciation of the beauty and value of the untrammeled landscapes of the White Mountains. This appreciation greatly influenced the decisions to protect the environment that led to the protection of our forests and environment by government and private groups.



Being based at the Profile House, Hill painted many views of the prominent face of Eagle Cliff.

Left: Eagle Cliff, Franconia Notch (1886).

Right: Eagle Cliff from Profile Lake 1885.

While writing this article, I became painfully aware of the many worthy artists I have omitted. I would encourage you to explore the other artists of the White Mountains. You may wish to explore the White Mountain Art & Artists website (<https://www.whitemountain-art.com>) authored by John J. Henderson and Roger E. Belson from which we have obtained many of the images we use in these articles. In addition, many other websites dedicated to White Mountain artists

can be found by a search in your favorite web search engine. Explore! You will be amply rewarded.

In the next issue of Mountain Passages, we will continue our review of the painters of the White Mountains focusing on the next generation of artists who painted in the Whites including Winslow Homer, William Trost Richards, and Susie M. Barstow.



Left: "Gerry, Artist's Brook, (1858)." The cows in the stream are the focus of this painting together with the rough surfaces of the trees. The background is reduced to less distinct shapes. Samuel Lancaster Gerry tended to focus his attention on the foreground of his paintings.



Right: "Eagle Cliff from Profile Lake, Franconia Notch." Gerry's view Eagle Cliff almost has an impressionistic feel.

Bottom: "Gerry, Fishing on Echo Lake, Franconia Notch" contains more detail in the lake's shore and the boats on the lake.



Where in the Whites?

Where was the photographer and what mountains appear in the photo? Be as specific as possible!



In the Spring 2020 Edition of *Mountain Passages*, we introduced a photo identification contest, “Where in the Whites?”. We asked readers to guess where the photo was taken and what mountains were in the photo. We promised to print the names of the first 10 respondents with the correct answer.

Last issue’s photo is reprinted here. It was taken from the viewing platform on the shore of Cherry Pond in the Pondicherry Wildlife Preserve looking north to the Pliny Range from left to right are Mt. Joseph Whipple, Mt. Starr King, Mt. Waumbek and Pliny Mt. It is one of the truly spectacular views in the White Mountains. The first ten readers to properly identify the photo are:

- Dave Zimmerman;
- Andy Coppinger;
- Keith Enman;
- John Gutowski;
- Mary Graham;
- Hamilton Mehlman;
- Duncan Ross;
- Charlotte Ryan;
- Georg Feichtinger; and
- Sue Wentworth.

We will have to wait and see how much of a challenge this issue’s photo is!

Identify the mountains in the photo and where it was taken. Be as specific as possible! Take a guess and submit your answers to WitWamcnh@gmail.com. By the way, Wit and WitW are not names, it is the initials of the first three words in Where in the Whites.

We look forward to seeing your submissions.

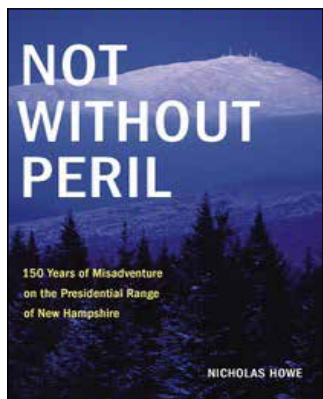


Photo by Bob McLaughlin

White Mountain Bookshelf/Tales of Search and Rescue

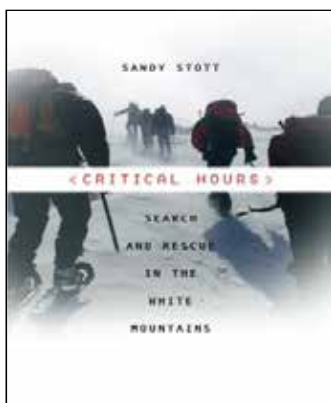
BY: BOB MCLAUGHLIN

Maybe it was the change of season this year, but for some reason I found myself drawn to books dedicated to search and rescue, or sometimes recovery, in the White Mountains. With the beginning of winter and the increase of risk in the backcountry, an article recommending some of the books I have read seemed worthwhile. These books all suggest the need for caution when venturing out into the White Mountains in the winter and provide insights into the brave and dedicated individuals who are there to help if things just don't go right. I can start off by saying I enjoyed and strongly recommend all of the books to anyone interested in exploring the Whites in the winter or in fact to anyone who loves the White Mountain region.



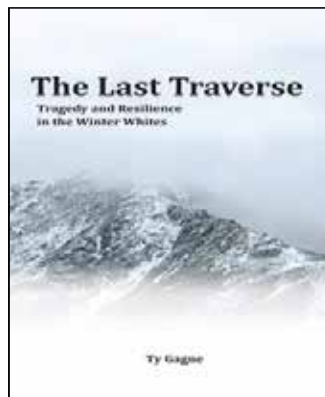
The flagship of this collection is Nicholas S. Howe's *Not Without Peril: 15 Years of Misadventure on the Presidential Range of New Hampshire* which is now in its 10th Anniversary Edition. This book chronicles the history of the development of Mt Washington and the Presidentials and weaves in stories of the fatalities and near fatalities that have occurred in the Presidentials starting with the mid-eighteenth century and continuing to

current times. From Frederick Strickland, who in October 1849 became the first man known to summit Mt Washington in winter conditions and the first to die of hypothermia on the mountain, to Sarah Nicholson who died in an ice fall while skiing in Tuckerman Ravine in June 1994, Howe chronicles in readable text many of the first 115 deaths that occurred in the Presidentials. It is a good read and well worth your time!



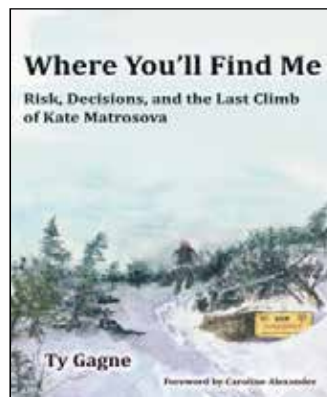
Sandy Stott's *Critical Hours: Search and Rescue in the White Mountains* takes a different approach. Sandy Stott, the long-standing "Accidents" editor of *Appalachia*, focuses his book on the search and rescue community that stands ready to help hikers in trouble in the White Mountains. This book contains stories of more recent incidents in the Whites, but its primary focus is on the individuals who go out to

find and retrieve the victims. Stott's book lacks the mass appeal of *Not Without Peril*, but held my interest by his detailed history of the search and rescue and climbing community in the Whites.



Ty Gagne's books provide detailed descriptions of hikers in trouble and the decisions that lead to their difficulty, and of the individuals mobilized to try to rescue them. Ty is an excellent writer and successfully puts his readers inside the minds of the actors in his stories. In fact, Ty's books read like a fast-paced novel despite his, or perhaps because of his, meticulous attention to documented detail.

Ty Gagne's first book, *Where You'll Find Me: Risk, Decisions, and the Last Climb of Kate Matrosova*, describes the decisions that lead Kate Matrosova, an elite climber, to her death on the slope of Mt Adams at the beginning of her planned attempt to complete a winter traverse the northern Presidentials, and the attempts to rescue her and ultimately to recover her body. Ty's most recent book, *The Last Traverse: Tragedy and Resilience in the Winter Whites* chronicles the experience of two friends, one a seasoned winter hiker and the second, a



three-season hiker making his first winter ascent, on the Franconia Range, and the rescue efforts in the attempt to save them. Both books are compelling reads and provide useful insights into necessary precautions and decision-making in the winter Whites.

While these books are not a substitute for experience and proper training, they do provide useful insights into the consequences of apparently

minor decisions that can lead to life-threatening conditions. All of these books are available as audiobooks as well as in print. They are well worth the time of backcountry hikers and skiers and pretty much anyone else who loves the White Mountains.

Over 55 Group-What a Misnomer!

BY: LUANN LAQUERRE AND STEVE ZIMMER

OK, maybe we move at a little slower pace. We might take our time to smell the roses, and take lots of photos and stop and chat along the way. But this group is definitely not an age thing!

Years ago our AMC-NH Excursions Committee formed this group as a way to encourage more activity for members that aren't necessarily hiking 4000 footers regularly and it turns out, there are plenty of hikers of all age groups that prefer this style and tempo of hiking. We've had all sorts from their teens and twenties to their seventies and eighties on our group hikes. The common denominator has always been a moderate pace accommodating lots of experience levels... and fun!

Many of our leaders are very experienced hikers that have been around the block more than a few times and are willing to help those with less experience including rank beginners. Many of our participants are very experienced as well and find that maybe they're moving a little slower as time goes on but they still want to be outdoors getting in a pleasant day in the woods or on the mountain with good company.

Many of the destinations our leaders pick are sweet gems that are on the "road less traveled". Often shorter hikes with less elevation gains and a lot fewer people than on 4K hikes in the Whites.

So if this sounds like it's up your alley, keep an eye out in the AMC Activity Database for these hikes; they're often marked in the title of the post by terms like "Easy or Relaxed Pace" or "Over 55".

And if you find searching the Database rather daunting or time consuming, consider creating a Daily Digest on the Database, where you can have the database send you emails about upcoming activities that you choose by using filters. Filtering by AMC chapter, state, locations, activity types gives you up to date offerings right to your inbox!

We also have a Over 55 Group e-mail list you can join. As new hikes that match our speed criteria come up we alert you if you're on list. It's easy to join, just email a request to one of our committee co-chairs with your name and email address and you're in! Hope to have you join us, a little on the slower side, soon.

Your Over 55 Group Co-Chairs

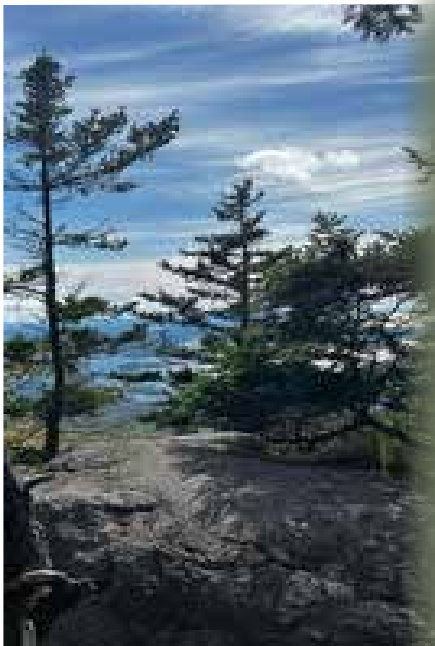
LuAnn Laquerre: lulaquerre@messagecatcher.com

Steve Zimmer: zimmersteve91@gmail.com

A Hike of Sisters

BY: JOSEPH D'AMORE-AMC-NH

A free prose contemplation of women sharing, bonding with each other and nature while experiencing the great outdoors...



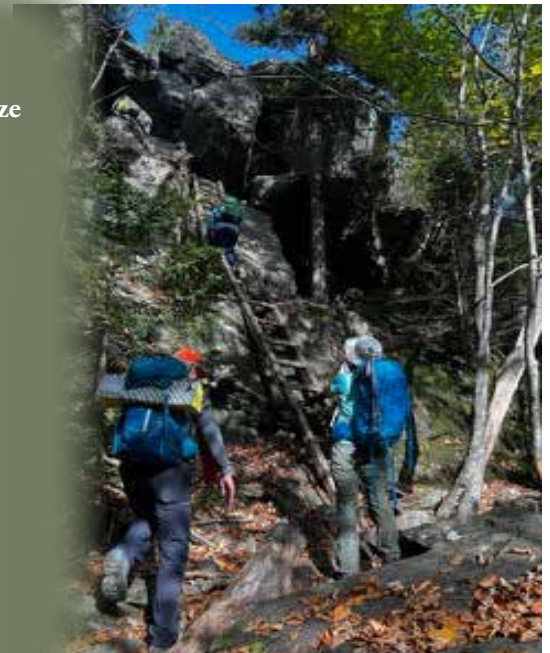
Oh, sisters of the forest
With feet caressing leaves
Labored breaths compose the breeze

Oh, stewards of the canopy
Bold souls search to be free
Strong hands reach into streams

Oh, sharers of the moment
In time and nature places
Firm wind upon your faces

Oh, adventurers of the interior
Stretch boldly across the rocks
Straddle roots that turn to knots

Oh, bonds that never break
Transform with breathless views
The valley vista, utterly imbues



Winter Hiking: Sabbaday Brook Trail

BY: DIANA MOORE

The Sabbaday Brook Trail is a lesser hiked trail that leads to the summits of the Tripyramids. According to the historical sign at the trail head, the brook and the falls were named after the Sabbath Day by a group of workers building a road from Albany Intervale to Waterville.

The trail to the falls was cut in 1880 by Jim Shackford, a local farmer and owner of the Passaconaway House hotel. Shackford supplemented his income by blazing trails for the Appalachian Mountain Club and laid out the Sabbaday Brook Trail so that guests at his hotel could easily walk to the falls. Today there are seldom a dearth of tourists who hike the short trail to witness the beauty of Sabbaday Falls. But, the falls are not the end of the Sabbaday Brook Trail, it continues along old logging roads and winds up to the ridge of the Tripyramids.

An alternative to the Sabbaday Brook Trail to the Tripyramids is the Pine Bend Brook trail, which is a bit less than a mile shorter, but challenges you with a few steep sections that can get tricky when there is ice in the winter. I first attempted a winter ascent of the Tripyramids via the Sabbaday Brook Trail on a bright, February day. I was hiking with a friend, and we were among the few who had chosen that trail on that day, and while the trail was easy heading out to the touristy Sabbaday Falls, the further out we went, the less well broken the trail was. As we continued the hike, we could see where earlier hikers before us had decided to turn around, and the snow became thicker and less tracked. About three miles further along the trail, we encountered a hiker coming back. I asked him how it was, and he said that at the base of the mountain, the trail was no longer broken. He was very apologetic, saying he sorry he couldn't break the trail, but he had run short on time and had plans to ski with friends that afternoon.

We pressed on and finally came to the point on the trail where he had turned around, and beyond that was pristine freshly fallen snow and unbroken trail. We found it difficult to see where the trail was going, but after a bit of wandering we eventually found the blaze and trudged forward without the well-defined footpath of warmer seasons. This was my first experience breaking trail, and it was extremely challenging. I'd take a couple of steps on top of the snow, and then my snowshoe would sink, kerplunk! I'd take a step forward with the other foot and pull my lodged snowshoe out of



*A view early on the Sabbaday trail.
Photo by Bob McLaughlin*

the snow and then repeat. And this wasn't even on the ascent. We knew the work would only get harder, so we made the decision to turn around and call it a hike without reaching our goal. I was disappointed, but the mountain will be there and sometimes things just don't go as you had anticipated, and that's okay.

The hike, despite not summiting, was incredibly beautiful. Fresh snow layered everything in a blanket of winter white, and it was quiet. So quiet! We saw four people in total: a couple at the falls, a woman walking her dog without snowshoes, and the guy who was meeting his friends for skiing. The trail follows the Sabbaday Brook and crosses it multiple times. The stream was partially frozen, and easy to cross, but small openings in the ice revealed flowing water underneath. It was pristine and peaceful.

On the way up, we saw moose prints coming out of the woods and heading down to the water. On the way back there were more --- Fresh moose prints and several fresh spots of moose scat, steaming and

fragrant. While we did not see any actual moose, I felt blessed to see their tracks and to tread lightly in their realm.

The following April, I again attempted the Tripyramids with a group of three friends. The weather was clear and sunny with temperatures just above freezing at the trailhead. The plan was to take the Pine Bend Brook Trail to the summits and then perhaps descend the Sabbaday Brook Trail, if the trail was broken, so we could avoid the climb back up North Tripyramid on the way back. We had stashed a car at the Sabbaday trailhead in case we decided to take that route down the mountain. Despite an inch or so of fresh snow from the night before, the trail was packed, and trail reports had been minimal, so we left our snowshoes behind and snapped on some microspikes.

The Pine Bend Brook Trail was a gradual incline and easy hike to the base of the mountain, and then about two miles in it became a very steep uphill climb. There was very little actual ice, and the snow was slushy and unstable, like walking in sand, which added to the overall exertion of the climb. Nevertheless, we made it to the summit of North Tripyramid in good time.

Continued on Page 12

The summit of North Tripyramid is mostly wooded, so the views were limited. But, there was still an amazing view of Mount Washington in the background, with its snowcapped peak. It was chilly, just below freezing on top, but the sun was warming and the winds fairly calm. There's nothing like breathing the cool, clean air up there, scented with pine, fir, and the earthy scent of the woods.

The trail to Middle Tripyramid descended quickly, and then there was a brief upward climb. It felt like nothing to get to Middle Tripyramid. The summit of Middle Tripyramid was underwhelming but necessary. The question then became whether to go back up to North Peak and down the Pine Bend Trail or take the Sabbaday Brook Trail down with no more elevation gain. The Sabbaday Brook Trail was broken out, though we had seen few people on the trails all day. So, we decided to take the Sabbaday Brook Trail, because why not? It was beautiful when we hiked in the first miles back in February. Now we'd get to see the entire trail.

Spring hiking has a unique set of challenges. The conditions in spring are still like winter, though they no longer count toward your winter list. It can be cold or above freezing, but mostly the snow has a different quality. It's often wet and slushy, which is why it is lovingly labeled "mashed potatoes" on many spring trail reports. And if the snow is gone or diminished, then it's mud or an icy monorail. There's a reason spring is known as mud season here in New England – All that melting snow. Not only does it create mud, but water crossings can become tricky as streams swell with snowmelt.

Pine Bend Trail was steep, but so was the Sabbaday Brook Trail. The snow was slippery, even with spikes, so side-stepping down steep sections seemed safest. Sometimes hugging trees or holding on as close to the side of the trail as possible, so as not to end up slipping into an unintentional butt-slide down. Glissading (a.k.a. butt-sliding) can be fun in certain situations, but controlling the slide can be difficult, and sometimes people get hurt, when they pick up speed and collide with exposed rocks, trees, or roots particularly if it is steep. Also, it ruins the trail for following hikers. Playing it safe was a good bet.



Top: The author enroute up the falls trail.

Bottom: Making tracks through woods.

Once the trail flattened out, we assumed it would be a fast trek back to the car for four or so miles. The trail did not look like it would be a challenge when we hiked it toward the mountain back in February. However, much of the snow had melted, and the remaining snow was not well-packed, so we actually could have benefited from snow shoes. It's better to have equipment like snow shoes and not need them than to need them and not have them. Lesson learned.

Every few steps, our feet would sink deep into a foot or more of snow (post holing). It made the hike more challenging and tiring for sure, but the greater challenge was streams, swollen by melting snow, causing some treacherous conditions for water crossing.

The water crossings were fairly easy to start, but then they became more and more challenging as the flow increased at lower elevations. I thought I had my footing down during one crossing, but slipped and ended up stepping into the water up to my knee and in trying to catch myself from falling, submerged a gloved hand past the wrist. Everyone else made it across the stream crossings with little incident, except for one, who lost her footing completely and ended up sitting down in the water. Had that happened at the beginning of the hike, we'd have turned around, but since we were already on our way back to the car, we just got her into drier layers and she had to make the best of it. Fortunately, it was cold, but not frigid.

After 12.1 miles in total and six hours of moving time we emerged from the trail at dusk. We had started at 11 am but didn't get back to the car until 7:30 pm. It was

a rough hike only because of the snow and the water crossings, but otherwise, the technicality of the hike was on par with any of the other 4000-footers. A challenge, but not impossible. Safety was, of course, paramount, and after the stream crossings, I realized why so many people prefer Pine Bend Brook.

But in the heart of winter, when all is frozen, the Sabbaday Brook Trail is one of the most beautiful trails I've hiked. Steeped in quintessential winter beauty and teaming with the secret movements of wildlife, I would be glad to hike this trail every year.

People in the Whites: Leroy R. Woodard (1903-1985)

BY: FRANCES WOODARD RICHARDSON

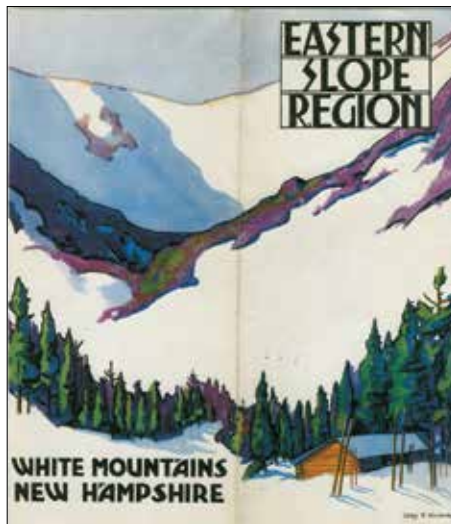
Leroy R. Woodard was born and grew up in Campello, MA. Like his brother, my father, Rod, Leroy was attracted to the White Mountains and joined the Appalachian Mountain Club in 1927. Subsequently, Leroy worked as a chief cook at Greenleaf Hut in 1928, and Lonesome Lake in 1929. He then moved to the Carter Notch Hut as Hut Master. Leroy was known for his culinary skills and hikers particularly enjoyed his Spaghetti Bolognese.

Leroy studied at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston MA, and became well known for his portraits, landscape paintings, etchings, and commercial art. Over the years he had exhibits of his White Mountain paintings and etchings including exhibitions at the AMC Headquarters in Boston, MA, in Randolph, in Concord, in Manchester NH, and in Wayland and in Weston, MA.

Leroy, in October 1933, set sail on the S.S. Von Steuben from New York arriving in Bremen, Germany in November, 1933. From Bremen, Leroy traveled to Berlin, Dresden, and Munich before going to Florence, Italy. In a letter dated February 27, 1934, he wrote, "This is one of the great centers of Italian art, painting, sculpture, and architecture. The resources are tremendous for study. I felt I needed to paint so I painted one of the Americans here. On the strength of that one, I got commissions."

Leroy left Italy on November, 1934, and went to Paris, France, then on to London, Cornwall, and Devonshire, England, embarking on the S.S. Bremen from Southampton on June 15, 1934, for his return to New York arriving on June 28, 1934. He frequently commented that the trip was the best education he had ever had.

Leroy then returned to the mountains and established an art studio in the Old Town Hall in Randolph, NH. Here he made paintings and etchings of the White Mountains, including a brochure with a picture of Tuckerman's Ravine that has been reproduced in many versions for advertising and commercial purposes. It was here that Leroy met portrait artist, Margaret Arnold, who summered in Randolph, NH. They married on May 1, 1943.



Leroy was called to serve in the Army in 1942. He left his belongings and dog, Tom, with his brother, Rodney D. Woodard of North Conway, NH, and left for Camp Pickett, Virginia, where he was assigned to the Medical Replacement Unit as a field and hospital technician. He was then moved to Fort Devens, MA on December 28, 1942, to paint signs for the hospital, ads for War Bond drives, and award plaques.

He wrote, "This is not my idea of winning the war." In his spare time, he sketched portraits of some of the men. His portraits became popular and he received many orders. He said, "It amazes them that anyone can just look at a person and make a likeness."

After a medical discharge, Leroy and Margaret lived in Cambridge and Leroy was employed at General Electric as a technical illustrator making drawings for catalogs. Leroy worked for GE until his retirement, moving from Cambridge to Wayland, MA with Margaret, and children, Charles and Sandra. Leroy Woodard passed away on September 9, 1985.



Upper Left: Leroy Woodard painting followed by examples of Leroy Woodard etchings.

Lower Left: Eastern Slope Region Poster

Top Right: Pinkham Notch Huts (1935)

Middle Right: Skiers in the Mountains (1936)

Bottom Right: Mt. Washington (1931)

AMC New Hampshire Chapter Winter School

The New Hampshire Chapter is again holding two sessions of the Winter School at Cardigan Lodge in Alexandria, NH. Sessions will start at 7:00 pm on Friday evening and run until 4:30 pm on Sunday. The first weekend will be Friday, January 26 to Sunday, January 28, 2024 (with an introductory Zoom session on Friday, January 19 for some classes), and the second weekend will be Friday, February 23 to Sunday, February 25, 2024 (with an introductory Zoom session on Monday, February 19 for some classes).

Winter School will include instruction in winter mountain travel, back country skiing and snowshoeing for all levels, including potential skiing and hiking leaders. Some programs will start with an initial zoom session and all will include a very busy weekend at Cardigan State Forest filled with instruction, field exercises, lectures, and discussions. Choose from one of the available classes, covering almost every aspect of winter backcountry travel:

- Introduction to Winter Mountain Travel (beginner and intermediate snowshoeing), which includes instruction in safety, equipment, route finding, map and compass, off-trail navigation, weather, trip planning, nutrition, and handling emergencies in a winter mountain environment.
- Advanced Winter Wilderness Travel, for those looking to hike high peaks and learn correct use of crampons.
- Resort-to-light backcountry: cross-country/nordic Resort-to-backcountry: downhill/alpine touring & telemark.
- Introduction to winter camping includes instruction in backpacking equipment, campsite selection, route finding, map and compass, weather, trip planning, cooking, selecting and setting up a camp site and dealing with emergencies. We will set up camp outdoors Friday afternoon then plan to spend Saturday all day outdoors practicing camping skills, providing your own backpacking equipment. Then sleep out again on Saturday night.

- Leadership and Mountain Skills, for those who have good winter hiking and/or skiing skills, and wish to enhance them to run trips of their own. Exercises in planning, organizing, and conducting trips with emphasis on leadership techniques and group dynamics. Plus, basics of accident scene management, medical considerations, and off-trail navigation. This course is also for those with potential and desire to become trip leaders for New Hampshire Chapter's Excursions (hiking) or Skiing Committees.

If you're not sure which class is right for you, just ask our Workshop Directors.

Classes are open to any adult (must be 18+ to attend) who wants to learn winter backcountry travel skills and have a great time! Due to AMC's Covid -19 special protocols, you must be able to attest that you have been vaccinated for Covid 19 or show a negative Covid PCR test within 72 hours before the workshop. Fee includes, room and board (Friday night snack, breakfast Saturday and Sunday, dinner Saturday night and lunch Sunday), instruction and training materials.

Register online along with your payment, the cost is \$290 AMC member/\$310 non-member.

Register for the January session at:

<https://amcnhexcursions.regfox.com/amcnh-2024-winter-school-jan26-28> and the February session at:

<https://amcnhexcursions.regfox.com/amcnh-winter-school-2-feb-23-25-2024>

Registrants will receive detailed driving directions. Do not follow your GPS if you wish to get to Cardigan Lodge.

NH Chapter Programs Committee

BY: SHANDI ELLIOTT

The Programs Committee has had an active schedule. In November, Linda Magoon appeared at the Pease Library in Plymouth to speak about her book, *Live Free and Hike: Finding Grace on 48 Summits*, and her journey getting there. We had about 20 guests. You can find additional information on Linda's website www.lindamagoon.com.

In October, Philip Garcia was our keynote speaker for the Chapter's Annual Meeting. Phillip described his accomplishments in the White Mountains with an impressive video supplement. You can find more information his website www.findingphilip.com

Nothing was scheduled in December due to holidays. In January, Carey Kish discussed his book, *Hiking, Beer and the Great Outdoors* at Tuckermans Brewery in Conway NH. For more information about Carey, check out his website: www.outdooradventureseries.com.

In February Gordon Dubois, *Paths Less Traveled* will be presenting at the Pease Library in Plymouth on February 3rd from 5:00-6:30. You can find registration on our website.

Nothing is planned for March, but on April 13th, a panel will speak at the Highland Center about current issues in the White Mountains. So far, retired Fish and Game Officer, Wayne Saunders and Bobby O'Donnell have agreed to be part of the panel. Additional information and registration will be available on the Chapter website in the new year.

First Time at August Camp

BY: ALAN SYNDER

We didn't really
know what to expect.

Of course, certain things were clear and simple: Tent camping, with good cots for sleeping off the ground and enough headroom to stand up. Plenty of food from a sophisticated outdoor kitchen. No hot water, but you will be surprised by how effective a solar shower can be. And hiking, every day (plus or minus the optional activities), with choices according to interest and ability.

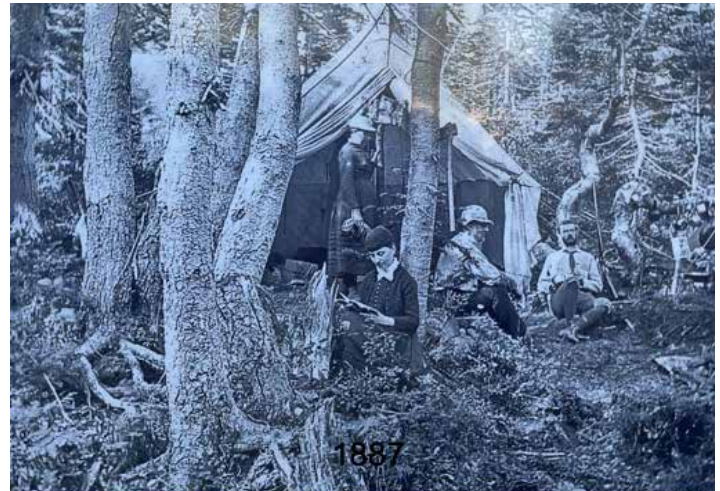
So, we knew a lot, but we knew very little. What will it really be like? Will we be able to keep up with the group? Do we have it in us to get breakfast, get organized, and get on the trail every day? Will the food really be so great, considering our dietary preferences? Will we fit in socially? Putting our names in for August Camp, and accepting once our names were picked from the virtual hat, was a leap of faith. That leap was informed by the fact that trustworthy folks from the Delaware Valley chapter told us how great it is.

The materials and other information that came with our acceptance--the detailed packing list, the comprehensive online orientation session--told us something that's reinforced by every aspect of the August Camp experience: These folks have been doing this for a very long time (since 1887, to be exact). They have been keeping notes. August Camp works in well-established ways, even as those ways evolve with the times (it wasn't possible in 1887 to text the Transportation Coordinator).

As new campers (get used to being called campers - it's true, and it's charming), we had an Ambassador who was just a text or phone call away to answer pre-camp questions, and then was nearby (without hovering) to see that we got settled at camp. As first timers, we had green lanyards for our name tags, which signaled "this person might need a pointer now and then."

But in reality, the well-established rhythm of the day makes it easy to catch on: Reveille, coffee time, breakfast, gather your things, meet up with your hiking group, the day's hike, chill time or maybe a swim at the stream where the locals go, dinner, more chill time, campfire, bedtime. The rhythm happily repeats, the days sufficiently full and active that you most likely will be tired when you get back home, yet never at a pace that feels overwhelming or even rushed.

The centerpiece of each day - the hike also felt "just right." At campfire each evening, our hike leaders described the routes so that we could make informed choices based on our abilities and interests. From our site near Mount Hood, there were trails cut into the cliffs high above the Columbia River, and trails through dense old growth forest. There were routes that required us to keep moving at the planned pace, and routes designed for stopping to identify the flowers. A hike could include sun-baked stretches that had us remembering to keep drinking, and a half mile later a spot to lie down in the snow. The week's hikes were a curated catalog of what the region had to offer, updated throughout the week as our hike leaders assessed conditions and learned what was most popular with the group.



Top: August Camp back in the day.

Bottom: August Camp 2023

On the final evening of August Camp, the postings of the next day's hikes on the community bulletin board have been replaced by the airport travel schedule. At campfire, there are no next-day hikes to describe. How do we fill the time? Follies! The annual vaudevillian review of skits and songs and whatever else people came up with. An hour or so of grownups displaying their full willingness to be silly, and occasionally deeply touching, with each other. A return to the lesser inhibitions of childhood, sprinkled with just a bit of adult emotion. A far better way to spend our final evening than organizing stuff that can easily be crammed into our bags and sorted out when we get home.

At August Camp you will meet people who are super-outgoing, people who are quiet and reserved, people who are outrageously funny, people who are deeply thoughtful, people of different national origins and ethnicities, people with different life pursuits and professions, all of whom are there because they love the land and love walking it together. No one will tell you how to be, other than to be a fellow camper and fellow hiker. The last two items on the official packing list are adventurous spirit and sense of humor. No one seemed to have forgotten those two items.

The AMC's Century of Breaking Trail for Backcountry Skiers in New Hampshire and Beyond

BY: HAM MEHLMAN

For alpine (downhill) skiing in North America, 1927-1936 were the "BC" years. "BC" in alpine ski history parlance refers to "Before Chairlifts." But "BC", by alliterative coincidence in the English language, could just as easily stand for "BackCountry" skiing. There were no ski areas with operating lifts during this period. You had to earn your turns then just as you do today (at least generally) for most backcountry ski adventures. (Yes, it is possible to ski in the "backcountry" or "off-piste" at many resorts without having to skin up – but this is just a definitional consideration.)

In the BC years, the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) led the way in establishing New Hampshire as the initial epicenter of recreational alpine skiing in the US, at least until Averill Harriman erected his chairlift on Dollar Mountain in Ketchum, Idaho in 1936 (now known as Sun Valley). In the process, the AMC catalyzed the differentiation of alpine trails, ski technique and equipment from its Nordic (cross country) progenitor in the US. By the time Harriman erected his chairlift, New Hampshire claimed some 90 ski trails covering 200 miles in length, mostly intended for the new sport of alpine skiing. Directly through its own volunteers and trail crews, and indirectly through the active involvement of the club and its members in initiating and managing State and Federal government programs, the AMC influenced the attributes and configurations of much of that trail network. Over time, lift service ski resorts including Wildcat, Cannon and Waterville incorporated some of these trails into their resorts. Other remnants, which faced extinction from ingrowth and lack of maintenance, are seeing their brilliance uncovered and restored by today's burgeoning backcountry community.

And again, for the last 30 years or so the AMC has catalyzed the reimagining of backcountry skiing in New England through promotion of trails. BC Skiing is the fastest growing ski segment today. While others, particularly the Granite Backcountry Alliance, have led the development of new terrain, the AMC has played a central function promoting knowledge and information about



*View from Wildcat Trail.
Source: AMC Archives*

existing trails and capitalizing on the assets at Pinkham Notch and Cardigan Reservations.

Given its experience in developing hiking trails, it is not surprising that AMC crews would map, engineer and cut New England's first purpose-built ski trails. As AMC Archivist Becky Fullerton points out, "The Appalachian Mountain Club has been interested in building trails since its founding year. One of the first committees formed when the club began in 1876 was that of 'Improvements,' and the first item on their list of priorities was 'Paths to be made.'" Sometime between 1923 and 1927, depending on the reference, the AMC, likely at the direction of AMC member Arthur Comey, turned its focus to include cutting trails specifically for skiing, initially of the Nordic variety but rapidly evolving to a new and separate discipline of alpine or down-mountain sport. "When volunteer parties of Appalachian MC skiers, with axes and brush hooks in 1927 began chopping a ski trail over Barrett and Temple mountains in the Wapack range 50 miles northwest of Boston, we doubt if a single mile of downhill ski trail had been constructed (as such) or was even projected, anywhere on this continent," speculated a ski publication in 1935.

AMC trail crews would continue to add to and maintain downhill terrain. However, the opportunity for the new downhill ski industry was enormous and needed significantly more labor and capital than an individual volunteer club could provide. Charles N. Proctor, an AMC member, avid skier and surveyor for much of the Pinkham Notch ski trail development would reflect in December 1934, "The emergence of ski running as a major winter sport during the past few years brought the problem of where to ski to an acute stage at the close of last season. The existing footpaths through the hills and mountains were recognized as inadequate...." In 1932, the AMC formally convened a "Ski Committee" chaired by William Fowler. Fowler, or possibly another AMC member, John Carleton, managed to sell the idea of investing in a ski industry for New Hampshire to Thomas

Dreir, Chairman of the New Hampshire State Development Commission, “Dreir...is one of those folks who believes in hitching your wagon to a star, he would like to see New Hampshire rivaling Switzerland and Austria as a playground for skiers.... There is no sense in spending money for advertising hotels and our snow-clad mountains unless we fix those mountains properly with needed ski trails and huts...if we developed the right kind of trails in the North Country the thousands of people seeking winter sports would be sieved through the lower part of the State and the whole State would prosper.” Importantly, since any program for forests in the big mountains would come under the purview of the forest services, NH State Forester, John Foster, a resident of Waterville Valley, supported the concept of developing NH mountains for skiing.

Carleton then persuaded James E. Scott, supervisor of the White Mountain National Forest, reporting to Fowler in May of 1933, “Mr. Scott, the Federal Forester, is friendly toward the general plan of having ski trails cut in the National Forest.... It strikes me that we have an opportunity of a lifetime and I want to urge you to be sure to be at the meeting which is at two o'clock in the Senate chamber.... He is anxious to have a representative group furnish him with definite suggestions as to what should be done and provide a capable supervisor.”

As Proctor recalls, “Then came invitations from the New Hampshire State Development Commission for a meeting in Concord to discuss ski-trail construction, addressed to representative ski runners and those New Hampshire hotel and resort owners genuinely interested in the development of skiing. The meeting produced an illuminating general discussion of the problem. It was agreed that ski trails would be a desirable and valuable addition to the recreational facilities of the State. It was also agreed that the trails should be built primarily for skiing, rather than as general-purpose footpaths, which experience had amply demonstrated to be unusable for general skiing.

“At the suggestion of William P. Fowler, chairman of the AMC Committee on Skiing, a representative ski trails committee was formed to cooperate with the Development Commission in furthering plans for trail construction. The committee consisted of John P. Carleton, Chairman; Alexander Bright, Boston; Arthur C. Comey, Boston; Miss Katherine Peckett, Franconia; David Austin, Waterville; and Gordon Langill, Laconia.”

The representation for the AMC here, at the highest levels of NH state government, is resounding – adoption of a “Committee on Skiing” proposed by the Chair of the AMC Skiing Committee (Fowler) and staffed by six people, half of whom were AMC members or proposed members (Comey, Bright and Carleton). The committee went on to engage another AMC member, Charles N. Proctor, to survey and direct trail design, particularly for Pinkham Notch.

Under the direction of this AMC-dominated committee, working through the Federal and State Departments of Forestry, this committee would oversee the development of many ski trails (some still functional today) that would launch the alpine ski industry in the US.

But they could design and dream all they wanted to. They still needed labor.

A “Tree Army” for the job

“Then came the magic of the C.C.C. Hundreds of sturdy youths were to be put to work in the mountains. From the ski runner's point of view, what nobler purpose could be achieved than the construction of ski trails?”

The Depression created a vast labor pool of men looking for work. In the spring of 1933, the AMC, the State of New Hampshire, and a nascent downhill skiing industry found its labor pool in President Franklin Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC put single men between the ages of 18 and 25 to work in programs to improve America's public lands, forests, and parks. The AMC and its influential members, working through the New Hampshire State Development Commission and its newly formed

Committee on Skiing, were instrumental in convincing the US Forest Service that construction of ski trails was a perfect application for CCC labor.

The Richard Taft trail

For all its prowess in building trails, the AMC played no role in the creation of the trail that became the prototype for forested ski trails of the modern era, the Richard Taft Trail (“The Taft”) on Cannon Mountain, a 4,000-footer in Franconia, NH. When cut in 1932 and 1933, the Taft descended 2,200 feet with trail widths ranging from 15-60 feet, much wider than the typical hiking path or carriage road used for skiing in New England up to this time. It was also steep, exceeding 30 degrees on some pitches, expert terrain by today's standards. The trail was the brainchild of Katherine Peckett whose family ran the Arlberg Ski School on a small cow pasture in Sugar Hill, NH. Peckett, herself an alpine skier, worked with one of the school's instructors, Duke Dimitri von Leuchtenberg, a Russian émigré who learned skiing in Austria, to design a European-style trail



*Top: Trail crews clearing Richard Taft Trail in 1932.
Source: New England Ski Museum*

*Bottom: Skiers negotiate the Richard Taft Trail
on Cannon Mountain in 1930s.
Source: New England Ski Museum*

compatible with “down-mountain” skiing. Duke Dimitri anticipated that even the best practitioners would need and want to “stem” their speed on the steep sections of the trail, at least if they had any concern for self-preservation. So, he cut space to “stem” (turn), particularly at the bends of the trail. Width became an imperative ski-trail design consideration and was highlighted in all the early reports on the new trails as they were built.

A local crew initiated the work in 1932, sufficient for Sigmund Buchmayr to make the first ski descent in February 1933. The CCC refined and finished the project later that summer. Per Jeffrey Leich of the New England Ski Museum, “The Richard Taft trail was the first trail to be attempted on a four-thousand-foot mountain.... The Richard Taft trail became the prototype for numerous ski-trail construction projects in the state, and, in turn, these projects would become a pattern for other New England states.”



Cardigan Reservation
Source: AMC archives

The Taft Trail’s impact on the AMC, and more importantly its influential members, is apparent. Alex Bright, one of the best skiers of the time, and member of the NH Committee on Skiing, noted shortly after Buchmayr’s descent, “The course provides a ski-run equaled by nothing in the East.” Bright goes on to claim, “This trail is our nearest approach to what reasonably might be done with our apparently still unappreciated yet adequate mountains, for a skiing paradise in New England. This trail sweeps in grand curves and turns--in places sixty feet wide and at its narrowest fifteen feet--down a north slope where snows pile up and linger uncrusted until well into the summer.”

Per *The Sportsman* in December 1933, “With this trail as an example of what could be done on forested mountains and with the sympathetic cooperation of the C.C.C. officials, the whole network of new trails was laid out and more than forty miles of them were cut this past summer and are now ready for use. Particular credit must be given to John P. Carleton, Chairman of the New Hampshire Ski Trails Committee, [and] to Charles N. Proctor....”

Duke Dimitri von Leuchtenberg would go on to join Charles N. Proctor (AMC member) in working for the Ski Committee to survey and layout trails in Pinkham Notch and the Kinsman Range (Franconia and Easton, NH). In 1934, the AMC engaged Duke

Dimitri to design trails at their newly purchased Cardigan Ski Reservation where he routed the eponymous and still functional “Duke’s Trail” and lower instructional slopes.

It is worth appreciating the scale of some of these trails, 2-4 miles in length and many dropping more than 2,000 vertical feet. (See the associated chart on page 20 for a selection of AMC and CCC work loosely organized by the vertical relief of the work.) For comparison, Jackson Hole Resort in Wyoming boasts the biggest lift-serviced, continuous vertical drop of 4,105 feet, in the continental US. Descending from the summit of Mt. Washington to Pinkham Notch via Tuckerman’s and the Sherburne is 4,256



An early ski poster.
Courtesy of: the New England Ski Museum

feet; granted there is no lift. In terms of labor for timbering, of course what matters is the extent of forested terrain required to cut. At Jackson Hole, you can ski the entire descent on open alpine slopes (via the Hobacks). Most Eastern ski terrain, excepting the higher peaks in the Presidentials (including the upper 2,200 feet on Washington) and a few other bald tops, starts in the trees and ends in the trees. The trails cut off Cannon and Kinsman wend down 2,700 to 2,820 feet of dense, mostly hardwood forests, almost comparable to the 3,267 vertical descent from the top of Aspen Mountain, where the forest is mostly

pine and fir. Cutting these trails, and even just surveying them, was a monumental undertaking: tough work using two-person crosscut hand saw, axes, sledgehammers, dynamite and the occasional bulldozer. This work required a “Tree Army” and the CCC provided it.

Enduring legacy


Even before the disbanding of the CCC on the US entry into WWII, developers and resort operators assumed the initiative for developing the ski industry as we know it today – lift-serviced, destination resorts. The “mechanization” of skiing with lifts was outside of AMC’s mission and interest, that being “using skis as a means for the exploration of mountains and wildness”. The AMC complex in Pinkham Notch remained hallowed turf as the gateway to some of most renowned “extreme ski terrain” anywhere. As backcountry skiing author David Goodman asserts, “The pilgrimage to Tuckerman Ravine is the world’s grandest, oldest, and biggest celebration of sliding on snow. Nowhere else on Earth do people come together so faithfully and in such numbers to revel in the joys of skiing.” The image of Toni Matt in 1938 essentially schussing down 4,200 feet on a pair of wooden skis strapped to leather boots from the top of

Washington, over the lip of Tuckerman's and through the forest on the Sherbie to the Joe Dodge Lodge in six and one-half minutes is still one of the most mind boggling and enduring legends in the history of ski sport. The AMC also maintained its Cardigan Reservation but just barely, suffering significantly from lack of interest. On occasion AMC did cut additional downhill trails, perhaps most notably adding the Avalanche Brook Trail, cut by AMC volunteers, to the Pinkham Notch network in 1975.

Over the last 30 years or so, AMC's role has circled back to its backcountry origins, although playing its part in different ways to support the renaissance of backcountry skiing in the Northeast. Perhaps AMC's biggest contribution to the revitalization of backcountry skiing has been information about trails and terrain. In 1987, Sue Cummings, Editor of AMC Books, engaged David Goodman to write a book on "backcountry skiing" in New England. Expectations were low, even regarded as "crazy" at AMC Books: "I heard after the publication of the first edition that the decision to publish a book about skiing was controversial, even radical, within the AMC of the 1980s. Some felt at the time that AMC was a hiking organization and had no business publishing a book about skiing. I found this amusing, since the AMC was in fact a major force in the development of skiing in New England in the 1930s, offering ski trips and instruction at Pinkham Notch and Cardigan Lodge. AMC was in fact one of the primary organizations promoting skiing in that era. My book *Classic Backcountry Skiing* simply reconnected us to our roots." Whether Goodman was just in it to get paid for skiing or actually saw a trend probably draws a smirk: "I figured 100 skiers would buy it, and I would know 95 of them." But give AMC Books credit for its perspicacity: "In the 1980s, only a handful of intrepid telemarkers were skiing in the great ranges of the Northeast. But I had heard stories about how skiers had been crisscrossing the high peaks of New England since the 1920s. I wanted to find out where these skiers had gone and hear their tales. Perhaps, I speculated, the seeds they planted could blossom again." And that it has.

AMC Books published *Classic Backcountry Skiing: A Guide to the Best Ski Tours in New England* in 1988; the current edition, retitled *Best Backcountry Skiing in the Northeast: 50 Classic Ski and Snowboard Tours in New England and New York* came out in 2020. Simply put by Backcountry Magazine, Goodman's guide is "the bible of Eastern backcountry skiing," an epithet virtually no one disputes.

AMC also fostered this blossoming with information from another often-forgotten asset: its maps. Finding some of these old trails, many reassimilated by Mother Nature and time, relied on knowing where they originally descended. This information was best found in period maps and the AMC has probably the most comprehensive database of maps for topography and trails of any agency in New Hampshire. In fact, the Club in the 1930s had specific committees for "Topography" and "Trails." These committees recorded detailed notes on their activities in the club Bulletin and Annual Report. By tracking changes to maps over time, the ski community can rediscover the original existence, and approximate date of construction, evolution and current status of some of the trails which otherwise would be just names on a page.

The AMC: A Century of Breaking Trail for Backcountry Skiers		
Period	Years	
BC Years	1923-27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First references to AMC members cutting the Wapack ski trail
	1932	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local crews begin clearing the Richard Taft ski trail on Cannon Mountain
	1933	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AMC formally establishes a "Ski Committee" First ski descent of Taft Trail US Congress creates the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) providing a "Tree Army" for cutting ski trails through forests New Hampshire State Development Commission convenes a "Committee on Skiing"
	1934	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCC completes Richard Taft trail and begins work on many others throughout New Hampshire AMC acquires 600 acres on East side of Mt. Cardigan as a facility for "downhill" skiing
Beginning of lift serviced ski resorts	1936	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Averill Harriman erects nation's first chairlift in Sun Valley, Idaho shifting the focus of the ski industry to lift serviced resorts
	1942	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disbandment of CCC with US entry into WWII
Backcountry skiing renaissance	1989	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMC publishes David Goodman's <i>Classic Backcountry Skiing</i> coinciding with the early days in the renaissance of backcountry skiing
	Today	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Backcountry skiing is the fastest growing segment of ski industry. New groups such as Granite Backcountry Alliance rediscovering the old trails and "breaking" new backcountry terrain in New Hampshire.

The AMC Center at Pinkham Notch is as popular as ever as the epicenter of “extreme downhill skiing”. The Tuckerman’s Ravine and Gulf of Slides trails now serve as premier skinning tracks to access the alpine terrain above with the Sherburne providing the downhill exit through the forest for the Tuckerman drainage. And the destinations in the alpine terrain have extended to almost all of Mt. Washington: Oakes Gulf, Great Gulf, the other ravines – Huntington’s and Ammonoosuc - are all touring destinations for the intrepid. In fact, Brooks Dodge, a 1952 Olympian and son of “Mr. AMC” Joe Dodge, would add 12 descent lines to Tuckerman’s including Dodges Drop and Cathedral with grades exceeding 45% in sections.

Mt Cardigan is enjoying a huge renaissance as destination back-country and Nordic facility. “With the revival of backcountry skiing that began in the 1980s, skier traffic on Mount Cardigan has once again picked up, and the venerable ski lodge, which underwent a major renovation in 2005, is filled most winter weekends. AMC Cardigan Lodge, with bunks for 60 people, currently offers full-service lodging on weekends and self-service lodging midweek. Skiers preferring a back-country experience can stay two miles up the mountain at AMC High Cabin, a rustic self-service facility with bunks for twelve.” AMC volunteer trail crews today actively maintain the trails.

The AMC may be modest about its accomplishments, but it has been breaking trail for backcountry skiers for nearly a century. For those interested in exploring the history of skiing in New England further, the AMC staffs an Archivist, Becky Fullerton, and stores volumes of Appalachia dating back to 1876, the AMC Bulletin and Annual reports and other materials at its Highland Center in Crawford Notch. The New England Ski Museum (<https://newenglandskimuseum.org>) and Ski New England (<https://www.newenglandskihistory.com>) support websites and archives chronicling much of the history of alpine skiing in New England including archives with primary sources. John Allen comprehensively reviews the development of skiing in North America in his book *From Skisport to Skiing: One Hundred Years of an American Sport – 1840-1940* published in 1993. The second edition of David Goodman’s guidebook: *Best Backcountry Skiing in the Northeast: Fifty Classic Ski and Snowboard*



Tours in New England and New York is available through the AMC portal (<https://www.outdoors.org>). Goodman updated his guide with extensive additional material in 2020. Information on AMC NH ski activities (excursions and instruction) can be found on the New Hampshire chapter website (<https://amcnh.org/committees/ski/>).

Mountain Trail Name	Length (miles)	Vertical Decent (ft)	Width (ft)	Notes
Mt. Washington Summit to Pinkham via Sherburne	4.2	4,268	Sherburne 10-50	1934 – Proctor designed; 1,930 ft. of descent cut through trees on Sherburne.
Mt. Washington Gulf of Slides (including Main Gully)	3.0	3000		
Cannon Taft-Tuckerbrook	3.6	2,820	12-25 original	Original Tuckerbrook portion reported as 900 vertical, 13 turns connecting to Taft and upper Taft account for remainder of vertical drop.
Cannon Taft -Coppermine	4.0	2,750	15-60	CCC – 1934.
Cannon Richard Taft	2.1	2,200	15-60	Designed by Duke Dimitri von Leuchtenberg. Cut by Local Volunteers in 1932 with later help from CCC in 1933. First skied Feb 1933.
Mt. Kinsman Kinsman Ski Trail	3.0	2,700	15-40	CCC – 1934.
Mt. Tecumseh Tecumseh Ski Trail	2.75	2,400	8-60	1934 – Not clear who cut first trail. Recut by CCC in 1937.
Wildcat Mountain Wildcat Ski Trail	1.5	2,000	18-60	CCC – 1933; Proctor designed.
Maple Villa Maple Villa Trail	2.5	2,000		CCC - 1933 Proctor and Carleton designed. Pushed by Dodge
Mt. Cardigan Dukes	2.0	1,600	14-40	AMC – 1933; improved by CCC 1934.
Mt. Cardigan Alexandria	1.7	1,400	20-50	CCC – 1934.
Wapack Trail			30+	

Conservation Corner: White Tailed Deer

BY: JENNIE VANDERHOOVEN

Raise your hand if you have ever seen one of New Hampshire's iconic white-tailed deer? I'm guessing that the majority of people reading this have their hands raised. The population of our beloved deer are vast and extensive within our New Hampshire woods, and are considered by Fish and Game as the "least concern." Does that mean we shouldn't worry about them?

Our white-tailed deer play a crucial role in our state's ecosystem, contributing to our biodiversity and overall ecological health in several ways. White-tailed deer are considered "ecosystem engineers" through their method of seed dispersal, being a food resource for numerous predators, their cultural & recreational value and their grazing habits are a good indicator of our overall ecosystem health.

Through selective browsing of our vegetation, deer influence the composition and structure of our plant communities. This can be a cause for concern due to the deer's voracious appetite, particularly during the winter. As the population grows, so does the pressure on vegetation, leading to overgrazing in certain areas. This heightened browsing activity can disrupt the natural regeneration of forests and impact the diversity of plant species.

We as humans have a drive for expansion which has an impact on all of our natural resources and wildlife. The State of New Hampshire, in collaboration with multiple conservation and wildlife organizations are working hard to preserve and enhance winter habitats for deer. This includes maintaining connectivity between forested areas, creating buffer zones to minimize human intrusion and strategically planting vegetation that serves as crucial food sources during the winter.



Photo courtesy of Joe Covino

By taking a proactive stance on habitat conservation, the state aims to mitigate the impact of winter weather on deer survival.

Supplementing these efforts, New Hampshire is implementing a science-driven approach to monitor and manage deer populations. Biologists and researchers are utilizing advanced tracking technology to study the movements and behaviors of deer during winter. These data are instrumental in understanding migration patterns, identifying critical wintering areas, and informing targeted conservation measures. The state's commitment to evidence-based wildlife management reflects a dedication to preserving the delicate balance of its ecosystems.

Community engagement is also playing a pivotal role in the conservation of our beloved white-tailed deer. Education programs are being rolled out to inform residents about the challenges faced by deer during winter and the importance of minimizing disturbances. The New Hampshire Fish & Game website has numerous articles and educational articles

about our "state animal" as well as a poignant brochure about why landowners should not feed the deer. The non-fiction book *"The Hidden Life of Deer: Lessons from the Natural World"* by Elizabeth Marshall Thomas which is set in the Monadnock region, has a very different opinion from Fish & Game about feeding the deer. It's a good read to learn more about the diverse nature of these majestic creatures.

Striking a balance between preserving the state's cherished deer population and maintaining a healthy, biodiverse ecosystem requires collaborative efforts and a nuanced understanding of the intricate relationships with New Hampshire's natural tapestry.

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10 City Square, Boston MA 02129
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www.outdoors.org/membercenter

Q&A with Casy Calver and Julian Willard of the AMC-NH Ski Committee

Does AMC-NH cut/maintain backcountry trails?

The AMC-New Hampshire Trails Committee maintains the trails at Mt Cardigan. In addition, some of our members are AMC trail adopters. The AMC-NH Ski Committee (together with the AMC-Boston Ski Committee) collaborates with the Trails Committee for an annual Cardigan ski trail workday, which is held every fall. We do not glide on or around Mt Cardigan. The Trails Committee helps ensure that the ski trails at Cardigan are in excellent shape ahead of each ski season. Anyone who is interested in helping to maintain the Cardigan ski trails—or skiing with us—should sign up for our ski news mailing list on our AMC-NH Ski Committee webpage. A number of our ski leaders are themselves trail adopters through the AMC for ski trails in Pinkham Notch and elsewhere. For more information on the AMC-NH Trails Committee, please contact trailsnh@amcnh.org.

Do you provide or sponsor ski instruction?

The AMC-New Hampshire Ski Committee has its own Professional Ski Instructors Association (PSIA)-registered ski school at Mt Cardigan, called the Cardigan Mountain Ski School. A number of our ski leaders are PSIA-certified ski instructors, so we are able to offer a high level of skiing instruction (backcountry, alpine, telemark and Nordic). Some of our leaders teach part-time at resorts like Bretton Woods, Gunstock, and Wachusett, and our pool of around 40 ski leaders has some real breadth and depth in terms of offering skilled instruction.

We have a few annual programs that are focused specifically on skiing instruction. Our leaders teach two sections of backcountry skiing (down-mountain alpine/telemark, and light backcountry/

Nordic) at the AMC-NH Chapter's Winter School sessions, which are weekend-long programs held at Mt Cardigan every January and February. In these courses, we teach participants who are already proficient resort skiers the skills they need to be self-sufficient in the backcountry, techniques for skiing ungroomed terrain, and how to use their backcountry touring gear. These weekends are always a lot of fun, and a great way for people to take their skills from the resort to the backcountry.

For the last 6 years, the AMC-NH Ski Committee has also offered a series of women-led day trips and clinics that are geared for people who want to transition from lift-served alpine or telemark skiing to backcountry skiing. These have been very successful and offer a very inviting and supportive environment open to anyone (of any gender!) who wants to acquire the skills to tour safely in the backcountry.

Talk about your group trips, excursions and day events?

As of this writing, we have around 30 daytrips and clinics planned for the 2023-24 season (see ski calendar PDF, on page 23). The AMC-NH Ski Committee runs day trips in NH, VT, NY, and ME, and almost all of them are free of charge. We offer trips specifically for families and people with small children, as well as intermediate and advanced-level tours, so we really have something for everyone. Many of our trips are down-mountain, for alpine touring/telemark skiers, but plenty of our trips are light backcountry, usually on Nordic skis with metal edges and scales, for those who prefer to ski on rolling terrain. Our leaders range from their 20s to their 80s and every age in between. Readers can see the trips on offer and learn more about the AMC-NH Ski Committee and our leaders on our website. Come ski with us

THE NH CHAPTER HAS AN OPENING FOR A VOLUNTEER TREASURER

As treasurer you will be a member of the Executive Committee and be responsible for all the Chapter's financial matters.

- Duties - Pay bills, receive payments, prepare monthly financial reports, assemble budget, prepare annual audit docs for AMC.
- Time commitment - approximately four hours per month (more during budget and audit season). Attend one Webex meeting per month.

- Use on-line version of QuickBooks.
- Interact with other AMC volunteers.

Current treasurer will train to assure a smooth transition.

If you have the time, some financial background, and want to help the Chapter, please contact: Rick Rosania
treasurernh@amcnh.org

MOUNTAIN PASSAGES

Volume 49, No. 4
Winter 2023/2024

Mountain Passages is published four times a year by the New Hampshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club.

Submissions. Members may submit articles or photos (hi-res jpegs) to MtnPassages@gmail.com. Articles may be edited at the discretion of the editor to meet space and style requirements. Publication is on a space-available basis. While Mountain Passages does not pay for submissions; a byline or photo credit is given. Contact Mountain Passages for reprint permission.

Advertising. The AMC NH Chapter members enjoy the outdoors year-round by hiking, paddling, skiing, backpacking, climbing and biking and more.

For information and the Ad Rate Sheet, send an email to MtnPassages@gmail.com.

We reserve the right to refuse any submission, photo or advertising that is not consistent with the mission of the AMC.

Address Changes. Address changes or other changes to your membership must be made through AMC Member Services at 10 City Square, Boston, MA 02129; 800-372-1758; outdoors.org/membercenter

Please note: Member address updates cannot be handled by AMC-NH officers, committee chairs, or the newsletter editor.

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To sign up, go to www.outdoors.org/membercenter and set your AMC-NH Chapter newsletter preference to online.

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2023/24 AMC NH Skiers Calendar

Date/locations are tentative!

Please check with leaders and online at: <https://activities.outdoors.org> Email: casycalver@gmail.com or jillian.willard@gmail.com

Date	Event	Where		Activity	Style	Level	Leader
Fri 9/29/23	Pinkham Notch area ski trails	Pinkham notch	NH	Trail work	Trail work	All	Al, Tim
Sat 9/30/2023	Pinkham Notch area ski trails	Pinkham notch	NH	Trail work	Trail work	All	Al, Tim
Sun 10/01/2023	Pinkham Notch area ski trails	Pinkham notch	NH	Trail work	Trail work	All	Al, Tim
Sat 10/07/2023	Pinkham Notch area ski trails	Pinkham Notch	NH	Trail Work	Trail Work	All	Al, Tim
Sun 10/08/2023	Pinkham Notch area ski trails	Pinkham Notch	NH	Trail Work	Trail Work	All	Al, Tim
Sun 10/29/2023	Cardigan Ski Trailwork Day	Alexandria	NH	Trail work	Trail Work	All	Richie
Sat 12/2/2023	Ski leader training day	Cardigan	NH	Clinic	Leaders only	Leaders	Jillian, Scott, Casy
Wed 12/06/2023	Avalanche Beacon Practice	Farmington	CT	Clinic	Workshop	All	Chuck Boyd, Tim
Mon 1/1/2024	Sunapee Sunrise Spectacular	Sunapee	NH	Trip	AT/Tele/Split	Int/Adv	Nik, Brian
Wed 1/3/2024	Dawn Patrol Wednesdays at Whaleback	Enfield	NH	Trip	AT/Tele/Split	All	Nik, Daniella
Wed 1/10/2024	Dawn Patrol Wednesdays at Whaleback	Enfield	NH	Trip	AT/Tele/Split	All	Nik, Daniella
Wed 1/17/2024	Dawn Patrol Wednesdays at Whaleback	Enfield	NH	Trip	AT/Tele/Split	All	Nik, Daniella
Sat 1/20/2024	Hayes Copp	Pinkham	NH	Trip	Light BC	All	Darrell, Joel
Sat 01/20/2024	Resort to BC 101	Magic	VT	Trip	AT/Tele/Split	All	Jillian, Jaimee
Wed 1/24/2024	Dawn Patrol Wednesdays at Whaleback	Enfield	NH	Trip	AT/Tele/Split	All	Nik, Daniella
Fri 01/26/2024	Winter School I	Alexandria	NH	Clinic	Light BC, BC Downmountain	Beg to Adv	Scott +
Sat 01/27/2024							
Sun 01/28/2024							
Sat 01/27/2024	Green Woodlands XC	Dorchester	NH	Trip	Family XC	Beg/Int	Brian G, Erik
Wed 1/31/2024	Dawn Patrol Wednesdays at Whaleback	Enfield	NH	Trip	AT/Tele/Split	All	Nik, Daniella
Sat 02/03/2024	Pike Glades	Pike	NH	Trip	AT/Tele/Split	Adv	Nik, Matt, Chris as LiT
Sun 02/04/2024	Franconia Falls	Lincoln	NH	Trip	XC	All	Scott, Emilie, Chris as LiT
Wed 2/7/2024	Dawn Patrol Wednesdays at Whaleback	Enfield	NH	Trip	AT/Tele/Split	All	Daniella
Sat 2/10/2024	Resort to BC 102	Cardigan	NH	Trip	At/Tele/Split	Int	Jillian, Jaimee, Sarah
Sat 2/10/2024	John Sherburne Ski Trail	Pinkham Notch	NH	Trip	Family/intro adults	All	Tyson, Aaron H
Sun 02/11/2024	Tour de Upper Valley	Lyme	NH	Trip	Easy downmountain	All	Valerio, Jed
Wed 2/14/2024	Dawn Patrol Wednesdays at Whaleback	Enfield	NH	Trip	AT/Tele/Split	All	Nik, Daniella
Sat 02/17/2024	Camel's Hump	Duxbury	VT	Trip	AT/Tele/Split	Adv	Casy, Chris P
Sat 02/17/2024	GBA Glades Weekend - Day 1	MWV	NH	Trip	AT/Tele/Split	Adv	Nik, Aaron
Sun 02/18/2024	GBA Glades Weekend - Day 2	MWV	NH	Trip	AT/Tele/Split	Adv	Nik, Aaron
Sun 02/18/2024	Pike Glades	Pike	NH	Trip	family, casual pace	Int	Sarah , Jed
Wed 2/21/2024	Dawn Patrol Wednesdays at Whaleback	Enfield	NH	Trip	AT/Tele/Split	All	Nik
Fri 02/23/2024	Winter School II	Alexandria	NH	Clinic	Downmountain	all	Scott +
Sat 02/24/2024							
Sun 02/25/2024							
Wed 2/28/2024	Dawn Patrol Wednesdays at Whaleback	Enfield	NH	Trip	AT/Tele/Split	All	Nik, Daniella
Fri 3/1/2024	Doublehead	Jackson	NH	Trip	AT/Tele/Split	Interm	Sean, Tim
Sat 03/02/2024	Mt Hor/Pisgah	Orleans	VT	Trip	AT/Tele/Split	Adv	Brian G, Chris, Matt
Sat 3/2/2024	Mt Marcy	Keene Valley	NY	Trip	AT/Tele/Split	Adv	Christina, Davide
Sun 3/3/2024	Something near Marcy	Keene Valley	NY	Trip	AT/Tele/Split	Adv	Christina, Davide, Jaimee
Sun 03/03/2024	Explore Moose Mountain	Hanover	NH	Trip	Light BC	Interm	Valerio, Erik, Martino
Wed 3/6/2024	Dawn Patrol Wednesdays at Whaleback	Enfield	NH	Trip	AT/Tele/Split	All	Nik, Daniella
Sat 3/9/2024	Brandon Gap	Brandon	VT	Trip	AT/Telemark	Adv	Nik, Matt
Sat 03/09/2024	West Side Glades	Whites	NH	Trip	AT/Telemark	Family	Sarah, Emilie
Sun 3/10/2024	Green Woodlands	Lyme	NH	Trip	Light BC	Family	Erik, Matt
Sun 03/10/2024	Resort to BC 103	TBD	0	Trip	AT/Tele/Split	Interm	Jillian, Jaimee
Wed 3/13/2024	Dawn Patrol Wednesdays at Whaleback	Enfield	NH	Trip	AT/Tele/Split	All	Nik
Sat 03/16/2024	Leaders' choice GBA glade	White Mountains	NH	Trip	AT/Tele/Split	Interm	Tyson, TBD
3/16-3/23 2024	Gaspesie	Canada	0	Trip	AT/Tele/Split	Adv	Margaret, Martino, Jaimee
Sun 03/17/2024	Greely Pond North	Kangamagus Hwy	NH	Trip	Family xc	Interm	Emilie, Darrell
Sat 03/23/2024	Crescent Ridge	Randolph	NH	Trip	AT/Tele/Split	Interm	Brian G, Tyson
Sun 03/24/2024	Mud season madness	Mudville	NH	Trip	Light BC	Interm	Scott, Sean, Joel
Sat 4/6/2024	Leaders' choice	Mt. Washington	NH	Trip	AT/Tele/Split	Adv	Tyson, Chris
Sat 4/13/2024	Gulf of Slides	Pinkham Notch	NH	Trip	AT/Tele/Split	Adv	Brian G, Nik



Casy, Jillian,, November 2023



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'Mountain Passages' is only the beginning...

From hiking to biking, AMC's New Hampshire chapter has it all. Visit our website at amcnh.org and read more about us and our many year-round events.

Opportunities for Trail Work in the Maine AMC Woods

APPLY NOW FOR 2024

Exciting opportunities await you in 2024! The Maine Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) is currently accepting applications for our Peter Roderick Trail Scholarships and John Mullen Trail Fellowships. Whether you're new to trail work or have experience and aspire to take on leadership roles, there's something for everyone.

Peter Roderick Trail Scholarships:

If you've never tried trail work, our Chapter-sponsored trip to the Maine Woods is the perfect opportunity. Named after the dedicated volunteer Peter Roderick, this scholarship covers all costs for overnight lodging and food during one of four trail work weekends. We're offering multiple scholarships, with three spots available for each trip. Apply and join us in preserving the beauty of AMC's Maine Woods.

John Mullens Trail Fellowships:

For those with trail work experience and a desire to deepen their involvement, the John Mullens Trail Fellowship is designed for you. Named after the devoted volunteer late John Mullens, this fellowship is for individuals committed to taking on a leadership role in trail work parties and obtaining advanced trail maintenance skills. If you're ready to make a lasting impact in the Maine Woods, we want to hear from you.

To learn more and apply, visit our website:
amcmaine.org/2024-trails-scholarship.

Important Details:

For those unfamiliar with trail work at the Maine AMC lodges, each trip begins with Friday evening dinner and concludes after lunch on the Monday. Three nights of bunkhouse accommodations, meals, and trail work equipment are provided at no cost to selected recipients. Don't miss this chance to experience the beauty of the Maine woods while contributing to AMC's mission.

Applications will be accepted until the deadline or until all slots for each trip are filled. Decisions for all 2024 trips will be made on a rolling basis, so apply now at:
amcmaine.org/2024-trails-scholarship.

This program is open to any new or current AMC member who shares a passion for working outdoors. If you're not already a member, join now to be eligible for this unique opportunity.

For those interested in one-day trail work opportunities or seeking more information, email us at trails@amcmaine.org.

We look forward to seeing you on the trail!

-Phil Coyne, Maine Trails Chair.