Chapter Chair’s Corner

By Cindy Crosby

On the first Earth Day, April 22, 1970, approximately 20 million Americans protested the poor health of our planet following years of neglect and abuse.

Some of our waterways were so polluted that people avoided recreational activities. Cities were so choked with smog that people were confined indoors even on warm days. Citizen activists across the country then began the shift that propelled us to be accountable for our environment.

A generation later, landmark environmental regulations have dramatically improved the air, water and land, and reversed years of environmental degeneration. Yet, we still have much to do. That same passion that propelled citizen activists 50 years ago needs to be summoned again. Climate change is not as obvious as polluted streams and air, but the threat today is just as dire.

What can we do? Join, educate, and act.

Join. AMC membership is a first step. As members, we contribute to an organization whose mission, since 1876, is to promote the protection, enjoyment, and understanding of the mountains, forests, waters, and trails of America’s Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions.

The Boston Chapter donates funds to preserve and protect climbing access, hiking trails and waterways, and to enable continued conservation education. Examples include the maintenance of Wapack and Baystate trails in MA, the purchase of land that protects climbing at Rumney Rocks in NH, and restoration of stream and trout habitats in Maine. A 2019 NH Supreme Court ruling rejected the Northern Pass initiative, a proposed 192-mile electric transmission line from Canada through NH’s protected White Mountains to consumers in New England. This victory was helped by
AMC’s conservation action program and the funds contributed by its chapters, Boston being one of them.

Educate. Participate in, or volunteer to lead, AMC conservation-themed educational events to enlighten yourself and others about climate change. From biking, walking, and swimming to picnics in the park, it’s important we tread lightly and respect our environment. The AMC community has opportunities and publications to help you become an advocate of Leave No Trace.

Join or initiate a potluck social and invite conservation leaders and activists to speak. Driving to our treasured parks, mountains, and waterways leaves an unwanted carbon footprint. Consider a carpool, or lead and join events closer to public transportation and home. Local community is a treasured resource.


Ask what you can do to lead or volunteer at a conservation-themed event. Search www.outdoors.org for conservation activities to attend. Volunteer on a trail crew. Visit the Action Center on AMC’s website to get the latest updates. Sign up for the Conservation Action, https://www.outdoors.org/conservation-action-network, to receive notices so you’ll know when your voice can help to protect the outdoors.

Alone, we are not as impactful as when we advocate together. Joining together with the broader AMC community, other non-profits, legislators, and citizen activists such as yourself, we will make a difference toward the future of our earth.

Here’s to another 50 years of protecting and restoring our planet!

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42ND ANNUAL SPRING BIKE RALLY

June 14 • Verrill Farm
11 Wheeler Road • Concord, MA

The Boston Chapter is—once again—kicking off the summer bike season with a rally.

Held at Verrill Farm in Concord on Sunday, June 14, it’s a great opportunity for cyclists of all levels to get together. Rides of 16, 29, 40, and 50 miles are offered on beautiful rolling terrain. Helmets are required.

After the rides, participants are invited to enjoy an outdoor happy hour with appetizers, beer, wine and soft drinks, and then dinner which includes a vegetarian option. You are not allowed to bring your own alcoholic beverages.

Cost: $40 AMC members; $50 non-members.

All riders must preregister at https://amcboston.org/bicycle/rally/rallyreg.php.

For more information on ride distances, routes, and times, visit https://amcboston.org/bicycle/rally/.

Hope to see you there!
Finding Trips and Activities Online

Trip listings are now exclusively online!

Boston Chapter trips:
• Visit the Trip Listings Digest at www.amcboston.org, where you’ll always find two months’ worth of trips.

All AMC trips (including Boston Chapter-led trips):
• Log in to https://activities.outdoors.org/login with your AMC account (your AMC Member Center account or AMC Online store login).

If you have not yet created an AMC account, go to the above link and fill in the information in the box on the screen’s left side to create one.

If you have an account but have forgotten your username or password, scroll down and click the I forgot my username or password link at the bottom of the screen.

After signing up for a trip, you will receive a registration confirmation via email, which can help coordinate carpooling with other participants. You can also use your account dashboard to keep track of your upcoming trips.

Have a Story or Photos to Share?

We’re always interested in hearing about your AMC adventures, experiences, and outdoor tips.


For more information or to submit an article, contact the Mud editor at edex.edit@verizon.net.

Attend an Executive Committee Meeting

Boston chapter executive committee meetings are open to all AMC members.

Come meet the chapter leaders and share your ideas. Meetings are held September through June on the first Monday of the month, 7–9 pm, at AMC Headquarters, 10 City Square, Charlestown.

For more information, contact the Chapter Chair at cindy@amcboston.org.

Charles River Mud

Published 4 times a year. Feedback and contributions from members is welcome and appreciated. Please send your trip reports, photos, articles, letters, book reviews, and so forth to the Mud editor (info below).

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Comments or complaints about a chapter trip? We encourage you to contact the Chair: cindy@amcboston.org
Rock Program Trains New Climbers

The ice up north is melting, which means it’s time for the Mountaineering Committee’s annual Rock Program!

Each spring, 100 AMC volunteers spend nearly 3,000 hours from March through May teaching 65 students how to safely climb outdoors. The program takes place over two evening classroom sessions, five program weekends, and three social events (plus many other events for our volunteers to prepare for the program).

We encourage everyone to treat the Rock Program as a gateway to the Boston climbing community and the broader AMC.

Everyone Is Welcome

Many of our students are experienced indoor gym climbers looking to make the transition to the great outdoors, whereas others have never climbed before. Some are new to the AMC and others have volunteered or attended events run by other committees. Everyone is welcome regardless of past experience.

Following the program, our graduates are invited to join experienced AMC climbers at New Seconds Weekend in New York’s Shawangunk Mountains to put their new skills to the test on multi-pitch trad climbs up to 250 feet tall.

Many graduates go on to spend their summer climbing with both each other and the volunteers they met through the program, both independently and on trips run by the Mountaineering Committee. Many also come back the following year as volunteers.

If you aspire to take your outdoor adventures into the vertical realm, find out more at http://www.amcbostonclimbers.com/rock/.

Or, if you’re an experienced climber and want to share your knowledge with the next generation, email rock@amcbostonclimbers.com to find out more.

Jeff Carlson Receives Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes AMC volunteers who’ve contributed outstanding efforts to the club’s mission. It recognizes long-term commitment to enhancing and sustaining our conservation, education, and recreation values.

Jeff Carlson has served as an AMC volunteer since the early 2000s when he became a leader for the Hiking and Backpacking committee. In 2012 he stepped up as Vice Chair and in 2013 began a three-year term as Chair. As Chair, Jeff updated chapter practices and developed a growing sense of connection and cooperation within both the chapter and AMC. Following his successful time as Chair, Jeff took on the Treasurer position, where he helped the chapter create a more robust financial policy to heighten transparency and participation in the annual budget process.

In addition, Jeff has served as a chapter representative to the Outdoor Leadership Development Committee, representing the chapters’ interests and needs regarding leadership and risk management. Jeff also serves on AMC’s development committee, and is a tireless advocate, facilitator, and guiding voice for the organization.
Introducing the INTRO Committee

The INTRO Committee is for people who enjoy the outdoors at a comfortable pace, and are looking to share this experience with likeminded folks.

Trips are at the beginner to intermediate levels. Everyone is welcome, and day trips often allow dogs (but check with the leader first!).

We offer a broad range of activities such as walks, hikes, biking, flat-water canoeing, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.

Our activities often include a social component—such as a meal, theater, concert, museum, or historical walk.

Both day and weekend trips are offered. Day trips are typically local, and weekends can be anywhere in New England such as NH or the Cape and Islands. For listings, check: https://amcboston.org/committee/intro/trip.

We encourage people who want to try something new, and are open to new ideas. If you have an activity suggestion and/or would like to get involved as a leader, co-leader or planner, contact Ed McManmon, epmcmanmon@nii.net or Helen Palmer, hpalmer.fournature@verizon.net.

Family Outings Gears Up for Spring

Beginner Hiking Program for Families, April – June

Have you ever wanted to take your family for a hike – but not sure where to go, what to bring, or how to convince your kids it’ll be fun? Then join the Boston Family Outings Committee for this year’s Beginner Hiking Program for Families!

All Levels and Ages Welcome

This free spring program provides easy access to a list of beginner-to-moderate weekend day hikes with other families from April through June. Hike locations are mainly in Metro Boston / Eastern MA and Southern NH.

Registered families receive, via email, tips and games to play with kids on the trail. Come meet other families who enjoy the outdoors!

To register, visit: https://regi.amcboston.org/event/2835.

Questions? Contact: Carrie McMillen, carriemcmillen@gmail.com.
Local Massachusetts Walks with AMC’s Boston Chapter

It’s spring—time to get outdoors and enjoy the longer days!

The Local Walks committee hosts a myriad of easy-to-strenuous hikes in the Boston region. From exploring city neighborhoods, to nature talks/walks, to moderate half-day hikes in conservation lands, as well as more challenging full-day expeditions—we have something for all who enjoy walking and hiking. It’s a great way to get exercise and meet new friends, so shake off those winter blues and get out and enjoy the beauty of nature!

The pace is usually moderate, and our walks are “show and go.” You do not need to register, unless otherwise indicated. A sampling of upcoming walks is listed on the next page.

For more information, check out the Local Walks and Hikes homepage for a link to Local Walks and Hikes listings: https://amcboston.org/committee/walks.

Any questions? Contact Lisa Fleischman, localwalks@amcboston.org.

AMC Walk, Weymouth, MA

SPRING LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Are you interested in becoming a trip leader? Spring Leadership Training will be held:

- Thursday, April 9, 6:30 – 9:30 pm, AMC Headquarters, Charlestown, MA
- Wednesday, April 15, 6:30 – 9:30 pm, AMC Headquarters, Charlestown, MA
- Friday, April 24, 7 pm to Sunday, April 26, 4 pm, Camp Lyndon, Sandwich, MA

Students must attend all three sessions to complete the program.

To register, go to: https://activities.outdoors.org/search/index.cfm/action/details/id/117786

or: https://regi.amcboston.org/event/2824

A trip-planning meeting will be held the week of April 27, at an as-yet-to-be-determined date. All graduates of the Leadership Training program (as well as leaders from all committees) are strongly encourage to attend.
Volunteer with AMC!

The AMC, and all of the trips and activities it offers, is run entirely by volunteers. Have you considered giving back to the Boston chapter?

Trip leaders are always needed, as well as a variety of other volunteers. Opportunities include volunteering with our chapter’s Trails Committee, planning events with the Membership Committee, or helping an activity committee with behind-the-scenes work.

For more information about volunteering with the Boston chapter, please contact the chapter chair of the committee you’re interested in (see top box on right).