

September 2014



View from the Chair

By Cheryl Lathrop

Thank you leaders for all the fun activities I see coming up in September!

I can't wait for our **Annual Chapter Hut Weekend!** Our chapter Social Director, Melissa Powers, has done a superb job organizing and advertising it. We have close to 50 members attending! Looking forward to a great weekend with all of you.

And mark your calendar now for **our Nov. 1 SEM Annual Meeting and Dinner**. Come for the cash-bar social hour (free hors d'oeuvres), for the Annual Meeting (free), for the Annual Dinner (register and pay)—or for all three! And remember, we run our Winter Hiking Workshop and our "Stroll Down Memory Lane" (easy) hike nearby that afternoon.

We have lots of volunteer opportunities available! Contact me if you want to get more involved in any of those listed on the next page.









Chapter Officers needed—

<u>Chapter Vice Chair</u>—In training to take over as Chapter Chair.

<u>Chapter Secretary</u> – Take notes at monthly Executive Board meetings.

Committee Chairs needed—Manage the committee and leaders.

Education Chair Skiing Chair Trailwork Chair

Committee Vice Chairs needed—Help the Committee Chair. In training to take over when their term ends.

Biking

Communications

CYP

Conservation

Education

Skiing

Social

Trailwork

Additional leaders for all sports needed—Watch for our next Leadership

Training course in the spring!

Got something to say? Got a good idea? Want to volunteer? Feel free to contact me anytime about anything! chair@amcsem.org

Change Lathing

2014 Executive Board

Chair Cheryl Lathrop Education Chair Len Ulbricht

Chapter Vice Chair Maureen Kelly Education Vice Open

Secretary Karen Singleton Hiking Chair Paul Miller

Treasurer Patty Rottmeier Hiking Vice Chair Leslie Carson

Past Chapter Chair Jim Plouffe Membership Chair Jim Casey

Chair

Biking Chair Cheryl Washwell Membership Vice Chair Ed Miller

Biking Vice Chair Open Membership Vice Chair Ellen Thompson

Cape Hiking Chair Farley Lewis Membership Vice Chair Kristen Yngve

Cape Hiking Vice Chair Peter Selig Paddling Chair Betty Hinkley

Communications Chair Gina Hurley Paddling Vice Chair Ed Foster

Communications Vice Chair Open Skiing Chair Barbara Hathaway

Conservation Chair Joanne Jarzobski Skiing Vice Chair Open
Conservation Vice Chair Open Trails Chair Open

CYP Chair Sally Delisa Trails Vice Chair Wayne Anderson

CYP Vice Chair Open

Ad Hoc Committee Chairs and Other Chapter Contacts

Social Director Melissa Powers

Social Vice Chair Open

Family Events Chair Chris Pelligrini
Family Events Vice Chair Bill Pelligrini

Social Networking Moderator Susan Franconi-Salmon

Webmaster webmaster
Breeze Editor Gina Hurley
Blast Editor Gina Hurley

Contact Chapter Chair at chair@amcsem.org if you are interested in any open position.

Upcoming Executive Board Meetings: September 10, October 8, November 12.



Chapter Hut Weekend
September 18-21
Fall Gathering (AMC)
October 17-19, Jefferson, Maine
SEM Annual Meeting and Dinner
November 1
Wilderness First Aid
November 8-9

Important Chapter Information and Links

Find activities (hikes, bikes, etc.)

- 1. Links in the monthly Breeze
- 2. Links on chapter website
- 3. Online trip listings

Pictures and Article Submissions

We encourage SEM members to submit articles and photos for both the Breeze and our website. Materials will be edited at the editor's discretion. **Submissions must be copy ready**. Title and credit for all photos must be included.

Send to breeze.editor@amcsem.org

Breeze Deadline

On the 15 of the preceding month.

Sign-up for the Breeze

Call 800-372-1758 or email amcinformation@outdoors.org

Where to find <u>Breeze newsletters</u> (current and past).

Volunteers Wanted

Volunteer for the Executive Board. Do you have skill and want to see where you fit? We have volunteer positions open! Contact chair@amcsem.org

Want SEM activities delivered right to your email inbox?

Sign up for AMC "digests". Access the Member Center from our homepage or call 800-372-1758.



Franconia Ridge, NH Photo courtesy of Gina Hurley

SEM ACTIVITES AND TRIPS

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Schedules -- QUICK-CLICKS

The QUICK-CLICK links below are connected to the AMC query results, providing instant access to currently scheduled activities for AMC and AMCSEM. With no parameters to input!

Biking | Cape Hiking | Hiking | Paddle | Skiing | Trails | Conservation

<u>CYP | Family Events | Social | Education | Membership | Executive Committee</u>

All SEM activities All AMC activities Sign up for the AMC Activity Digest

SEM VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Where else can you find SEM activities listed?

Links in SEM e-Breeze newsletter

Short Notice Email List

<u>UNDER THE "UPCOMING EVENTS" TAB AT AMCSEM.ORG</u>
(also includes community events and activities from other AMC chapters!)

Short Notice Email List (SNEL)



Sign-Up Now!

Receive email about short-notice trips, cancellations, changes, and announcements.

Sign up now! Go to: http://www.amcsem.org/schedules.html

Instructions for posting SNEL trips

Activity Participation Policy

"AMC encourages involvement in its mission and activities, through its membership, programs, policies and procedures. Our goal is to be a community that is comfortable, inviting and accessible for people of any age, gender, race, religion, ethnicity, ability, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status. Some AMC programs are designed for a certain age range of members or for a special activity or topic. However, any person who meets the minimum qualifications (skills, experience, fitness) established by the trip leader(s) for an activity is eligible to attend, if space is available."

Chapter Hut Weekend

By Melissa Powers, Social Chair

Registration for this event is officially closed but if you want to join in the fun – contact the Highland Center directly to see if they have room for you. We would love to see you!

The dates are September 19th - 21st we will be hosting our annual SEM Chapter Hut Weekend at The Highland Center at Crawford Notch, New Hampshire. Call the Highland Center at 603-466-2727.



Chapter Youth Program

By Sally Delisa

This fall the AMC SEM Chapter Youth Program leaders we will be working with students from the Cardinal Cushing school. Recently leaders met and discussed great areas in our region for children, a list for First Aid Kits geared to our needs, required/suggested equipment list for growing children, activities such as Forest Watch, tick prevention and other safety ideas, pond and tidal pool fun, and experiments from the AMC 'Staying Found' kit. We discussed possible other new groups to recruit and a newly created recruiting folder with information. Many thanks to six leaders who gave of their valuable time to AMC SEM!





Photos courtesy of Sally Delisa

"Reunite With Old Friends and Make Some New Ones"

All SEM members, potential members, spouses and friends are

welcome!

The Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter Of the Appalachian Mountain Club

Invites You to the

Annual Meeting
Followed by the

Annual Dinner

Saturday, November 1, 2014

Salerno's in Onset

4:30 pm – Registration and Cocktail Hour – (cash bar) no charge 5:30 pm – Annual Meeting – no charge 6:30 – pm Buffet Dinner - \$20 per person/\$30 after October 18th

Distinguished Service Award, Raffles, Other Awards, SEM Green Vests for Sale

Special Guest Speaker & Prolific Author: Laura Waterman
Laura will do a reading from one of her many books
followed by a Q&A

Click <u>here</u> to to view the <u>flyer</u> and find out how to register!

Hiking in Switzerland, Italy, and France! (Part 1 of 3) By Gina Hurley

(All photos courtesy of Gina Hurley)



The Matterhorn

This summer I was so fortunate to take the trip of a lifetime.....hiking for a month in Europe, specifically Zermatt, Switzerland; Monterosso, Italy; and Chamonix, France. It was our 25th wedding anniversary trip. My husband and I took just our backpacks, and made a dream come true. Here are some of the highlights of Zermatt, Switzerland. Look for the Italy and France highlights in the October and November Breeze.

Zermatt is a great village, with the Matterhorn and many other peaks looming over it. Although there are many hotels, there is a campground on the edge of town that we stayed at to help save some money. There are also two hostels in the village. Our plan was to spend a couple of nights in Zermatt, and then backpack for 10 days around the Matterhorn. The book "Tour of the Matterhorn", by Hilary Sharp, provides a lot of detail and information to plan the hike. We had great weather the first couple of days of the hike. On our first day of the backpacking trip we hiked 11 miles to Europahutte, a full service high mountain hut with amazing views.



View from the Europahutte deck.



Ibex near the Europahutte

The hut is at 7,280 feet elevation. We met hikers from New Zealand, England, Spain, Germany, and Denmark....some were completing the same backpacking trip as us.

The next few days brought more great hiking in Grachen, Zinal, and Grimentz, but also brought rain in the valley and snow (yes, it was snowing in July) at higher elevations. The new snow on the glaciers caused some of the passes to be too dangerous to cross. So we went to plan B....took the train back to Zermatt for several day hikes.

Given that the mountains are so high, hikers can take gondolas, trams, chairlifts, or even trains to higher elevations to hike. One day we took two gondola rides up to the Matterhorn Glacier Paradise. The ride was 35 minutes, and the temperature went from the 60s to low 20s. It is at 12,740 feet. Of course it was snowing at the top, and plenty of skiers (in case you are looking for summer skiing in the Alps). You can also walk through the glacier.

(Below-Inside the Matterhorn Glacier)



We hiked back down to the village. Above Zermatt there are several tiny villages on the mountainside. We stopped at one (Zum See) that had a little restaurant. Very unique and quaint place....great for a little snack.



Tram to Matterhorn Glacier Paradise



Restaurant Zum See

Another great hike was the Gornergrat. Gornergrat is a rocky ridge that overlooks the Gorner Glacier, and is at 10,285 feet. We took the train up, and hiked down. On the way down we saw lots of wildlife. There are many trails down the

mountain, some go by tiny villages, others are more secluded, and follow the river into Zermatt. The trails are well marked, and utilized. Given that they are all above tree line, they are very easy to follow.





View from Gornergrat

Wildlife on Gornergrat

Zermatt was easy to get around, and the tourist office was very helpful, offering many ideas for hikes and outdoor activities. If you are considering a trip to Zermatt, visit their website before hand (www.zermatt.ch/en/). They will respond to email questions, and help you plan a great trip. Zermatt is an outdoor enthusiast's dream. Hiking, skiing, climbing, and mountaineering are all at your fingertips. It is a trip worth making!

In the next breeze, look for the highlights of hiking in Monterosso, Italy.

A Visit to the Alpine Garden By Paul Miller, SEM Hiking Committee Chair

Like most ardent AMC hikers, I've spent quite a bit of time over the years poring over the wonderfully detailed topographical maps included with the AMC White Mountain Guide. At first, I struggled to correlate what I was looking at on the two-dimensional map with the very three-dimensional White Mountains. This made it challenging to visualize terrain and the relatively steepness or ruggedness of the different trails. The detailed trail descriptions in the White Mountain Guide helped; but just a bit.

Now that I've actually visited many of the places and hiked many of the trails included on those maps to use as points of reference, I can do a much better job of visualizing the challenge new trails would pose, estimating relative distances

and actual hiking times (as opposed to the often-unrealistic "book times" provided in the White Mountain Guide...), and figuring out how much physical preparation my no-longer-youthful body might need before attempting those trails.

In recent years, I've shied away from hikes on Mt. Washington, partly because the more popular trails tend to get pretty crowded, and partly because I've pretty much lost my ardor for hikes that involve huge elevation gains. While these are tough to avoid anywhere on that 6,288-foot high mountain, since I felt like trying something new and relatively challenging, I took another look at "the Rockpile" as a potential destination for a new hike to lead in the warmer months. As I often do, I turned to Daniel Doan's "50 Hikes in the White Mountains," for ideas. His description of one hike in particular caught my fancy; a loop hike through the Alpine Garden via the Old Jackson Rd. and Nelson Craq Trail, and back down via the Lion Head and Tuckerman Ravine Trails. According to Mr. Doan: The object of the climb to Mount Washington's Alpine Garden is enjoyment of the mountain rather than its conquest. This loop climb, with the garden as its destination, is a rugged and demanding rock-scramble above tree line. But it's spectacular and shows you why the mountain is unique. The alpine-arctic environment at the garden affords more attractions than the tourist mecca on the summit.



Smiles before the hike (Photo courtesy of Peggy Qvicklund)



Eva weighs her pack (Photo courtesy of Peggy Qvicklund)

Since I'd never been to the Alpine Garden and I've never been a huge fan of the crowded, touristy summit in the summer (souvenirs and hot dogs in the Visitor's Center anyone?), this sounded like a great fit. So I pulled out my trusty AMC Presidential Range topo map and carefully studied the route that Dan Doan described. I also checked with the White Mountain Guide Online to verify distances and get more current trail descriptions than were available in my somewhat outdated hard-copy guide.

"What a cool hike!" was all I could think. But it was also clear that the climb/scramble/crawl(?) up the very steep Nelson Crag Trail would be a real challenge, for me, at least. As a point of reference, consider that while both the Nelson Crag Trail and the Mt. Washington Auto Road start at about the same elevation in Pinkham Notch and both end at the summit; the 8-mile long Auto Road meanders upward in a series of broad switchbacks, while the app. 3.7-mile long Nelson Crag Trail covers the same elevation gain in pretty much a straight line.



Climbing Nelson Crag Trail (Photo courtesy of Dexter Robinson)



Approaching Nelson Crag (Photo courtesy of Dexter Robinson)

Timing would also be particularly crucial for this hike, since the alpine flora in the Alpine Garden only bloom for several weeks each year, and that can vary depending on the particular weather conditions experienced that year. Another consideration was my own relative inexperience leading above-treeline hikes. I decided that I would only go ahead with this hike if I could recruit another leader to join me, one who was both strong and experienced. I sure hit a couple of homeruns in this respect, as shortly after throwing this out hike out to the SEM hiking committee, both Eva Borsody das and Len Ulbricht stepped up to lead the hike with me. We were on a roll!

When I entered this app. 8-9 miles round trip hike with app. 4,000- foot elevation gain (and loss!) into the AMC online system, I indicated that it was for experienced" NH hikers only. Nevertheless, the trip didn't take very long at all to fill up, with most participants taking advantage of the group reservation that I made for the night before for a couple of bunkrooms at the AMC Joe Dodge Lodge in Pinkham Notch. This is conveniently located practically right at the trailhead. A week or so before the hike, I sent out a "cheat sheet" onto which I had cut and pasted the pictures and names of some of the alpine flowers that we hoped to see in the garden. These included Bigelow's Sedge, Mountain Avens, Diapensia, Labrador Tea, Alpine Bilberry, and Mountain Cranberry, several of which are typically only found at much higher latitudes, and one or two that are only present in the alpine zone of NH! Former SEM chapter chair and hike leader,

Dexter Robinson, also forwarded a link to a wonderful narrated AMC video tour of the Alpine Garden, which further whetted our respective appetites to see lovely and obviously tenacious alpine flowers.

The night before the hike, most of us met for a hearty buffet dinner in the dining hall at the AMC facility in Pinkham Notch, followed by some wine and socializing in the cozy common room at the Joe Dodge Lodge, after which we turned in early to get a good night's sleep (which, unfortunately, eluded me) in anticipation of the next day's hike.

After breakfast Saturday morning, we all assembled our gear, filled up our water bottles, and reconvened on the dining hall porch to await Eva, who had elected to spend the night at the comfortable Sub Sig Outing Club cabin down the road in Hart's Location. Unfortunately for her, when she arrived at Pinkham Notch that morning, the parking lot was already full and she had to park in the "overflow" lot up the road at Wildcat Mountain and hike back from there.

We hit the trail almost on time at around 9:30 am. While nice and sunny with mild temps at that relatively early hour, it was already obvious that this was going to be an uncomfortably muggy day. This turned out to be the case and it didn't take very long at all for everyone to de-layer down to hiking shorts and t-shirts!



Group at Nelson Crag (Photo courtesy of Sal Spada)



On the Alpine Garden Trail (Photo courtesy of Kristin Yngve)

From the AMC Pinkham Notch Center, we took the Tuckerman Ravine trail for a short stretch to the Old Jackson Rd. We followed this trail (part of the AT) gradually uphill for approximately two miles, crossing several streams. After passing the Crew Cut and George's Gorge Trails and the Raymond Path, and just before we hit the Mt. Washington Auto Rd., we hung a left on the Nelson Crag Trail to begin our climb up the massive Chandler Ridge on Mt. Washington's shoulder. The challenging, approximately two-mile climb up to 5,635-foor Nelson

Crag (just 635 feet below the summit of Mt. Washington), was a real lung buster! It involved several fun scrambles, including a particularly memorable scramble at a point on the trail right at around treeline after it intersected with the Auto Rd. for several yards. At around 12:30 pm or so, we stopped for a quick lunch on a relatively level ledge with nice views across Pinkham Notch to the Wildcats and Carters and northward over the Great Gulf to Mounts Madison, Adams, and Jefferson in the Northern Presidentials and then resumed our climb.



Mountain Avens (Photo courtesy of Dexter Robinson)



Group in Alpine Garden (Photo courtesy of Peggy Qvicklund)

While I did hear an occasional grumble or two, and at least one good-natured, "Paul, you're killing me!" everyone did fine and we eventually made it up to the huge stone cairn that marked Nelson Crag itself. We continued over Nelson Crag and followed the well-cairned Nelson Crag Trail to the Alpine Garden Trail, which also featured large cairns, most with distinctive white marble-like stones at their tops. Not surprisingly, the Alpine Garden Trail traverses the Alpine Garden. This compact plateau passes along the top of dramatic Huntington Ravine about a mile below the summit of Mt. Washington, which was now temptingly close to us on which we could clearly see the summit buildings. We followed the Alpine Garden Trail into the Alpine Garden itself. I was a bit disappointed to see that we had missed the peak bloom for many of the plants by at a least a week. Nevertheless, quite a few flowers were still in bloom, keeping the photographers in our group busy.

Being careful not to trample the fragile vegetation, we took another quick break to rest our tiring legs, hydrate, and have a snack. We were surprised to see several casually dressed young women romping about with flip flops on their feet and could only surmise that they had parked their car on the nearby Auto Road to do some sightseeing! We followed the relatively level Alpine Garden Trail past the cairned intersection with the Huntington Ravine Trail, where we encountered a number of hikers descending from the summit and others on their way up to the summit.

We continued on to the Lion Head Trail to begin our long descent back down to Pinkham Notch. After passing over the dramatic Lion Head itself with its expansive views down into Tuckerman Ravine (which still had some snow on the headwall) and across to Boot Spur, we took the steep and rugged Lion Head Trail down to its intersection with the Tuckerman Ravine Trail. While, the Tuckerman Ravine Trail is technically a fire road at that point, it was still a long, rocky slog back down to Pinkham Notch, prompting the question, "Does this trail ever end?" from at least one in our party.



Stream in Alpine Garden (Photo courtesy of Kristin Yngve)

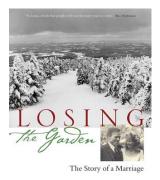
We finally made it back down to Pinkham Notch at about 6:30 pm, after being on the trail for a solid nine hours, tired, but exhilarated! After saying our goodbyes to those who were heading home, several of us took advantage of the shower facilities at Pinkham before driving down to Hart's Location to enjoy the vegetarian dinner Eva was preparing for us at the Sub Sig Cabin. Not only did this hike turn out to be a wonderful, if challenging, alpine experience for all, it helped me fill in some additional pieces of the topographical "puzzle" that the White Mountains represent for me.



On Alpine Garden Trail (Photo courtesy of Dexter Robinson)



Tuckerman Ravine headwall from Lion Head (Photo courtesy of Kristen Yngve)



SEM'S ANNUAL DINNER By Maureen Kelly

SAVE THE DATE: NOVEMBER 1, 2014

Laura Waterman will be speaking at our Annual Dinner on November 1, 2014. She and her husband Guy were instrumental in voicing the new ideas of "conservation" in the 1960s and wrote many books about hiking, climbing and camping. I decided to read some of her books before she spoke to our group. I started with "Losing the Garden", the story of her marriage. It begins with Guy heading out for a hike on a February morning to the Franconia Ridge with the plan to not return. A very compelling beginning, and an honest narrative of their life together. I recommend it.

AMC'S FALL GATHERING 2014

Hosted by the Maine Chapter October 17-19, 2014 Camp Wavus, Damariscotta Lake, Jefferson, Maine

- **REGISTER BY OCTOBER 1, 2014:** Lodging/Tenting options and Day Rate available, including meals, activities, and registration fee. For more information or to register, visit www.amcmaine.org/fall
- Come enjoy this club-wide event hosted by the Maine Chapter! www.amcmaine.org/fall or www.outdoors.org/fallgathering

CLIMATE CHANGE

The AMC will be marching with thousands of others to call for worldwide political action on climate change. The New York-North Jersey Chapter will host AMC members and friends at the largest ever Climate March. The group will meet at the AMC's NYC Headquarters (in the West Side YMCA on 5 West 63rd Street) on **September 21** and walk together to join the March, which begins at Columbus Circle. Membership Chair Jill Arbuckle will lead the group on the day. For more information, click on <u>March with the AMC</u>. Email Lauren Zondag to sign up to march with the AMC and to receive updates (Izondag@outdoors.org)

AMC ADVENTURE TRAVEL LEADERSHIP TRAINING

November 14-16, 2014

Visit some of the most exciting places in the world as the leader of an AMC Adventure Travel trip! This workshop provides important training to people who have AMC chapter leadership experience (no beginners) to transition from leading weekend chapter activities to more complex and longer trips, domestically and overseas. Previous outdoor leadership training is necessary. Emphasis is on planning, cost estimating, marketing, trip management, people skills, risk management, and reporting. Includes procedures and guidelines for researching, proposing, and leading AMC Adventure Travel trips. Exchange ideas, problems, and solutions with some of AMC's most experienced and skilled leaders. Small group size assures abundant discussion and access to instructors. Cost: \$75 incl. 2 nights lodging, 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and Saturday dinner at White Memorial Conservation Center in Litchfield, CT. Download registration package at: http://snebulos.mit.edu/majorexcursions/training. Please register by October 25th. For details contact Registrar Merri Fox, merri.fox@pw.utc.com

AMC's 20th Annual Photo Contest is now open!



"Water Jewels," by Ashok Boghani, Boston Chapter. Winner of the 2013 Grand Prize.

AMC's Photo Contest began on August 4 and will remain open until October 1. This year's Grand Prize winner will receive a spot in an upcoming photography workshop and an accompanying stay at an AMC destination. Winners of the "Kids, Families, and Adults Outdoors," "Scenics and Nature," "AMC in Action," and "People's Choice" categories will receive great outdoor gear prizes from Deuter, Forty Below, LEKI, and Outdoor Research.

For complete rules and entry instructions, visit www.outdoors.org/photocontest. Entries will be accepted until October 1, with the winners appearing in a 2014 issue of *AMC Outdoors*.