Clean-up at Coast Guard Beach in Eastham

On Tuesday, February 23, 2016, AMC SEM volunteers helped remove and pile brush for burning at Little Creek parking area. It was a nice cold day in Eastham, MA, but a great day to work up a sweat. In collaboration with Cape Cod National Seashore, AmeriCorps, and Cape Cod Senior Environmental Corps we had over 30 people helping to make this project a success. The AmeriCorp Volunteer Coordinator for the Cape Cod National Seashore, Emily McDermott, even commented on how well AMC SEM volunteers worked. So, a special thank you to all those who volunteered!

If you’re interested in participating in events like this, or have event suggestions please contact Joshua Tefft conservationchair@amcsem.org.
Hello SEM Members,

I became a hike leader for SEM because it was time for me to give back to my AMC Chapter. My chapter took me paddling with seals, porpoises and seabirds; boating down the Connecticut River to see nesting bald eagles; hiking the White Mountains like I was on top of the world and walking under a full moon with new friends.

With a little nudging from other leaders, I took the plunge to become a leader and I’m so glad I did! Participants really appreciate the trips I lead and I get to see them having fun.

SEM activities are all led by volunteer leaders. They are a fabulous group of people but we need more! You don’t have to be able to carry the biggest pack at REI, and you don’t have to be able to bushwhack up Mt. Washington. You just have to want to share whatever you like to do outdoors with others; we’ll take care of the rest.

Consider this your nudge from me to become an SEM leader and contact Doug for all the details. The Leadership Training will be Saturday, April 9 at the Foxboro State Forest and I will be so happy to see you there.

Maureen Kelly
The Winter Hiking Series Visits Mount Pierce

Story & Photos: Michelle Martinat

On Saturday February 6, the AMC SEM Chapter hiked Mount Pierce as part of their winter hiking series.

After layering up at the Highland center, we slipped on our backpacks and microspikes and headed up the mountain. Skirting along Gobbs Brook, we were dwarfed by snow dusted towering trees. On snow covered planks, we criss crossed over the gently flowing brook.

At a trail junction, we chose the Mizpah Cutoff up to the Mizpah Spring Hut. At the hut, some of us changed from microspikes to crampons. They’re an odd cross between a benign adjustable toy roller skate and deadly kung foo fighting foot weaponry. Sharp cat fang teeth menacingly jut out at the toes. After a hasty lunch break, we began the steep icy ascent to the summit.

Peepholes through trees revealed expansive views to distant peaks. We moved through a luminous landscape silvered with snow and mist. The trees, enveloped with layers of crystals, formed a frozen tunnel our hiking chain meandered through.

As the snow became deeper, the trees became shorter. The summit exposed breathtaking views over valleys and rolling ranges. Deep blue vistas contrasted with frosty trees. Everything was glazed with ice: rocks, trees, pathways, snowfields.

We traversed slowly and carefully down the frozen descent into the forest below. The late afternoon sun cast long shadows across a shimmery forest floor. Throughout the hike, we were captivated with gray jays accompanying us.

Suddenly we saw our base and destination, Highland Lodge, through the branches. Our brisk almost 6 hours / 6 mile adventure had already come to an end.
AMC SEM Welcome Spring Potluck

Saturday, March 19 @ 4 PM

Please join AMC SEM for our second annual “Welcome Spring Potluck” at the Chatham VFW, 150 George Ryder Rd., Chatham, MA 02633.

Join us if you are new to SEM or to see familiar faces that have hiked, biked, and paddled with us in the past.

Bring a dish (or pot) of food with serving spoon. Also, bring your own paper, plastic and hot cup.

Register with Max msarazin@comcast.net.

Leadership Training Workshop

Saturday, April 9

This course prepares individuals to lead groups on AMC sanctioned trips. The course covers leadership styles, trip planning, screening criteria, risk mitigation, and qualifications to become a trip leader. Contact Douglas Griffiths for details. Call after 6 PM (508)-758-4315 or RedDougG@aol.com

Good News For Paddlers

With the historic tidal flow restored at Muddy Creek, we will now be able to paddle through the culvert and go 1.5 miles up Muddy River from Pleasant Bay.

Read more.

New England Wild Flower Society New Courses For 2016

The New England Wild Flower Society is happy to announce that registration is now open for their Summer/Spring 2016 courses. Visit their website for details.

Volunteer of the Month

Peggy Qvicklund

Each month the SEM recognizes one of our amazing volunteers. We are so fortunate to have wonderful people give their time, energy and resources to make our chapter one of the best. This month we recognize Peggy Qvicklund from the Hiking Committee.

Although Peggy has been leading only for the past few years, she is an enthusiastic, encouraging leader who continues to organize and lead a variety of hiking options for those who want to get outside and be active. Some of her hikes are on Thursdays and in less frequented areas such as the Berkshires or southern New Hampshire. She also leads hikes in the White Mountains, as well as, local hikes. This past fall, Peggy offered a five-week series with Len Ulbricht, “Warming Up for Winter “ in the Blue Hills, to help prepare participants for winter hiking. No matter what kind of offering she provides, it is always a fun-filled event. Thank you, Peggy, for your time and commitment!

Peggy will receive a Volunteer of the Month Certificate and a $50 gift card.
Activities

Hiking Key:

Indicates distance in miles
AA ......13+
A ......9–13
B ......5–8
C ......less than 5

Indicates pace
1 ......very fast
2 ......fast
3 ......moderate
4 ......leisurely

Indicates terrain
A ......very strenuous
B ......strenuous
C ......average
D ......easy

Biking

See the website for the most current listings.

Conservation Volunteer Opportunities

See the website for the most current listings.

Education

Apr. 9 (Sat) (AN). Leadership Training Workshop, Foxboro Recreation Department Rec Hall, 68 Mill Street, Foxboro, MA 02035. This course prepares individuals to lead groups on AMC sanctioned trips. The course covers leadership styles, trip planning, screening criteria, risk mitigation, and qualifications to become a leader. It is an all day course with a mix of classroom and outdoor exercises. L Douglas Griffiths after 6 PM (508) 758-4315 or RedDougG@aol.com

May 14 (Sat) (AN). Wilderness First Aid Two Day Training Course, Foxboro Recreation Department Rec Hall, 68 Mill Street, Foxboro, MA 02035. Wilderness First Aid is a two-day class designed for trip leaders, co-leaders, and outdoor enthusiasts. This course teaches the skills necessary to identify and treat medical issues common to wilderness settings and to prepare for long-term care scenarios. The course is a mix of classroom lecture and practical exercises. Both days are required to certify. L Douglas Griffiths (508-758-4315 After 6 PM, RedDougG@aol.com)

Hiking

Get your 100-mile patch! Contact hikingchair@amcssem.org.
We’re always looking for additional hike leaders! Contact hikingchair@amcssem.org

Tuesdays (Jan. 5, 7, 12, 19, 26; Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23; Mar. 1, 8). White Line the Blue Hills Hike Series, Blue Hills, Massachusetts, Southeast, MA. White Line the Blue Hills. We will meet weekly, Tuesday mornings at 10:30am (for 10:45 start) and hike trails in the Blue Hills for about 4 hours. After the first snow fall appropriate winter clothing, including winter hiking boots and snow shoes will be required. A severe snow storm or unsafe driving conditions will cancel that week’s hike. The series will run for the 13 weeks from the Winter Solstice (Dec 22) to the Spring Equinox (Mar 20). The leader will have his dog, Sunny, with him when weather permits, if you wish to bring your well behaved dog please discuss during registration. Register once and then Show and Go. Have you been a Red Liner and would like to try White Lining or do you simply enjoy winter hiking then consider joining us Tuesday mornings. L Paul Brookes (603-799-4399), R Paul Brookes (603-799-4399 After 7am and before 9pm, PaulBrookes1966@outlook.com)

Mar. 3 (Thu) Morn Hike/Snowshoe Gilbert Hills St. Forest, Foxboro, MA, Gilbert Hills State Forest, Foxboro, MA., Massachusetts, Southeast, MA. Meet 10:00 a.m. at State Forest Headquarters, 45 Mill St., Foxboro. Starting out from Headquarters, we will follow a variety of trails. Gentle terrain through mixed forest passing lakes/ponds. Approximately 5 miles. Wear layers and proper footwear. Have Microspikes and/or Snowshoes depending on conditions. Bring lunch, snacks, and water. Storm cancels. L Joanne Staniscia (508-528-6799 7-9 p.m., jstaniscia@comcast.net)
Activities

Mar. 4–6. Winter Series Hike #4 - Carter Notch Overnight Trip, New Hampshire, White Mountains, NH. We’ll return to remote Carter Notch for the final trip in the 2015-2016 SEM Winter Hiking Series. Participants may have an option to stay at the AMC Carter Notch Hut for either one or two nights under our group reservation. At the hut, we'll enjoy camaraderie and group breakfasts and dinners. App. Four mile hike into the hut, with some elevation gain and loss. We'll also offer several shorter hikes from the hut. A warm winter sleeping bag (rated to at least 0 degrees F.) and full winter gear including snowshoes and microspikes (or other light traction devices) will be required. Depending on trail conditions, we may also need either 10- or 12-point crampons. Prior winter hiking experience and/or participation in the SEM Winter Workshop on Nov. 7th required. Preference will be given to those who participated in previous hikes in the series. L Paul Miller (508-369-4151 before 9:00 pm please, paulallenmiller@verizon.net) L Maureen Kelly (mokef773@sol.com) L Leslie Carson (ltc929@comcast.net) CL Barry Young CL Ken Carson , R Paul Miller (Paulallenmiller@verizon.net)

Tuesdays (Mar. 8, 15). White Line the Blue Hills Hike Series, Blue Hills, Massachusetts, Southeast, MA. White Line the Blue Hills. We will meet weekly, Tuesday mornings at 10:30am (for 10:45 start) and hike trails in the Blue Hills for about 4 hours. After the first snow fall appropriate winter clothing, including winter hiking boots and snow shoes will be required. A severe snow storm or unsafe driving conditions will cancel that week’s hike. The series will run for the 13 weeks from the Winter Solstice (Dec 22) to the Spring Equinox (Mar 20). The leader will have his dog, Sunny, with him when weather permits, if you wish to bring your well behaved dog please discuss during registration. Register once and then Show and Go. Have you been a Red Liner and would like to try White Lining or do you simply enjoy winter hiking then consider joining us Tuesday mornings. L Paul Brookes (603-799-4399) After 7am and before 9pm, PaulBrookes1966@outlook.com

Mar. 10 (Thu). (FT) (NM) Morning hike at Ponkapoag Pond, Canton, MA, Massachusetts, Southeast, MA. Meet at 10AM in Ponkapoag Golf Course Parking Lot for a five-mile hike/snowshoe (depending on conditions) around the pond. Bring: water, snack and appropriate footwear. L Deborah Lepore (781-828-0572 before 9 PM, DLeodore2@GMail.com) CL Hans Luwald (508-668-0462 Before 9 PM, Hans.Luwald@Gmail.com)

Mar. 12 (Sat). Kearsarge North Hike, White Mountains, NH, New Hampshire, White Mountains, NH. Come join a winter snowshoe hike involving a steady climb to the open summit (3268 ft.) with a fire tower and one of the best views in the White Mountains. Varied forests and ledges with southern views make for an interesting ascent. The hike is 6.2 miles round trip with 2600 ft. elevation gain. Winter equipment and experience are required. Please register with leader before February 4 or after March 1. L Leslie Carson (508-833-8237 Before 9 pm, ltc929@comcast.net) CL Ken Carson (kcciii@comcast.net)

Mar. 13 (Sun). Hike - Ryder Conservation/Lowell Holly Reservation (C3C), Ryder Conservation Land, Cotuit Road, Sandwich, MA, Massachusetts, Cape Cod, MA. Moderate 4+ mile hike through conservation land/Trustees of Reservation property on footpaths, carriage roads, sandy beach, boardwalks. L Barbara Gaughan (barbaragaughan12@comcast.net) CL Robin McIntyre (508-789-8252, robinmcintyre@comcast.net), R Robin McIntyre (508-789-8252 No calls after 9 pm please., robinmcintyre@comcast.net)

Mar. 17 (Thu). Morn. Hike Powisset Farm, (TTOR) , Dover, MA, 37 Powisset Street, Dover, MA, Massachusetts, Southeast, MA. Fairly new area with nice trails off the beaten path at the Trustee of Reservations Powisset Farm. We will hike 5.5 miles with a number of short ups and downs. Depending on the conditions, we might shorten the hike and/or eliminate the steepest sections. Some nice views. Depending on the weather, we might hike or snowshoe. Bring traction devices, if icy. L Hans Luwald (508-668-0462 before 9 PM, Hans.Luwald@Gmail.com) CL Debbie Lepore (781-828-0572 Before 9 PM)

Mar. 22 (Tue). (FT) (NM) Full Moon Hike - Borderland, Massachusetts, Southeast, MA. Join us for the last full moon hike of the season at Borderland State Park. Moon-rise is 6:23pm. Hike will be about 4-5 miles at a moderate pace, lasting approximately 2 hours. Please bring $2 dollar to contribute to permit needed for after-hours hiking if you haven’t paid on a prior month. Registration is required for this hike. L Patricia McNally (pmcnallyma@comcast.net) CL Nancy Coote , R Patti McNally (pmcnallyma@comcast.net)

Tuesdays (Mar. 22, 29, Apr 5, 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10). Blue Hills Tuesday Spring Conditioning Hike Series, Massachusetts, Boston Area, MA. Hike hilly Skyline Trail and adjacent trails on successive Tuesday mornings 3/22-5/10, progressively increasing distance, elevation gain and pack weight to condition for summer hiking season up north. Moderate to fast pace 3 to 4 hour hike. distance 3 to 8 miles. 9:30 am start. Not suitable for beginners. May finish series with extended day hike. Register once for entire series. L Len Ulbricht (lenu44@gmail.com)

Mar. 24 (Thu). (FT) (NM) (AN) Morning Hike - Oldham Trail & Harold Clark Forest, Foxboro, MA, Massachusetts, Southeast, MA. Hike the Oldham Trail & Harold Clark Forest. Meet 10:00 am at parking lot on Rt. 140 Foxboro across from Sunoco Station. Bring lunch or snack and water and wear appropriate footwear. L Muriel Guenthen (508-699-7461 Before 9:00PM, murielguenthen@comcast.net)
Activities

Apr. 2 (Sat) (FT) (NM) Spring Hike to North Pack Monadnock, New Hampshire, Monadnock Region, NH. Join us on a spring hike to a less crowded "monadnock". We will follow the Ted and Carolyn trails, through hemlock forests, cross a small cascading stream and be rewarded with views for our efforts. The loop is 6 miles with an elevation gain of approx. 1400 feet. L Anne Duggan (508-789-5538 before 9pm, abduggan12@gmail.com) CL Peggy Qvicklund (774-893-3011 before 9 pm, qvickan@comcast.net), R Peggy Qvicklund (774-893-3011 before 9 pm, qvickan@comcast.net)

Apr. 7 (Thu) Thursday Morning Blue Hills Hike, Police Barracks, Milton, MA, Massachusetts, Southeast, MA. A 4-5 mile hike that will start at the Blue Hills Reservation State Police Barracks. Take exit 2 (Route 138) off I-93 and go north toward Milton. Take a right at the set of lights. Follow this road until you see the police barracks on your left. We will meet in the parking lot across the street at 10:00AM. L Sue Chiavaroli (508-476-6644 x52, brillo6452@yahoo.com)

Apr. 10 (Sun) Myles Standish Pine Barrens Trail Hike, Myles Standish State Forest, Massachusetts, Southeast, MA. A beautiful 5 mile trail heads south from Liggett Road through varied pine barrens all the way to Cuttersfield Road, passing Wings Hole and the Sawpit. This will be a one-way hike heading south from Liggett. L Ellie MacPherson (508-224-6465, elliemac@comcast.net) CL John Bescherer (508-742-7973 Before 9:00PM, notmtwain@yahoo.com), R John Bescherer (2 Faith Lane, Forestdale, MA 02644, 508-419-1616 Before 9:00PM, notmtwain@yahoo.com)

Thursdays (Apr. 14, 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19, 26). Red Line the Blue Hills - Hiking, Blue Hills Reservation, Milton, MA, Massachusetts, Boston Area, MA. Join us to hike all the trails in the Blue Hills or just enjoy a walk in the woods. Location, terrain and elevation will vary each week. Time is approximately 6-8pm every Thursday night. Register once then show-n-go. L Joe Keogh (jpkeo24@gmail.com) L Paul Brookes (603-799-4399 After 7am and before 9pm, PaulBrookes1966@outlook.com) L Michael Swartz (swartz@brandeis.edu), R Cathy Garry (508-524-8621 before 9 pm, cathygarry@comcast.net)

Apr. 14 (Thu) Morning Hike - Wollomonopoag Conservation Area, Wrentham, MA, Massachusetts, Southeast, MA. Thu., April 14 Wollomonopoag Conservation Area, Wrentham, MA. Meet 10:00 am in Conservation parking lot off of Elysium St. Bring water, snack or lunch & sturdy footwear. Rain cancels. L Muriel Guenthner (508-699-7461 Before 9:00pm mguenthner@comcast.net). B3C. L Muriel Guenthner (508-699-7461 Before 9:00pm, murielguenthner@comcast.net)

Apr. 21 (Thu). (FT) Morning hike - World's End (C3C), Hingham, MA, Massachusetts, Southeast, MA. World's End (C3C). Meet at 10am, $6 pp non-Trustees members. Moderate 4-5 miles. Explore unique peninsula in Boston Harbor, stunning views, hilly, carriage ways, rocky paths, could be muddy sections. Wear layers, wind protection, good shoes suitable for weather and conditions. Bring water, snacks/lunch. Directions at http://www.thetrustees.org/places-to-visit/greater-boston/worlds-end.html. L Eva Borsody das (781-925-9733, borsody@gmail.com)

May 5 (Thu). THursday Moring Blue Hills Hike, Milton, MA, Massachusetts, Southeast, MA. A 4-5 mile through the Blue Hills Reservation. We will meet at 10:00AM in the Houghton Pond Parking Lot at 10:00AM. L Sue Chiavaroli (508-596-6452 7-9pm, brillo6452@yahoo.com)

May 8 (Sun). Hiking Santuit Pond and River (C3C), Mashpee, MA 02649, Massachusetts, Cape Cod, MA. Water views, woodland trails. Field with Bird's Foot Violets in bloom --Hopefully! Directions: Rte.6, Exit 5. South on Rte. 149 to Rte. 28, R on Santuit-Newtown Rd. for 0.8 mile to yellow gate and parking lot on left. Meet 12:45pm for sign-in. 2hr. hike starts at 1pm. L Nancy Wigley (508-548-2362, nwigley@verizon.net)

May 19 (Thu). Hike Long Pond, Falmouth, Falmouth Town Forest, Winn Rd. Falmouth, MA, Massachusetts, Cape Cod, MA. Traverse through Falmouth's Town Forest on rolling wooded trails. Enjoy scenic views of Long Pond, a kettle pond formed at the edge of the glacial moraine. Sturdy shoes, plenty of water, sunscreen, and tick repellent are strongly recommended. The Cape is a known tick habitat! Poison ivy is also abundant in the woods and along the sides of the trail. You may consider wearing long pants. Meet at 9:45 AM to begin the hike promptly at 10 AM. L Catherine Giordano (508-243-3884 before 9 PM, cmgiordan@msn.com)

May 19 (Thu). Morning 10:00 AM Blue Hills Hike, Blue Hills Reservation, Milton, MA, Massachusetts, Southeast, MA. Hike the Skyline Trail for its great workout. This is a trail that goes up & down a number of steep hills, with rocky and uneven footing. We do a S-N skyline loop that takes us around 1 ½ - 2 hours, and then continue for another 1 ½ - 2 hours in and out to Buck Hill. Moderate pace. Around 6-6.5 miles total. L Sui-Wen Yang (617-417-0757, linsuiwen@verizon.net)
Activities

Skiing

Mar 4–6. XC Ski White Mountains, Intervale, NH, New Hampshire, White Mountains, NH. Can you think of a better way to begin the month of March than XC-skiing in the White Mountains? Join the SEM and Forty Plus chapters on Mar. 4 for 2 nights lodging at the Old Field House in Intervale, NH. Room rates are from $120 to $135 per night plus tax and include a hearty breakfast on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Visit their website www.oldfieldhouse.com for a complete description of their rooms and amenities. After registering by phone with the AMC Leader, call the Old Field House at 800-444-9245 to reserve your room. If you don’t have a roommate, leader or innkeeper will try to match you up with one or you have the option of paying for a single supplement. We’ll ski at Jackson, Great Glen, or Bear Notch - or right out the door on the Intervale trails. Bring your snowshoes, too. The weekend begins with pizza, salad and socializing on Friday night (nominal charge) around 6:30. Bring a snack to share at Happy Hours and your favorite beverage. Space is limited, so reserve a spot soon. L Barbara Hathaway (508-880-7266 before 9pm, barb224@tmlp.net) CL Wayne Cardoza (), R Barbara Hathaway (508-880-7266 before 9 pm, barb224@tmlp.net)

Socials

Apr. 16 (Sat). Take It Outside with AMC 2016, Borderland State Park, Easton, MA, Massachusetts, Southeast, MA. Are you a member of AMC but haven’t tried any of our activities yet? Good, because we have an Open House for you! Join us at Borderland State Park in Easton, MA, on Saturday, April 16, 10:00-3:00 for “Take it Outside with AMC 2016” to meet our leaders and try a hike, a family hike, a nature walk, or a bike. All are welcome; bring a friend. We know once you try it, you’ll be hooked. Contact Jodi, membershipchair@amcsem.org for more information. Each activity has its own description and registration in the online trip system. Parking fee is $6/car. L Jodi Jensen (781-249-8346, jodijensen@gmail.com)

Trail Work

Mar. 5 (Sat) (C) (FT) (NM). My First Trailwork!, Borderland State Park, Massachusetts, Boston Area, MA. OK, so you hike all the time... Did you ever wonder how those trails get cleared of fallen branches, why the trees along the trail never seem to stick out into the trail? This is your chance to learn, while taking a hike and doing light trailwork at Borderland State Park. (More experienced trailworkers welcome too!) This will be an approximate 3 hour hike with trailwork as we enjoy this early ‘spring’ weather. L Bob Vogel (vogel.r@comcast.net), R Bob Vogel (vogel.r@comcast.net)

Happy Trails!