

The Southeast Breeze

The Newsletter of the Southeastern Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club | January 2021

Get AMC-SEM activities delivered right to your email inbox!

Sign up for the AMC Activity Digest. Sign into your Outdoors account and [follow these instructions](#).

Or call 1-800-372-1758.

Find past issues of *The Southeast Breeze* on our [website](#).

Like us on [Facebook](#).

Follow us on [Twitter](#).

Have a story for *The Southeast Breeze*?

Please send your Word doc and photographs to breeze.editor@amcsem.org.

Please send photos as separate attachments, including the name of each photographer. Identify main subjects. Include the words "Breeze Article" in the subject line.

Shop the Breeze Market for equipment bargains!

Members looking to sell, trade, or free-cycle their used equipment can post for free.

Send listings to breeze.editor@amcsem.org

Business advertisements are just \$15/month. Send inquiries to breeze.editor@amcsem.org



Our members accept many outdoors challenges, including hikes to the summit of Mount Washington, where they are greeted by the ultimate Hiking Guide. *TripAdvisor Photo*

Challenge your limits—don't limit your challenges!

By Alan Greenstein, Nominating Chair

If it's one thing our members aren't shy of, it's a challenge! Challenges can take many forms—social, physical, time, you name it. They can look different and exist in varying degrees for everyone. But does that stop us? No! We know from hiking, biking, paddling, etc. that sometimes we just need to make some modifications.

In 2021, **challenge your limits—don't limit your challenges!** Consider volunteering as Chapter Vice Chair, Hiking Vice Chair, or 20s & 30s Vice Chair.

When you volunteer with us, you learn, you grow, and you **have fun!** **The following opportunities are a fit into your New Year's resolution** to gain an exciting, invigorating challenge **to wake you up out of your quarantine rut—from home!** *

*All of our planning and social meetings have been virtual since March. You are also welcome to join our in-person activities, which are adapted to include distancing, masks, and online registration. In-person hiking is required for the Hiking Vice Chair.

Continued on page 3



View from the Chair: New SEM Board Members

At our November Annual Meeting, we voted in the slate of Executive Board members for 2021. This month, I want to introduce you to three of our new Board members. They are also chairs of SEM committees. Some of our board members have been active with SEM for years, while others are newer to the chapter. They all want to contribute to the chapter in a meaningful way.

Paul Brookes, Hiking Committee Chair, has already contributed so much to our chapter. Paul has led or co-led almost 200 hikes since he started with SEM in 2015! He started the White Line the Blue Hills series, runs our popular two-day Map & Compass workshop, organizes an annual Noble View weekend, and has recently been helping lead some of the Winter Hiking Series hikes. You'll often see Paul on the trails with his dog Sunny. Prior to the holidays, Paul was very busy digitizing family photos and memorabilia to share with his family in Britain.

Susie Schobel chairs our new **20s 30s Committee**. Susie started this as an ad hoc committee in 2018, brainstorming with other 20s 30s committees in AMC for ideas on running activities and engaging members. Susie was the Zoom master running the show for the well-attended Winter Workshop webinar. She recently ran a very fun online Trivia Night. Susie is also a Level 4 hike leader, and she loves winter hiking with her dog, Duke. Susie is juggling her SEM role with her full time job as a teacher.

Sue Svelnis, Education Chair, held our first ever SEM online leader training in August and is planning our next training early this year. Sue has been active in our chapter since 2016. She is a hike leader and the registrar for our very popular Red Line Blue Hills series. She also volunteers at the Quincy Animal shelter and has kept very busy this year fostering kittens and hiking with her dog, Danny Boy.



Paul Brookes



Susie Schobel



Sue Svelnis

I will introduce you to more of our Board members next month. Paul and Susie are looking for vice-chairs. Do you want to get more involved with our chapter? Email me at chair@amcsem.org.

Diane Simms

AMC-SEM Chapter Chair

2021 Executive Board

Chapter ChairDiane Simms
Vice ChairOPEN
SecretaryNatalie Halloran
TreasurerDavid Yampanis
Past Chapter ChairLen Ulbricht
Biking ChairBernie Meggison
Biking Vice ChairPeter Linhares
Cape Hiking Chair.....Jane Harding
Cape Hiking Vice ChairRobin McIntyre

Communications ChairNichole Nelson
Communications Vice Chair... Alanna Halloran
Conservation ChairJoanne Newton
Conservation Vice ChairBill Cannon
Education ChairSue Svelnis
Education Vice ChairSarah Vendetti
Hiking ChairPaul Brookes
Hiking Vice Chair.....OPEN
Membership Chair.....Samantha Fisher
Membership Vice ChairSandi Santilli

Paddling ChairEd Foster
Paddling Vice ChairJoe Keogh
Regional Director.....John Mullins
Skiing ChairJeannine Audet
Skiing Vice ChairDia Prantis
Trails ChairSkip Maysles
Trails Vice ChairPete Tierney
20s & 30s Chair.....Susie Schobel
20s & 30s Vice Chair.....OPEN.

Ad Hoc Committee Chairs & Other Chapter Contacts

Social Media AdministratorLeah Brodsky
Webmistress..... Cheryl Lathrop
Nominating Committee Chair..... Alan Greenstein

The Breeze Editor.....Mo Walsh
Blast Editor.....Marie Hopkins

Contact chair@amcsem.org if
you are interested in any
OPEN position



Challenge your limits! Continued from page 1

Chapter Vice Chair

The Chapter Vice Chair position is *essential* to our chapter leadership continuity, as it is intended to lead to the Chapter Chair position after two years. You will shadow and assist the Southeastern Massachusetts Chapter Chair, learning how to support the AMC mission; conservation, education, and recreation in Southeastern Massachusetts; and our wonderful volunteers! You will develop and track goals and budgets, coordinate events, maintain a continuity plan, participate at meetings, and work closely with the Chapter Chair. Email Chapter Chair [Diane Simms](#) for more information.

Hiking Vice Chair

Hiking is our most popular activity, and our busy hiking chair could really use an assistant! You will support SEM hiking by helping to coordinate hiking series and workshops; leading hikes and participating in other leaders' hikes; recruiting new hike leaders and ensuring they receive the proper mentoring. To apply for this position you must be a hike leader with the SEM chapter already actively leading hikes. Email [Paul Brookes](#) for more information.

***The Vice Chair position
is **ESSENTIAL**
to chapter continuity.***

20s & 30s Vice Chair

We all need to be more intentional about social connections these days. Meet new people and share your passion with other outdoors lovers!

Volunteer to assist our 20s & 30s Chair in the development of a committee to build involvement in the chapter from folks in their 20s and 30s. Help coordinate and host social events, network with members through social media, and lead activities geared toward members in their 20s and 30s. Email [Susie Schobel](#) for more information.

Requirements/More Information

Do you have a passion for the outdoors? Do you have past experience as a chapter activity participant or leader? Then these positions are for you!



Cyclists take on the challenge of a long stretch uphill. Enjoy the satisfaction of a challenging chapter role well done!
Photo by [Martin Magnemyr](#) on [Unsplash](#).

While the pandemic has provided an extra challenge to last year's leadership, we've gotten most of those kinks worked out and are operating at a new normal, so no worries about that! Besides, these positions do not require that you be in-person for our current activities, which are limited in space anyway.

For more information, contact Alan Greenstein at nominatingcom@amcsem.org. Details are also available in the Activities Listings below and at outdoors.org.

Answer our Nominating Committee's challenge!

Even if you are not personally interested in any of these positions, please contact Nominating Committee Chair Alan Greenstein to assist in leading us to someone else within the chapter who may be interested—or, in turn, knows someone who *is*. Keep the Nominating Committee busy!





White Lining Tips!

By Bob Vogel, Hike Leader

1. Some of the “single dot” trails are rather difficult to find in the winter. You might want to concentrate on those quickly when there is bare ground.
2. Caution: Those “single dot” trails, and even some of the wider trails, can have a lot of small trees bowed over into them. (See: <https://youtu.be/WImQ7FU5kls> if you want to see what it can be like.)
3. There are LOTS of people out using the Blue Hills now. I was out the day after the snow storm (see video above), and broke trail on lots of trails. I was back Sunday, two days later, and only found two “less used” trails that were not broken out. So, if you don’t have snowshoes, wait a couple days and the trails will be packed for you. ☺ If you *do* have snowshoes, get out and enjoy that fresh snow quickly!
4. The Boardwalk is best done when dry or frozen. (As can be attested to by those who were there last March wading in ice water!) Learn from my poor planning!
5. Ditto for “Indian Path,” the trail along the Neponset River. You wouldn’t want to fall through the ice, and moving water doesn’t always freeze very thick. Take care!

AMC’s 145th Annual Summit ONLINE Saturday, January 23rd

Fee \$20. Attend any combination of sessions you choose. After you register, AMC will send an email on how to network and socialize during this virtual event. Schedule includes:

- Interactive workshops and presentations with AMC experts and outdoor pros
- Committee business meetings
- AMC’s 145th Annual Business Meeting
- Presentation of AMC’s annual volunteer awards
- Updates on AMC’s work in conservation, recreation, and education

Information & Registration [Here](#)

Registration closes at 11:59pm (EST) on Thursday, January 21, 2021.



Photo by
Karen Foley

Volunteer of the Month: Ken Cohen

By Paul Brookes, Hiking Chair

Each month the AMC-SEM recognizes one of the amazing people who give their time, energy, and resources to make our chapter one of the best! Ken Cohen is January’s hiking volunteer of the month.

Ken has been a SEM member for fourteen years and a local Hike Leader for four years. He has created several annual hikes that are eagerly-awaited and well-attended. The virus did not stop Ken from leading these hikes this year. His 2020 hikes included the 3rd Annual Spring into Spring hike at the Arnold Arboretum; 4th Annual Wilson Mountain hike, and 4th Annual Autumn Peak hike—again at the Arnold Arboretum.

Ken’s Arnold Arboretum hikes are especially interesting: He stops at strategic points and regales us with fascinating information about the collection we’re passing or the tree we’ve stopped by. On his Wilson Mountain hike, we all hope to run into a sea of the perennial Lady Slippers. This year he also led three hikes in the Blue Hills around Ponkapoag Pond.

Ken maintains an active social presence with a large group of SEM hikers who will often receive some encouraging email or forwarded pertinent information. This is especially valued by those who cannot attend group hikes at this time, as it helps them stay connected. Ken is also an excellent amateur photographer, and he has a passion for outdoor photography, including close-ups of flowers. Many issues of the *Breeze* have benefited from a photo or two provided by Ken.

With respect to our SEM partners, Ken is on the board of the Friends of the Blue Hills as a Trustee at Large.

Thank you Ken for all you do for the chapter! Ken will receive a Volunteer of the Month certificate and a \$50 REI gift card.



How to find winter hikes close to home and safety tips to follow

Diane Simms, Chapter Chair and
Mansfield Conservation Commissioner

Winter is a great time to hike. If you don't already know this to be true, read some of these [quotes](#). In these times, you may want to keep it simple and closer to home. Because of COVID-19, our outdoor excursions may be different this winter for several reasons. We can't readily travel out of state to the big mountains; we may find it difficult to sign up for group hikes limited in size; we may choose to hike with people in our household or a friend until the risk is lower. This winter, the perfect places for hikes may be in our own towns.

Many towns have conservation properties. Some towns also have non-profit land trust organizations that manage conservation property. These properties often have trail systems.

How do you find these local trails?

- Check your town's website. You may have to hunt around a bit on the website, but generally towns will have trail maps for their conservation properties. Start by searching under the Conservation department, Natural Resources, or Open Space. [Sandwich](#) partnered with Americorps and installed visible trail markers at its Maple Swamp property and uploaded it on an App called Avenza with instructions for using the app at the trailhead.
- Google "my town" land trust conservation. In my town of Mansfield, as well as other towns, the land trust is [Natural Resources Trust](#) so I'd use that as part of my search. Similarly, some of the Cape towns, such as [Harwich](#), [Bourne](#), and [Falmouth](#) have a Conservation Trust so I'd use that as my search criteria.
- The websites you find should have addresses, availability, basic trail maps, and other information.
- [Mass Audubon](#), the [Trustees of Reservations](#), and [DCR state parks](#) also have multiple properties in Southeast Massachusetts.
- Don't forget that we have a National Park in our region—the Cape Cod National Seashore Park. There are multiple trails in addition to beach walking.

Many thanks to Cape Hiking Chair Jane Harding and Cape Hiking Vice Chair Robin McIntyre for their help with this article.



Explore local parks and preserves. *Photo by Diane Simms*

Once you have identified a location, be sensible.

- Print a trail map. There may not be a kiosk with a map at the trailhead. These trail maps may not list every trail at the property and the trails may not all be well marked. You could also use an app such as AllTrails, Back Country Navigator or Maplets, but don't rely solely on a phone for navigation.
- Take appropriate winter precautions, including sturdy footwear ideally hiking boots; poles for supporting balance; fluid for hydration; and traction devices for snow or ice. You may not have any snow in your neighborhood, but a trail may have packed ice and snow. For more tips, watch the [Winter Hiking Workshop video](#).
- Many towns are under financial stress so may not be maintaining the parking area and trails as well as they were. If you start on the trail but there are more obstacles than you are comfortable with, turn back.
- Confirm that the property is open and if there are time restrictions. Note, some of the Trustees and Mass Audubon properties currently require reservations.
- At some locations, pets may be welcome (but they should be leashed). However, at some wildlife refuges, pets are prohibited. Check this before you bring your furry partner.
- You are safer hiking with someone. If you are hiking alone, follow your normal precautions.

Embrace the outdoors this winter!



To enjoy the outdoors in winter, learn how to dress to stay warm and dry. Photo by [Kelly Sikkema](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Staying warm in winter, Part 1

By Dexter Robinson, Hike Leader

Doing outdoor winter activities is not about being cold; it is about being warm in a cold place.

This article will explore how to stay warm in winter to enjoy outdoor activities. It will focus on layering with clothing that is currently available.

THE KEY TO BEING WARM IN WINTER IS TO STAY DRY. The basic strategy for dressing for the outdoors in winter hasn't changed much in the last few decades. **IT IS ALL ABOUT LAYERING.**

You should wear multiple layers rather than one thick bulky layer so that when you get warm, you can slowly begin to adjust or remove layers. If you wear a bulky jacket or parka for all your insulation and then start sweating into it, you will be completely exposed when you take it off. It is better to wear a couple of insulating layers and a shell on the outside to regulate your body temperature and avoid sweating. What clothing we select and how we manage our layers have the common goal of keeping us as dry as possible.

WISE layering system

The Wilderness Education Association invented an acronym for this layering system called WISE. It stands for wicking, insulation, sheltering, and extremities/extra.

This first article will focus on the base layer which needs to move moisture away from the skin. A wicking layer of wool, polyester, silk, nylon, spandex, or other synthetics should draw sweat into the fabric moving water through fibers away from skin. It should be quick drying, odor resistant, and handle extremes of physical activity. Your base layer should be in close contact with your body and fit snugly and comfortably. In addition to wicking away moisture the base layer helps to protect your skin from extreme cold by reducing the speed at which you lose body heat.

For your upper body you want to wear a thin, long sleeve shirt—the thinner the better. For your lower body you want a layer similar to your upper body, that is, thin long underwear similar in thickness to the upper body.



On one of my first summer hiking trips in the Whites, I planned to meet the rest of a group at a trail junction on the Carter Ridge. The air was moist with clouds blowing thru and I perspired as I climbed to the ridge. While I was waiting to meet the others I started to get cold and shiver, so I added a sweater layer, but I was still cold. I then walked fast up and down the trail to generate heat but I was still shivering. Adding a rain jacket also had no effect. Finally I changed my base layer T-shirt. Once I did that it was like flipping a switch. I immediately warmed up so much that I had to remove a layer. Keeping the base layer dry is critical for staying warm no matter what time of year. The other layers may do little to warm you once the base layer becomes wet. Fabric choices and layer management are also important in keeping you dry and warm.

Continued on page 7



Staying warm in winter Continued from page 6

	Polyester	Merino Wool	Nylon	Silk	Cotton
Fabric type	Synthetic	Natural	Synthetic	Natural	Natural
Breathability	Decent	Excellent	Poor	Decent	Excellent
Water absorption performance	Excellent (Absorbs up to 0.4% of its own weight in water)	Decent (Absorbs up to 33% of its own weight in water)	Excellent (Absorbs more than Polyester but less than Merino wool)	Decent (Absorbs up to 30% of its own weight in water)	Poor (Absorbs up to 2500% of its own weight in water)
Durability	Good	Decent	Excellent	Excellent	Good
Moisture-wicking performance	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Good	Poor
Drying time	Excellent	Decent	Excellent	Excellent	Poor
Weight	Excellent	Decent	Excellent	Excellent	Decent
Feels	Synthetic	Soft, non itchy	Synthetic	Soft non itchy	Soft, non itchy
Warmth when wet	Poor	Excellent	Poor	Good	Poor
Odor-resistance	Poor	Excellent	Poor	Good	Decent
Non-allergenic	No	Yes	No	Hypoallergenic	Hypoallergenic
Price	Excellent	Decent	Excellent	Poor	Excellent

Table from besthiking.net

Base layer fabrics

There are two categories of base layer clothing: synthetics and natural fabrics. The most common base layer fabrics for winter outdoor sports are polyester, merino wool, nylon, and silk.

The chart shows their basic characteristics. Note that these characteristics depend greatly on the thickness and porosity of the fabric. Cotton is included for comparison.

The chart illustrates why cotton is a poor choice for outdoor winter activities. If you wear a cotton base layer it will likely get wet from perspiration, melting snow, or a cold rain, resulting in a significant loss of heat. According to the US Search & Rescue Task force, "Water conducts heat away from the body 25 times faster than air because it has greater density." Having wet clothing in winter can be dangerous. It often leads to hypothermia.

"Wetness is the enemy of warmth. People caught in bad weather with wet clothes might as well be naked."

— Dr. Murray Hamlet, retired director of the Cold Research Division for the US Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine in Natick, MA.

Current examples of synthetic base layers include:

- Helly Hansen Lifa Stripe Crew, material: 100% polypropylene
- Arc'teryx Rho LT Zip-Neck, materials: 84% polyester, 16% elastane
- REI Co-op Lightweight Base Layer Half-Zip Top, materials: 92% polyester, 8% spandex
- Patagonia Capilene Cool Lightweight, materials: 37% polyester, 63% recycled polyester

And some natural fabric base layers:

- **Smartwool Merino 150 Crew, materials:** 87% merino wool, 13% nylon
- **Black Diamond Solution 150 Merino Crew, materials:** 78% merino, 22% polyester
- REI Merino Midweight Half-Zip, **material:** 100% merino wool
- Icebreaker Oasis Crew, **material:** 100% merino wool

For more base layers and a comparison chart of some current base layers, check out:

[Best Baselayers of 2020-2021](#) and [Is Merino Wool Better than Synthetic.](#) In the next article we will explore the insulation layer.



Trail Snack Ideas

By Leah Brodsky, Social Media Administrator & Blogger

One of the fun parts of hiking is the snacks. In fact, we have a little tradition within our chapter of bringing cookies after completing the Redlining the Blue Hills challenge (where you trek each and every single trail of the Blue Hills and mark it in red on your map.) But which snacks are best to bring? Snacks with a lot of protein are good because they give you energy. My go-to snack is GORP (good ol' raisins and peanuts).

GORP Recipe:

- ¼ cup of raisins
- ¼ cup of almonds
- ¼ cup of peanuts
- ¼ cup of M&M's
- ¼ cup of milk chocolate Raisinets

Another good snack is protein breakfast bars, because they're easy to eat while on the move.

Throughout the different seasons, be mindful of bringing appropriate snacks. For instance, in the winter, you can bring chocolate, but shouldn't in the summer because it will melt.

Summer Snacks

In the summer, dried fruit, such as dried apricots or dried mangos, and nuts, such as almonds or cashews, are delicious, easy, and lightweight. Apples and peanut butter are also refreshing on hot hikes and full of protein.

Winter Snacks

Any of the summer snacks, plus, as I mentioned, chocolate! Snicker's Bars are a good choice because they contain peanuts, but remember to carry out your trash. Larger bars are better than something with a lot of wrappers (like Hershey's Kisses), but cut them up or keep them close to your body to prevent freezing.

What's your favorite trail snack? Share your recipe by emailing breeze.editor@amcsem.org and we might feature your recipe in a future issue!

Leave No Trace Principle #7:

Be considerate of other visitors

By Bill Cannon, Conservation Vice Chair

Leave No Trace Guidelines:

- ❖ Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- ❖ Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.
- ❖ Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock.
- ❖ Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors.
- ❖ Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.

Allow others to enjoy what you are enjoying:

We come to the outdoors to enjoy nature, get some exercise, and enjoy the company of our fellow participants. We don't want to do anything that will take away from the natural appeal of the outdoors or anyone's enjoyment of it.

We always ask people to silence their phones before the activity begins.

The general assumption on a narrow trail is that hikers headed downhill will step aside to allow an uphill foot traveler to easily pass. In many places, there's an expectation that hikers will yield to equestrians, and that bicyclists will yield to both hikers and equestrians on trails. Although mountain bikers are technically supposed to yield to hikers, it's better to be safe than right. Pay attention to other trail users and you'll avoid unnecessary injury. Stay in control when mountain biking. Before passing others, politely announce your presence and proceed with caution.



Keep pets under control at all times—Bowser is not in the wildlife category. Please pick up dog feces from camps and trails and dispose of them when you return home. Some areas prohibit dogs or require them to be on a leash at all times. Be sure to check the area rules or the hike posting to discern if dogs are allowed or whether you need prior approval from the leader before you bring your dog to a hike.



March 2015: Rime-encased trees below the Observatory illustrate extreme weather on the summit of Big Blue.
Photo from The Daily Mail (UK)

The Blue Hills Observatory

By Bob Vogel, Hike Leader

We see the Observatory when we hike, but did you ever wonder how it came to be there? What it actually does? (And has done over the years?) Let's take a look, and we'll start by going back to 1884.

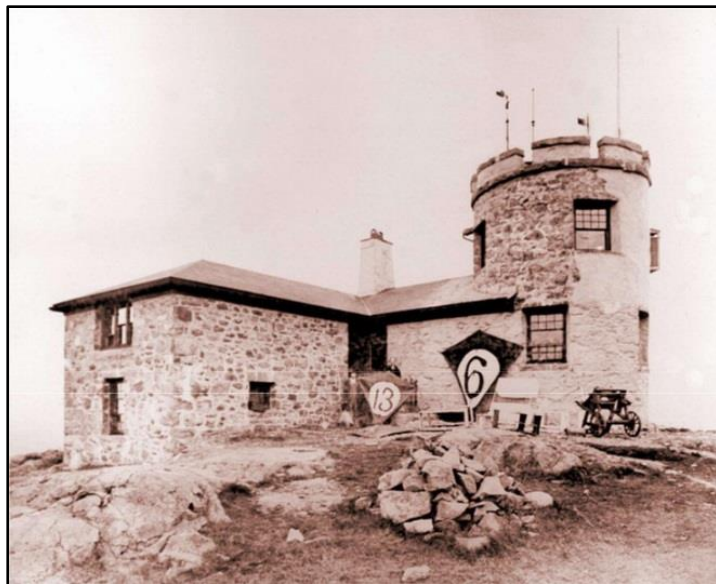


Abbot Rotch¹ (1861–1912) was Harvard's first professor of meteorology, and he built the original Blue Hills Observatory, with his own funds, in 1884. (It was designed by his brother.) The original observatory had a two-story stone tower. It was built of stones from near the summit of Great Blue. The original structure consisted of a two-story unit containing two bedrooms, a dining room.

Starting February 1, 1885 the Blue Hill Observatory was occupied and has recorded atmospheric temperature readings continuously ever since. These written records, as opposed to just anecdotal stories, provide the kind of long-term data needed to allow evaluation of climate change. The Blue Hills Observatory “is the foremost structure associated with the history of weather observations in the United States.”³

In 1890 an east wing addition was added to house additional research space and a library.

During the 1880 and 90s they flew kites to carry weather instruments into the sky and collect data on wind and clouds, the first time that had been done. On October 8, 1896, a record of 8740 feet (2,665 m) was achieved for a weather kite.



Original Observatory, in 1887, with two of the kites that were used to raise instruments into the sky.²

Those of us who hike in New Hampshire know that as you go up in altitude the temperature drops. Experiments such as these helped prove that, and quantify the effect of altitude on temperature.

In 1902 a west wing addition was also added. In 1908 the original tower was removed and replaced, as the vibrations from the instruments on the roof, combined with the high winds the tower endured, had led to it developing leaks. It was replaced by a three-story concrete tower.

During the hurricane of 1938, they recorded the highest wind speed ever directly measured during a hurricane at 186 mph.⁴

In 1980, the Observatory was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as "Great Blue Hill Weather Observatory." On 12/20/1989 it was declared a National Historic Landmark.

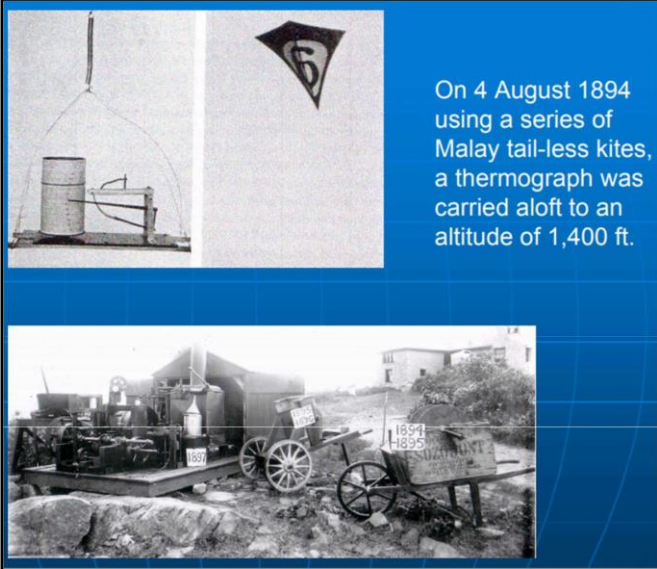
[illegible]

First weather data record,
Feb 1, 1885

Continued on page 10



Blue Hills Observatory Continued from page 9



On 4 August 1894 using a series of Malay tail-less kites, a thermograph was carried aloft to an altitude of 1,400 ft.

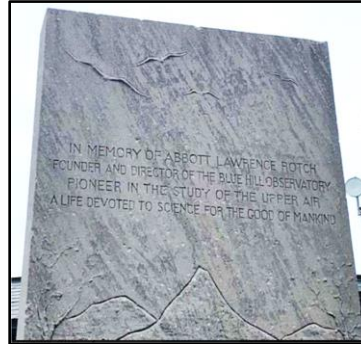
Harvard operated the Observatory until 1959, when it was turned over to the National Weather Service.⁵ While the National Weather Service continues to operate automated equipment at the summit, the Observatory itself has been turned over to the “Blue Hills Observatory and Science Center,” a non-profit which currently operates it.⁶ Their Mission? “The mission of the Blue Hill Observatory and Science Center is to foster public understanding of, and appreciation for, atmospheric science, while continuing to maintain a meticulous record of weather observations and long-term study of climate.” You can find them at bluehill.org. When things settle down, they will again be open for tours.



Interior of the original Observatory building with observer.

Next to the Observatory is the Rotch Memorial, an engraved stone marker that was donated in 1914 in honor of Abbot Lawrence Rotch by his widow.

The memorial was originally located at the junction of the summit and the circumferential roads, and was moved to the current site in 1968.⁷



Left: “In Memory of Abbot Lawrence Rotch, Founder and Director of the Blue Hills Observatory, Pioneer in the Study of the Upper Air, A Life Devoted to Science for the Good of Mankind”⁹



Bonus 1 (Above): Flagpole plaque at the Observatory.¹⁰

I don’t know the connection between James and the Redman Farmhouse at the Ponkapoag Golf Course, but I would guess there is one.



Left: Climatological Data 1885-1984 recorded at the summit.⁸

The Observatory wall, a poured concrete wall with capped piers and segments that connects to an iron fence to make a complete enclosure around these three resources, was constructed in 1905.



The Blue Hills Observatory enclosure today.



Blue Hills Observatory Continued from page 10

Bonus 2: Summit Road.

The summit of Great Blue Hill is reached by Summit Road, constructed sometime between 1871 and 1884.¹¹ While as hikers we tend to avoid the road, it is frequently used by both runners and bikers, as in the greater Boston area it's a good place to get some elevation (about 400') and if you do multiples it adds up. "Everesting" is a thing (<https://29029everesting.com/>), and if you are really committed you can ride or run up and down the road 70 times (equaling 29,029' of elevation gain) like Jim Purtell from Somerset did on his bike in 2015. See:

<https://www.southcoasttoday.com/article/20150605/news/150609544?template=ampart>

Bonus 3: Pumphouse

On Accord Path, more or less across from Brookwood Farm, is a small stone building. If you've hiked past it, you might have wondered what it was. I say "was," because looking at its present condition you can quickly tell it doesn't do anything useful anymore. Looking inside, you may have figured it out; there are all the clues you need. This pumphouse was constructed to provide water to the Observatory.¹²



Pumphouse built in 1913 with disused electrical panel.



Interior, left, old pipes, pump, and motor, right.

Bonus 4: WGBH Building/Tower

Not everything on the summit is associated with the observatory. The WGBH building and tower are located there, too. ("W Great Blue Hill," in case you never thought about where those initials came from.) WGBH FM signed on in October 1951 and from 1955 to 1960 WGBH-TV also broadcast from there. If this subject interests you, and you want more information, Scott Fybush has "all the info" you could ever want at: <https://www.fybush.com/site-of-the-week-8242012-wgbh-fm-boston/>.



¹ http://www.bluehill.org/history/History_of_Blue_Hill.pdf

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_Hill_Meteorological_Observatory#/media/File:Bho_summit01.jpg

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_Hill_Meteorological_Observatory

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ http://www.canton.org/canton/Canton%20Mass_%20Historical%20Society,%20Canton%20Bicentennial%20Book,%20Chapter%201.htm

⁶ <https://bluehill.org/observatory/about-us/history/>

⁷ <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/mz/sections1-4.pdf> p. 40

⁸ <https://bluehill.org/observatory/2013/03/blue-hill-observatory-rotch-memorial-monument/>

⁹ Bob Vogel photo

¹⁰ Bob Vogel photo

¹¹ <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/08/mz/sections1-4.pdf> p. 40

¹² <https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2016/10/mz/section-2-blue-hills-reservation.pdf> P. 2-19

¹³ <https://www.fybush.com/site-of-the-week-8242012-wgbh-fm-boston/>



Activities

For the most current information, [search activities online](#)

Create your personal Activities Digest

AMC has an email notification system for AMC members interested in keeping up to date with new and upcoming activities posted on AMC's Activities Database (ActDB) on [outdoors.org](https://www.amc.org). The Activities Digest system can send email notifications on a daily, weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly basis depending on how a user configures the settings.

The Activity Digest functions in a very similar way to the search function on the ActDB listing page, but it pulls the data you want to see straight from ActDB to your inbox.

AMC Trip Policy

You must bring and be willing to wear a face covering in compliance with local, state, and AMC requirements. Per MA executive order (<https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-order-55/download>), a face covering must be worn for the entire activity. Please have your face covering on when we circle up. Anyone who does not register or does not bring a face covering will not be allowed to join the activity. Group size is limited and activities are often waitlisted, so please cancel your registration if you can no longer attend or are not feeling well. Online registration is required. AMC membership is not required, but you will need to set up a free AMC online account if you do not already have one. Click "Register" button to accept the risks, provide contact info, and sign the AMC liability waiver. Each person must register individually; you cannot register for a friend or household member.

This policy applies to ALL activities. No exceptions.

CAPE HIKES

Sun., Jan. 17. Hike in Dennis, MA. Hike along wooded trails relatively flat with stretches of pavement. You should wear sturdy footwear preferably hiking boots, dress in layers and bring fluid for hydration. If the ground has snow or ice you should also use traction devices. Hiking poles helpful for balance. **See AMC Trip Policy on page 12.** L Jane Harding (508-833-2864 Before 8 PM, janeharding@comcast.net) CL Margaret Christen (832-443-7321 Before 8PM, margaret@mchristen.net)

Thu., Jan. 21. Hike--Wareham A, MA. This pre-registered hike with a limit of 9 participants is 3.5 miles in Wareham. The terrain is relatively flat with roots and rocks to negotiate. Waterproof hiking shoes/boots are needed, with microspikes/Yak Trax and poles if snowy/icy. Start location will be send to registered participants. **See AMC Trip Policy on page 12.** L Robin McIntyre (508-789-8252, robinmcintyre@comcast.net). Robin is a 5th year Level 1 SEM/Cape Hikes leader.)

Sun., Jan. 24. Hike- Along a Stream Part II, East Falmouth, MA. A fairly easy hike mainly along a stream restored from old cranberry bogs. We will also pass through some adjacent woods. This hike is downstream from a hike 2 weeks ago at the origin of the same stream, About 2 hours, 4 miles. **See AMC Trip Policy on page 12.** L John Gould (508-540-5779, jhgould@comcast.net)

Sun., Feb. 28. Hike--Wareham S, Wareham S, MA. This pre-registered hike with a limit of 9 participants is 4+ miles in Wareham. The wooded trails have some minor hills and rocks/roots to negotiate in conservation areas. Waterproof hiking shoes/boots are required and microspikes/Yak Trax and poles if snowy/icy. Start location will be send to registered participants. **See AMC Trip Policy on page 12.** L Robin McIntyre (508-789-8252, robinmcintyre@comcast.net, Robin is a 5th year Level 1 SEM/Cape Hike Leader)

Thu., Mar. 25. Hike--Bourne, Bourne, MA. This pre-registered hike with a limit of 9 participants, 4+ miles, 2 hours, will take place in Bourne. The wooded trails have frequent rolling hills with leaves, rocks, and roots to negotiate. Waterproof hiking shoes/boots are required with microspikes/Yak Trax and poles if icy/snowy. Bring water. Start location will be send to registered participants. **See AMC Trip Policy on page 12.** L Robin McIntyre (508-789-8252, robinmcintyre@comcast.net, Robin is a 5th year Level 1 SEM/Cape Hike leader)



Activities

For the most current information, [search activities online](#)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Volunteer Opportunities

Ongoing. SEM Chapter Vice Chair. The SEM Executive Board is seeking a chapter Vice Chair volunteer to: - Support the SEM Chapter Chair and our great activity leaders - Represent the SEM Chapter at a variety of club-wide and chapter events - Interface with AMC HQ and learn how AMC functions behind the scenes - Support conservation, education, and recreation in Southeastern Massachusetts. You will assist with the development of chapter goals, budgets, and special events, maintenance of SEM continuity plan, assist other committee members in coordinating chapter activities, and participate in monthly Executive Board meetings and periodic AMC meetings of chapter chairs. Experience with or willing to learn straightforward Excel spreadsheet and Power Point type applications helpful. This position will be available November 2020. Email chapter chair Diane Simms chair@amcsem.org for more information.

Ongoing. SEM Hiking Vice Chair. Do you want to support SEM hiking? We need a Hiking Vice Chair to assist the SEM Hiking Chair. Responsibilities include helping to coordinate hiking series and workshops; leading hikes and participating in other leaders' hikes; recruiting new hike leaders and ensuring they receive the proper mentoring. To apply for this position you must be a hike leader with the SEM chapter already actively leading hikes. Email Paul Brookes for more information. Email the chapter chair Diane Simms chair@amcsem.org or hiking chair Paul Brookes hikingchair@amcsem.org for more information.

Ongoing, SEM 20s & 30s Vice Chair. The SEM Executive Board is seeking a 20s & 30s Vice Chair volunteer to assist with the SEM 20s & 30s Chapter Chair in the development of a committee to help build our 20s & 30s involvement in the chapter. The Vice Chair will help with creating and hosting social events, maintaining contact and interacting with members through social media, and leading activities geared toward members in their 20s and 30s. Email Susie Schobel 20s30schair@amcsem.org for more information.

Ongoing. Conservation Committee Member, MA. The SEM Conservation Committee is looking to add members so we can expand our outreach in our area. Our main focus as a committee is to plan and organize outdoor conservation work in Southeastern MA and to communicate to our members on conservation topics. With additional volunteers on our committee, we will be able to expand our efforts in these areas. We need volunteers to help us with planning, organizing and running conservation projects within our chapter. These could be in-person or virtual programs. Some of the ideas we would like to pursue are: •Working with DCR and Friends of the Blue Hills to remove invasive species in our surrounding areas. •Working with the other SEM Committees, Hiking, Paddling, Biking, Trails and Skiing, to identify areas that we can collaborate with them with conservation in mind. •Start a monthly Speaker Series focusing on diverse topics within conservation. These may start as Zoom meetings and later become in-person seminars when feasible. •Communicate ideas as to how each of us can improve conservation measures in our daily lives. L Email conservation chair Joanne Newton conservationchair@amcsem.org for more information.

HIKING

Rating codes (e.g. C4D): first letter indicates distance in mi (AA=13+, A=9-13, B=5-8, C=less than 5 mi), middle number indicates pace (1=very fast, 2=fast, 3=moderate, 4=leisurely), second letter indicates terrain (A=very stren., B=stren., C=average, D=easy)

Get your 100-mile patch! Contact hikingchair@amcsem.org.

Always looking for additional hike leaders! Contact hikingchair@amcsem.org

Sat., Jan. 16-17. Southeastern MA Snowshoe Series 2, MA. - 1/2 day Saturday hike followed by a full day hike on Sunday (no accommodations provided). Location TBA - We will be chasing snow. **See AMC Trip Policy on page 12.** L Anne Duggan (508-789-5538 before 9 pm, abduggan12@gmail.com) CL Diane Hartley (dihartleyplymouth@gmail.com)

BEONLINE WITH AMC

Fri., Jan. 15, 6:30-8:45 pm. Banff Mountain Film Festival Virtual Watch Party. Join us for a virtual watch party of some of this year's Banff Mountain Film Festival movies! We'll hang out on Discord and enjoy the films together(ish). The Festival is an international film competition and annual presentation of short films and documentaries about mountain culture, sports, and the environment. Rent the program (\$15) [here](#), in advance of the watch party. [Details here](#).



Activities

For the most current information, [search activities online](#)

BEONLINE WITH AMC

Tues., Jan. 19, 7-8:30 pm. Exploring Antarctica: Hiking, Kayaking, and Camping on the Frozen Continent. Join us on January 19 at 7pm for a presentation by Jeff Noonan about his experiences visiting Antarctica. Learn how to get there, where to go, and what to bring. Sign up now and we'll (virtually) see you there! [Register here.](#)

Wed., Jan. 20, 7-8:30 pm. 3rd Wednesday Speaker Series: Multi Day Treks/Hikes Around The World. Ken Curchin will discuss how he transitioned from day hiker to long trekker/day hiker. How easy is it to get started? Average cost, picking a trek, finding out where and how to book hotels and huts, plus/minuses of a "do it yourself trip," hiring a company to arrange your trip (Norway), or paying for a guide to take you (Machu Picchu & Patagonia). [Details here.](#)

Thurs., Jan. 21, 6:30-8 pm. Appalachian Trail Adventures with Dan "Pa" Gallogly. Dan has run marathons and done triathlons, long-distance bike races, a 50-mile walk/run, and hiked more than a 1,000 miles, 500 of them on the Appalachian Trail. All after turning 60 years of age. Dan, who is also an AMC member, will share his adventures and knowledge gained while section hiking the Appalachian Trail. [Register required.](#)

Thurs., Jan. 28, 6-8 pm. Watch Party: *Virunga*. A powerful combination of investigative journalism and nature documentary, *Virunga* is the incredible true story of a group of courageous people risking their lives to build a better future in the Congo, one of the most bio-diverse places on Earth and home to the planet's last remaining mountain gorillas. You'll need a Netflix subscription and the Teleparty browser extension in Chrome. [Registration required.](#)

Wed., Feb. 17, 7-8:15 pm. An Adventure in the Mountains of the Moon. In March 2019, Katie Bartel climbed Margherita Peak in Uganda's stunning and remote Mountains of the Moon (Rwenzori Mountains). Her talk will cover a brief history of these little-known mountains, her experience, logistics, and what to expect if you want to hike there before the glaciers melt! [Registration required.](#)

Wed., Feb. 17, 7-8:30 pm. 3rd Wednesday Speaker Series - Rescue of the Bounty. Mike J. Tougias, co-author of *Rescue of the Bounty*, will give a dramatic visual presentation about this event. The tall ship *Bounty*, featured in the Marlon Brando movie *Mutiny on the Bounty*, sank during Superstorm Sandy in 2012. The captain and a crewmember perished in the accident but the Coast Guard performed harrowing helicopter rescues to save the other fourteen sailors. [Registration required.](#)

