



Trails & Waves

Volume 40, Issue 2 • Winter 2018-19

News from the Appalachian Mountain Club
New York – North Jersey Chapter

5 **Wilderness
Issues
Near You**

**What Is
Wilderness?**

**NY's
Newest
Trail**



Trails & Waves

Appalachian Mountain Club
NY-NoJ Chapter
5 West 63rd Street,
Suite 220
New York, NY 10023

Editor
Ron Gonzalez

Executive for Communications
Lee Hoffman

Layout & Format
Marty Plante

Trails & Waves is published by the New York–North Jersey Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the AMC. We reserve the right to decline any submission judged to be inconsistent with AMC’s purpose or not in keeping with the sensitivities of its membership.

Contributions of articles and photos are welcome. Articles may be edited for style, clarity, and length. The newsletter assumes no responsibility for lost material. Please send photographs in the original (uncompressed) size; contact the editor if you need assistance. Email all submissions to: trailswaves@amc-ny.org

Read Trails & Waves on the [Chapter’s website](#)

© 2018 Appalachian Mountain Club, Boston, MA 02108

Contents

FEATURES

- 7 Empire State Trail
- 14 National Park Hacks
- 19 National Trails Act

CLUB UPDATES

- 21 August Camp 2019
- 22 2019 Annual Summit
- 23 Mountain Classroom
- 24 Volunteers Needed

CHAPTER UPDATES

- 13 Membership Party
- 18 Ski with the AMC
- 26 Canoe/Kayak Party

CONSERVATION

- 3 What is Wilderness?
- 6 5 Wilderness Issues
- 20 Is Nature Dying?
- 25 Stand Up for Maine

LASTING IMAGE



Cover Photo: Skiers in the 100-Mile Wilderness near the AMC’s Gorman Chairback Lodge. Photo by Marty Plante.

What Is Wilderness



by RON GONZALEZ

In the second half of the 19th century, when the conservation movement was new, the concept of 'wilderness' was easy to understand. There were huge tracts of land in North America onto which no human had ever stepped, where the influence of industrial processes could not be detected.

Conservation Easement Lands
**Speculator
Tree Farm Tract**



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Access To
**Siamese Ponds
Wilderness**



Entrance to the Adirondacks' Siamese Ponds Wilderness Area in Speculator, NY. Photo by Marty Plante.

It was sensible to think that placing these untouched lands off-limits to development would preserve them intact. It was inconceivable that the inner core of Glacier National Park in Montana, far from the nearest road, could be altered in any significant way by human activities going on far, far away.

Fast forward to the early 21st century, and my, how things have changed. The glaciers that give Glacier National Park its name are melting away—not from what people are doing on or nearby the glaciers, but by the after-effects of two centuries of industrial activity. The impacts on climate now affect every corner of the globe, extending to the deepest recesses of the world's most remote protected lands and waters. In this new world, what were once considered untouched wildernesses, unaffected by humans, now bear unmistakable signs of our presence.

Micro-beads accumulate at the bottom of wild streams, plastic bags collect in the most remote parts of the oceans. The effects of acid rain have altered high mountain forests around the world, and of course glaciers and ice caps are receding everywhere. Strange insect pests and blights from the far corners of the world are invading remote wild forests, changing the forest composition and decimating mammal and bird populations. Global warming, aggressive fire suppression, and large-scale forest management have turned the North American pine bark beetle from a normal part of the

Wright Peak in the Adirondack High Peaks, seen from Marcy Dam after Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee.



western pine forest ecology into a monstrous forest plague.

The effects of this unstoppable onslaught of human influence on wilderness areas around the world make us ask an important, new question: *Is there any 'real' wilderness left?*

If by wilderness we mean large areas where the influence of humankind is not perceptible, then the answer may be no. If a glacier on the flanks of Denali is shrunken to a fraction of its pre-1960s size, and if that glacier contains decades-old ice from which man-made atmospheric pollutants can be collected, it is undeniable that human industrial activities have left an indelible mark on the place, and very likely on its wildlife. Is that place still a 'pristine wilderness'?

I believe we are at a crossroads. In the past, we assumed we could preserve wilderness simply by setting aside large tracts of land in which nature could take its course. In the future, these places, even if not mined, logged, hunted, fished or directly exploited in any way, will still be forever altered by human activities. We have to ask ourselves, is it now necessary to actively manage wilderness in order to

preserve it? Or do we accept that the North American wilderness as it existed in the 19th century is gone forever? Do we need to come to terms with a new kind of 21st century wilderness, in which the effects of industrial activity will always be apparent? Or do we intervene on behalf of the wilderness that existed before, doing as much as we can to remediate (or hide) the scars left by human activity?

We in the outdoor recreation and conservationist communities are going to need to decide what we believe can and cannot be done, and what our priorities are. It would be wonderful if humankind could preserve examples of what our natural world was like before we changed it. It would be even more wonderful if we could preserve pieces of Northeastern wilderness where we can go to visit them in their truly primeval state. Tragically, we may be well past that point. We may only be left with 'living museums' that can give us an inkling of what once was, but precious few areas that are truly 'wilderness' in the way we'd like to think of that.

Summit of Hunter Mountain in the Catskills.



5 Wilderness Issues Near You

Until their extermination in the 19th century, wolves and mountain lions roamed the Adirondacks. Should these predators be reintroduced to manage the deer population and restore balance to the food chain? What would be the economic impacts, both positive and negative, to New York's tourism industry? To its hunting industry?

1

LIONS & TIGERS & BEARS

2

GO NATIVE

In the Adirondack Park, many lakes in designated Wilderness Areas have been affected by acidification and introduction of exotic fish species (often as bait fish) have killed off the native fish species, like brook trout. The NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has intervened to save these species, sometimes by killing all life in a pond and then re-stocking the pond with hatchery-raised non-native fish, or with brook trout raised from non-local strains. Is it the DEC's job to restore populations of native fish to these waters, or is it more important to keep them attractive for recreational fishing, by stocking them with whichever fish species have the best chance of thriving in the altered waters of these lakes and ponds?

DAM IT

3

Again in our Adirondack Park, should dams be destroyed so that bodies of water like the Boreas Ponds can be restored to as close to their pre-settlement state as we can get them? Or should sites like Duck Pond and Marcy Dam be kept in the state in which people have grown to know (and love) them?

5

4

BETTER LIVING THRU CHEMISTRY

Cook Forest State Park, PA, is home to one of the finest stands of never-logged, first-growth climax forests in the Northeast. The hemlock woolly adelgid has infested many of the centuries-old hemlock trees. Park staff are treating the ground around many of the best hemlocks with an insecticide. Is it appropriate to save a keystone species in designated wilderness areas by applying chemicals?

The hemlock woolly adelgid, a voracious Asian aphid that feeds on the sap of the North American eastern hemlock, has spread across most of the eastern US, producing entire mountainsides of dead hemlocks. In 15 to 20 years, hemlocks will be largely gone from Northeastern wilderness areas. It's too expensive to treat an entire forest with currently available pesticides. Eastern hemlock is a 'keystone' species, anchoring a climax forest type that is home to many of our favorite birds and other animals. Do we manage these protected forest areas to keep them as close as we can to how they are now? Or do we accept our introduction of invasive pests as part of nature's processes, and allow the blight to run its course?

The Empire State is Blazing a New TRAIL

New York State inches forward with its plan for a 750-mile trail

Planning a trip to Canada? Before long, you'll be able to hike there (or jog or bike ride or rollerblade or maybe even ski).

Last year, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced the creation of a 750-mile multi-use trail, to be completed in 2020, that will connect over 130 municipalities in 27 counties.

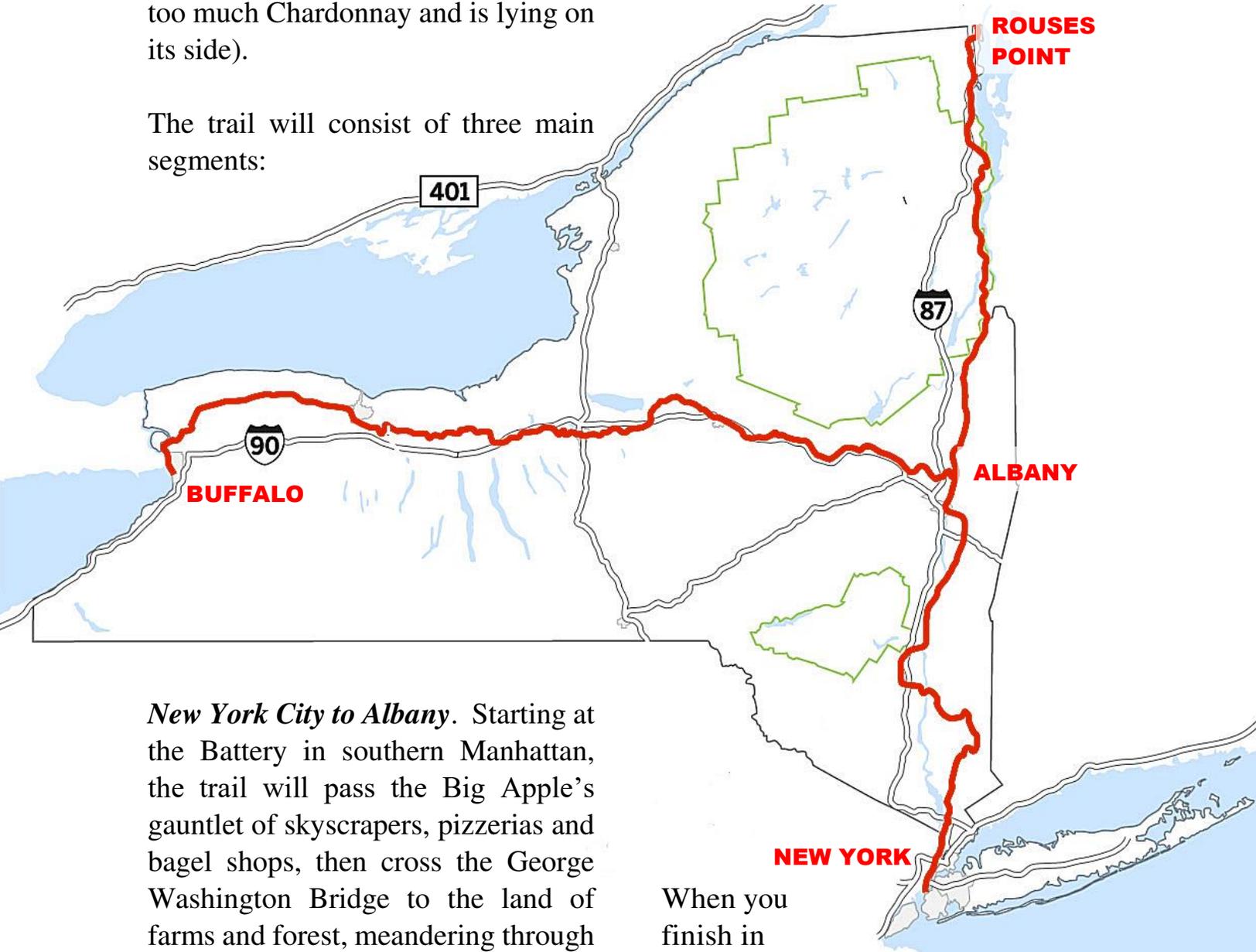
He stated, "The Empire State Trail, once completed, will be the nation's largest state multi-use trail network, providing residents and visitors alike unprecedented access to New York's outdoor treasures, driving tourism and economic activity to communities across the state and helping to protect our environmental resources for generations to come."

The plan is to build 350 miles of new trails in three years to bridge the gaps between 40 existing routes operated by a variety of state entities, local governments, and non-profit organizations. The ambitious pace is made possible because the state already owns most of the land needed for the project, particularly along the Erie Canal.



When completed, Manhattan, Buffalo and the Canadian border near Lake Champlain will be connected by the T-shaped trail (a ‘T’ that has sipped too much Chardonnay and is lying on its side).

The trail will consist of three main segments:



New York City to Albany. Starting at the Battery in southern Manhattan, the trail will pass the Big Apple’s gauntlet of skyscrapers, pizzerias and bagel shops, then cross the George Washington Bridge to the land of farms and forest, meandering through the Hudson Valley to Albany.

Albany to Buffalo. From NYC, make a left at Albany and follow the Mohawk River and Erie Canal (which are often the same) and soak up the

scenery and history. Watch the 1% sail their yachts through the canal locks. In Schenectady, try your luck at the Rivers Casino & Resort.

When you finish in Buffalo, wave to our Ontario neighbors on the other side of the Niagara River. Much of this segment already exists as the Erie Canalway Trail, so there’s no need to wait until 2020 to trek, amble, or stroll.



Hikers on the Champlain Feeder Canal Trail, part of the Empire State Trail.
Photo by Marty Plante.

Albany to the Quebec Border.

The exact route hasn't been finalized, but it's likely that much of this will be on the existing NYS Bike Route 9 which is mainly the shoulder of low-traffic roads. This section will be attractive mostly to cyclists and snowmobilers who are confident enough to ride with traffic. There's no need to stop when you get to the Quebec border—flash your passport and continue on the Vélo Québec trail system.

The Empire State Trail is exciting news for hikers and bikers, but not everyone is happy with the governor's plan. Some towns have agreed to take on trail maintenance, while others are grumbling about the extra expense.

The Town of Nassau, an Albany suburb, is willing to take responsibility for mowing the grass next to the trail only if the state provides the equipment.

In Fort Ann, the shoulder of a high-traffic highway will be temporarily designated as part of the EST until a new dedicated trail can be built along the Champlain Canal. “This trail is going to get people killed,” said Washington County Administrator Chris DeBolt.

Some are disappointed that the trails in their area, such as those on Long Island, won’t be included. Others simply believe that the project is too expensive and that there are better uses for the funds, now projected to be \$266 million. A Feb, 2017 poll by Siena College found that only 38% of New Yorker voters supported the plan.

The trail surface will be as varied as the scenery. The two legs from Manhattan to Buffalo, about 70% of the total, will mainly be on dedicated

trails of asphalt, concrete, or crushed stone and closed to motor vehicles. The orphan stepchild, from Albany, along Lake Champlain, to the Quebec border, will mostly be located on the shoulders of existing roads and highways

The moderate grades won’t offer any stunning summit views, but will welcome day hikers, supertrampers, birders, dog walkers, parents pushing strollers, and bicyclists of all abilities. Some sections won’t be plowed, allowing use by snowshoers and cross-country skiers. The entire length is expected to be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, making it available to those with mobility impairments. And it’ll provide easy access to motels and restaurants, so you can leave the 50 lb. backpack at home.

Albany to Buffalo Section of the Empire State Trail.

Photo from www.ny.gov .



WHY WAIT?

The Empire State Trail won't be completed until 2020, but in the meantime there are plenty of roads less traveled...

Finger Lakes Trail

A 580 mile trail connecting Allegany State Park near Pennsylvania with the Long Path in the Catskill Forest Preserve. It's part of the part of the 4,600 mile North—Country National Scenic Trail that's now under construction

Northville-Placid Trail

Officially starting at Northville, most hikers avoid the road walk by starting in Benson, reducing the distance to 133 miles—perfect for a one week end-to-end backpacking trip. Bypassing the Adirondacks' mountain peaks, this trail sticks to the lowlands, providing stunning views of backcountry lakes and ponds. This is a remote trail and it's possible that you can travel the entire length without seeing any other hikers, but there are no grocery stores within a convenient distance from the trail, so plan on a mail drop or bring a week's worth of meals.

Shawangunk Ridge Trail

Beginning at High Point State Park on the NY-NJ border, this trail runs 71 miles along the dramatic Shawangunk Ridge and through Minnewaska State Park to Mohonk Preserve.



Appalachian Trail (NY Section)

America's most famous trail spans 160 miles from the Delaware Water Gap to Connecticut, ranging from easy to strenuous. Get close and personal with bears, coyotes and foxes as you pass through the zoo at Bear Mountain, then cross the Bear Mountain Bridge for spectacular views of the Hudson.

Long Path

A 357-mile hiking trail from Manhattan's 175th Street Subway Station to the Albany area. A work in progress, it has some gaps, requiring 60 miles of road walking for an end-to-end trip, but you'll get great views of the NJ Palisades, Harriman State Park, the Shawangunk Ridge and the Catskills.



AMC offers a wide range of activities for families in search of winter fun. Your kids will learn a new sport in the heart of snow country and come home with a skill that will last a lifetime.

Click a box to learn more.

**Snowshoeing; Nordic skiing;
Building snowshelters**

AMC's Joe Dodge Lodge
White Mountains, NH
Mon-Thu, Feb 18-21, 2019

**Snowshoeing;
Sledding;
Building snow
shelters;**

Campfire stories
AMC Cardigan
Lodge
Lakes Region, NH
Mon-Wed,
Feb 18-20, 2019

Snowshoeing; XC skiing; Sledding

AMC Noble View Outdoor Center
Western Mass.
Fri-Sun, Feb 15-17, 2019
(Presidents' Day Weekend)

**Nordic & downhill skiing; Ice
skating; Sledding**

Northeast Kingdom, VT
Sat-Tue, Feb 16-18, 2019
(Presidents' Day Weekend)

Nordic skiing; Snowshoeing
AMC Medewisla Lodge & Cabins
100 Mile Wilderness, Maine
Mon-Thu, Feb 18-21, 2019

eat, drink,
be *Merry*

Membership Committee

Holiday Party

Friday, Dec. 7, 2018, 6 - 8:30PM

5th & Mad Bar & Kitchen,

7 E. 36th St, NYC





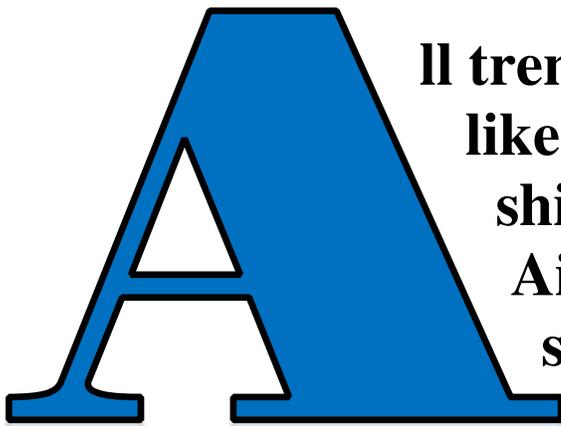
Bronson & Big Bertha near Wilson Arch

#VanLife and

National Park Hacks

Off the Grid and On the Road to Utah

story and photos by YELENA UDLER



All trends come full circle, and just like Converse shoes and flannel shirts, Volkswagen vans and Airstream trailers are back in style.

They're a rare sight in congested cities like New York, but all over the country, millennials are bringing back the 'cool' factor to traveling cross country while living out of a van. So much so, that #vanlife has over 3 million posts on Instagram. Personally, I'd think twice about trading in my apartment for a van, but sometimes a tiny home on wheels does have its advantages. Last Memorial Day, a group of us set out on a road trip to Moab, Utah in one of those tiny homes on wheels. The van of choice was my friend's '91 Chevy G20 with a midnight blue interior, christened 'Big Bertha' for the ability to fit all the creature comforts the five of us would need for the next several days. The plan was to drive the van to Moab and use it as a base-camp while exploring Arches and Canyonlands National Parks.

Island in the Sky view in Canyonlands National Park.

You might think, "A National Park on a holiday weekend? That's crazy! It's bound to be so busy!" And it was – we passed by the entrance to Arches around mid-morning and the line of cars waiting to get into the park was at least half a mile long (hack #1: show up early, prior to 8am). Fortunately, that wasn't our destination for the day, and we continued on, heading to a more remote region – the Needles District of Canyonlands (hack #2: pick a lesser known destination within a popular park). Canyonlands National Park encompasses three separate areas under its umbrella. Island in the Sky is perhaps the best known, attracting the most visitors. It has plenty of short hikes, paved roads, and scenic overlooks. It is also the easiest one to get to, being the closest to Moab and the nearby Interstate. The Maze district is the opposite – a remote location requiring a Jeep to get over the rocky





The gang at Mesa Arch, one of Canyonlands' most popular landmarks.

roads, and a few days' worth of supplies for exploring. We settled on a happy medium: the Needles District is about an hour and a half drive from Moab, and gets its name from the needle-like sandstone formations pointing at the sky. The best hike in the park is a ten(ish) mile loop through canyons and around rock formations leading to Druid Arch (hack #3: select a challenging hike to get away from the crowds). After the hike, in typical dirtbag style, we parked Bertha under the shade of a couple of trees and set up camp along a dirt road outside the park. Having a large van provided us with opportunity to bring along some of the comforts of home – grill, picnic table, and chairs. The van also acted as sleeping space for those too lazy to set up tents.

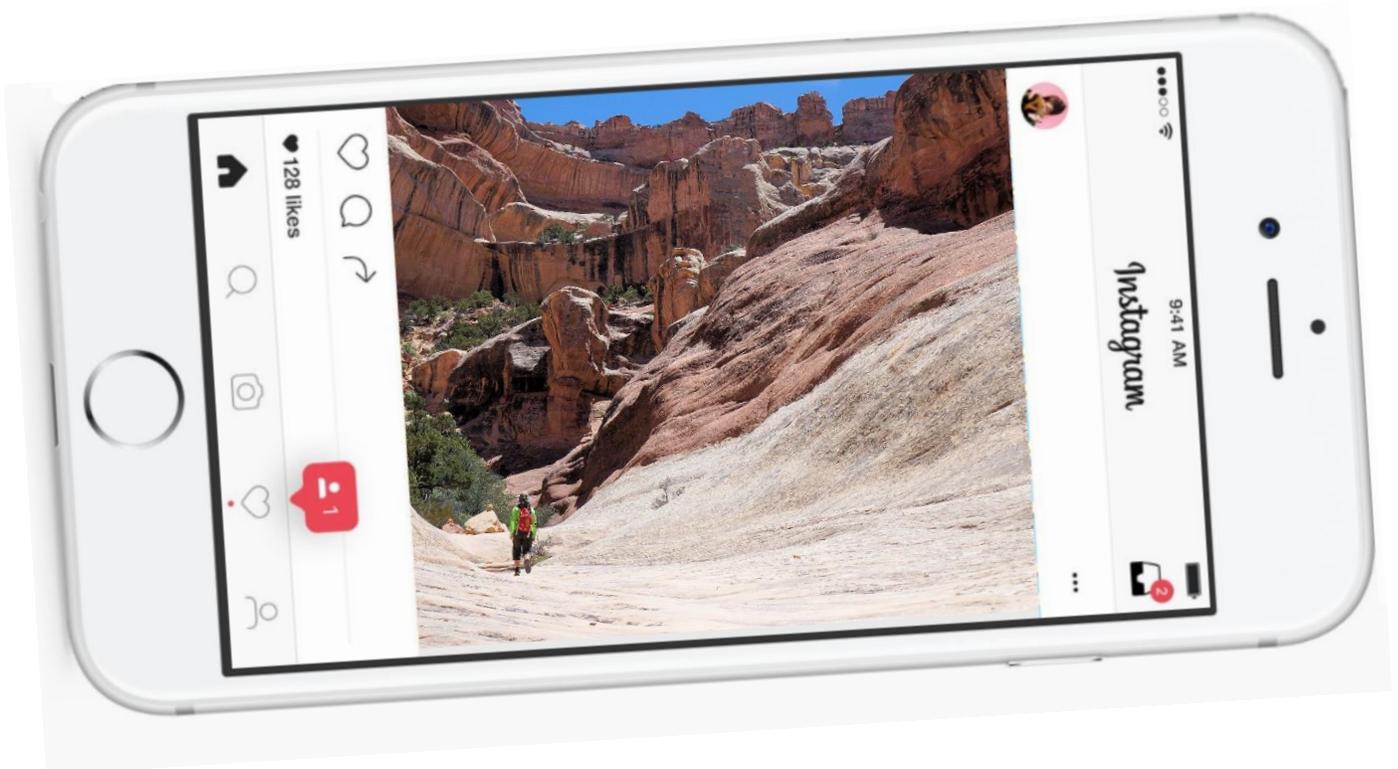
The next day we packed up early, and swung by Arches National Park to reserve a permit for the following day for the Fiery Furnace, a magical, trail-less labyrinth of canyons and rock scrambles (hack #4: if park rules allow, obtain permits well in advance). Permit secured, we headed over to the more popular part of Canyonlands – Island in the Sky – for a rest day dedicated to scenic vistas (including the classic Mesa Arch), and tourist crowds. A treat for that day was a hike not advertised on the official park map: one of the gang found a hike with an iconic view within park boundaries and off of one of the main roads that wasn't actually on the park map. He downloaded GPS tracks ahead of time, and we hoofed it along a game trail to

False Kiva (described by Wikipedia as *a human-made stone circle of unknown origin constructed in a cave*). The view from inside the cave looked out a vast landscape of red rock and sandstone spires stretching out endlessly before us (hack #6: research hidden off-the-map wonders and directions ahead of time).

That night, Big Bertha again provided us with shelter and sustenance. We woke up feeling refreshed in the morning, and ready for some good rock scrambling. With our permits proudly displayed on the packs, we headed off into the Furnace. Fiery

**You are
meant to
explore
wherever
your legs
take you.**

Furnace is a unique feature for a National Park as there is no map, nor a clear trail the visitor is meant to follow. You are meant to explore wherever your legs take you. We spent half a day at the Furnace, scrambling over rocks and into canyons, and even got lucky enough to find a hidden arch! When it came time to leave, it took some orienteering and a few wrong turns to find the way out, but the experience sure was a blast – as was the trip in its entirety. Visiting a National Park doesn't have to consist of endless lines awaiting parking spots. Do your research and time it right, and you're guaranteed a unique experience.



SKI with the AMC

**Click
on a
box
to
learn
more**

MLK Ski Weekend
Tug Hill State Forest, NY
Fri-Mon, Jan 18-21, 2019

**Lodge to Hut: Women's
Backcountry Ski**
AMC Highland Center
White Mountains, NH
Fri-Sun, Feb 1-3, 2019

Backcountry/XC Skiing
Kootenay National Park
Canadian Rockies
Sat-Tue, Feb 2-12, 2019

**Women's Multisport
Winter Weekend**
AMC Joe Dodge Lodge
White Mountains, NH
Fri-Sun, Feb 8-10, 2019

**Multisport Winter Adventure
for Adults**
Joe Dodge Lodge
White Mountains, NH
Tue-Thu, Feb 12-14, 2019

Presidents' Weekend XC Ski
Lilac Inn
Brandon, VT
Fri-Mon, Feb 15-18, 2019

Women's XC Ski Weekend
AMC Highland Center
White Mtns, NH
Fri-Sun, Feb 22-24, 2019

Intro to Backcountry Skiing
AMC Joe Dodge Lodge
White Mtns, NH
Fri-Sun, Mar 1-3, 2019



50th ANNIVERSARY

OF OUR

NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM



Back in early 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson delivered a speech to the U.S. Congress on the “Conservation and Preservation of Natural Beauty” in which LBJ proposed new National Seashore areas, National Recreation Areas, protections for clean water, and a new national system of hiking trails. LBJ’s Secretary of the Interior, Stewart Udall, formed a committee to study existing trails in the U.S. and explore the creation of a national trails network. The committee published its report “Trails for America” in December, 1966. In the end, Congress didn’t follow all the proposals laid out in “Trails for America,” but the National Trails System Act of 1968—passed in October, 1968—did designate the Pacific Crest Trail and our local favorite Appalachian Trail as National Scenic Trails, federally protected and maintained by the U.S. Forest Service and the National Parks Service.

Here’s a list of trails and other reserves in our area that have been protected as a result of the National Trails System Act of 1968. (This is not a complete list of all reserved areas. If you’re curious, do a little research and you may find a surprising number of resources in your area, waiting for you to explore.)

- Appalachian Trail (National Scenic Trail)
- Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (PA, NJ)
- Gateway National Recreation Area (National Park Service, NY, NJ)
- Capt. John Smith National Historic Trail (VA, MD, DE, DC, PA, NY)
- Fire Island National Seashore (Long Island, NY)
- National Parks of New York Harbor (NY, NJ)
- North Country National Scenic Trail (Adirondacks all the way west to North Dakota)
- Upper Delaware Scenic & Recreational River (western Catskill Mts and northeast PA)
- Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail (MA, RI, CT, NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, VA, DC)

IS NATURE DYING?

Editorial by **RON GONZALEZ**

The [World Wildlife Fund](#) publishes a report on the state of the world's wildlife every two years. The [2018 Living Planet Index](#) has been published, compiled by the Zoological Society of London. Its findings could not be more alarming.

“The main statistic from the report is the global Living Planet Index (LPI) which shows a 60% decline between 1970 and 2014 (Figure 1). This means that, on average, animal populations are well over half the size they were in 1970.

Think about that. For a person who is 60 years old today, there were 60% more wild animals out in the world when they were 10 years old. We can now announce with confidence something that was unimaginable only 50 years ago: *Nature is dying.*

Commentators point out that the problem goes deeper than simply a loss of wildlife and wildlands. The problem is that the very natural world on which we depend is being impoverished and depleted by human activities at a rate that threatens humankind's future survival on planet Earth. This dystopian fantasy of 20th century science fiction is becoming an all-too-real possibility here in the 21st century.

If ever there was an issue of all-consuming importance, this is it—especially for those of us who care about the natural world—but in reality for all who hope to live on planet Earth.

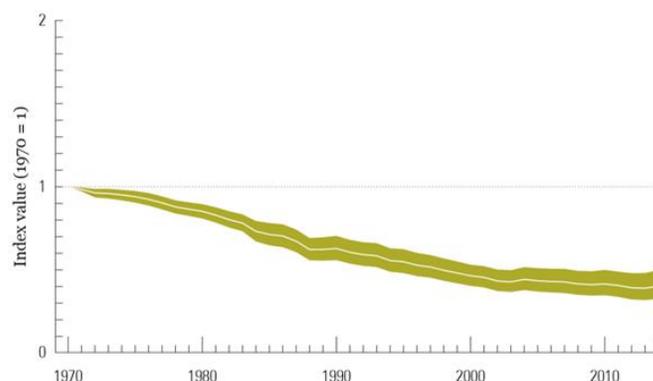
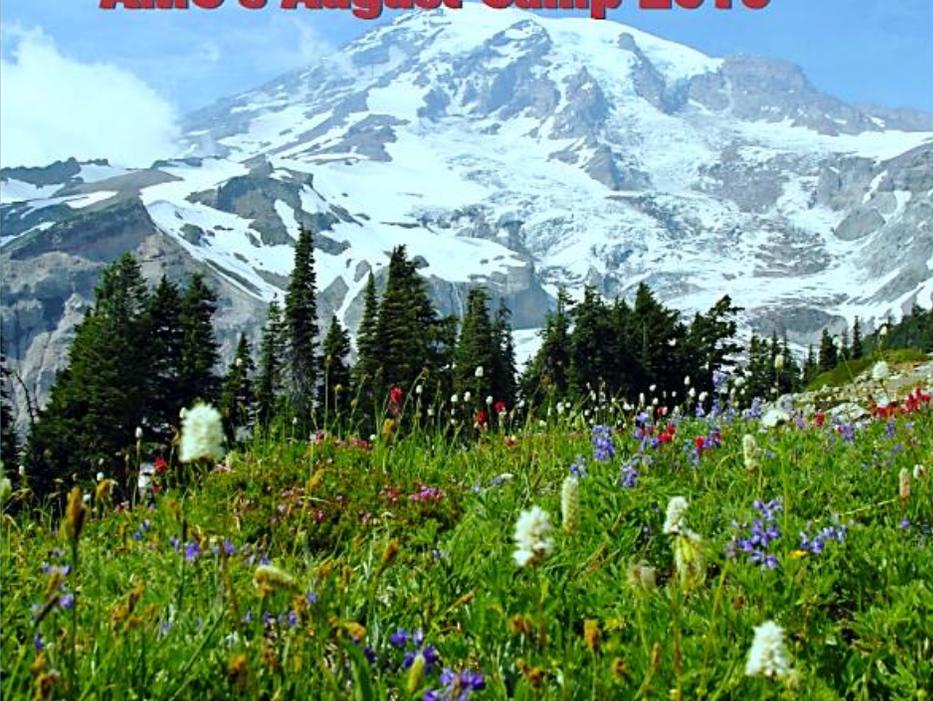


Figure 1: The global LPI shows a 60% (range: -50% to -67%) decline between 1970 and 2014. The white line shows the index values and the shaded areas represent the 95% confidence intervals surrounding the trend. WWF/ZSL (2018)” Source: LPI 2018. Living Planet Index database. 2018.

Mount Rainier AMC's August Camp 2019



Experience magnificent Mount Rainier National Park! See stunning waterfalls, alpine meadows carpeted with wildflowers and grand scenic vistas on dozens of easy to challenging hikes led by trained AMC volunteers. Visit Mount St. Helens. Trek across the shoulders of one of the highest and most dramatic peaks in the lower 48 states.

Camp in the small former lumbering town of Packwood, WA, adjacent to the park. Just arrive and enjoy the activities and camaraderie. Everything's provided: tents, hearty, delicious meals prepared by our staff, local transportation and a free shuttle from Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

July 13 through August 10. Attend one week or two. Detailed information and registration will be posted at augustcamp.org by early December. Camp filled by mid-January last year, so don't miss out! Registration opens January 2, 2019.

Week 1:	July 13 — July 20
Week 2:	July 20 — July 27
Week 3:	July 27 — Aug. 3
Week 4:	Aug. 3 — Aug. 10

One Week: \$975 members; \$1150 non-members.

Applications are accepted beginning January 2, 2019 in the order in which they are received. Get sign-up information after December 1 at our web site, augustcamp.org.

Questions?

Ask Lois Rothenberger at ACregistrar@comcast.net

augustcamp.org



Photos by Kathy Kelly-Borowski, August Camp 2014

AMC Adventure Travel

Trips of a Lifetime

AMC's Adventure Travel trips offer an amazing cost-conscious opportunity to explore the world led by AMC volunteers, with over 40 Adventure Travel trips scheduled for 2019.

Learn more!





143RD ANNUAL SUMMIT

AMC's 2019 Annual Summit

January 26, 2019

Four Points by Sheraton, Norwood MA

Please join AMC in kicking off another year in the outdoors! No matter what adventures you are planning for 2019, the 143rd

Annual Summit has something for you. This event will connect both newcomers and lifelong members with valuable resources and provide opportunities for meeting people with similar interests and passions.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Annual Summit is AMC's thank you to our dedicated volunteers and members! We welcome you to sign up for a combination of workshops, trainings, and meetings that matches your interests.

This event will feature:

- Interactive workshops led by AMC experts and outdoor pros
- Organization-wide committee meetings
- A delicious buffet lunch
- AMC's annual volunteer service awards
- The 143rd Annual Business Meeting
- Early evening reception, with complimentary drink and hors d'oeuvres
- Updates on AMC's work in conservation, recreation, and education.

Early Bird Special Pricing

Pay only \$35 when you register before January 1, 2019.

Regular Rate of \$45 applies after January 1, 2019. Registration is now open.

[Register Now!](#)

A MOUNTAIN CLASSROOM

Engaging students and teachers in environmental education, leadership development, and teambuilding for over 40 years.

AMC's successful *A Mountain Classroom* Program provides great environmental and leadership development programming to over 9,000 students per year from Maine to

Pennsylvania. The program uses AMC facilities set within acres of spectacular natural lands to engage the students in science and outdoor activities.

[LEARN MORE](#)

A Mountain Classroom offers a wide range of options from a single day experience to weeklong programs, allowing student to be fully engaged in science learning or leadership development. Through the power of outdoor experiences, *A Mountain Classroom* increases students' ecological understanding and inspires their personal growth.

Small field learning groups distinguish *A Mountain Classroom* and provide the opportunity for our staff to connect with participants. Our field educators are enthusiastic professionals who share a commitment to the enrichment of students' lives and a desire to use the wonder of the outdoors to teach concepts.





VOLUNTEER Needed!

Volunteer at AMC's lodges, huts, campsites, and more!

Our volunteers are passionate about helping people enjoy the outdoors and learn about the natural world. The AMC has a variety of volunteer opportunities based at our Outdoor Program Centers, including **Information Volunteers, Volunteer Naturalists, Program Volunteers, and Volunteer Alpine Stewards.**

Information Volunteers welcome hikers and overnight guests, orient them to the facility, and offer advice about nearby hiking trails, outdoor gear, and activity programming. Depending on location, Information Volunteers may also lead nature walks and evening programs, assist with retail sales, or help guests with boats and paddling equipment.

Volunteer Naturalists provide outreach through self-designed presentations, activities, and nature walks. Naturalists can offer a variety of programs over a few days, or focus on just one or two topics; they can gear their programs towards kids, adults, or both.

Program Volunteers lead short guided hikes or nature walks and interact with guests using hands-on educational displays. These “Walk-on Programs” are free and open to the public; participants often include novice hikers and families with children.

Volunteer Alpine Stewards provide outreach education to help protect the fragile alpine ecosystem on Franconia Ridge and Mt. Washington. Stewards engage with hikers about Leave No Trace principles, alpine ecology, trail conditions, and backcountry safety. Stewards also collect data for AMC's Mountain Watch and perform light trail maintenance.

For more information about any of these volunteer roles, or to request an application, please contact Kyra Salancy, AMC's Outdoor Program Centers Volunteer Coordinator, at amcvolservices@outdoors.org.

Stand

by KAITLYN BERNARD,
AMC MAINE POLICY MANAGER

Up for **Maine!**

Here in New England, much of our energy infrastructure is regional. States have varying energy demands and independently set targets and renewable energy goals. Recently, Massachusetts put out a request for proposals to bring additional renewable energy to the state.

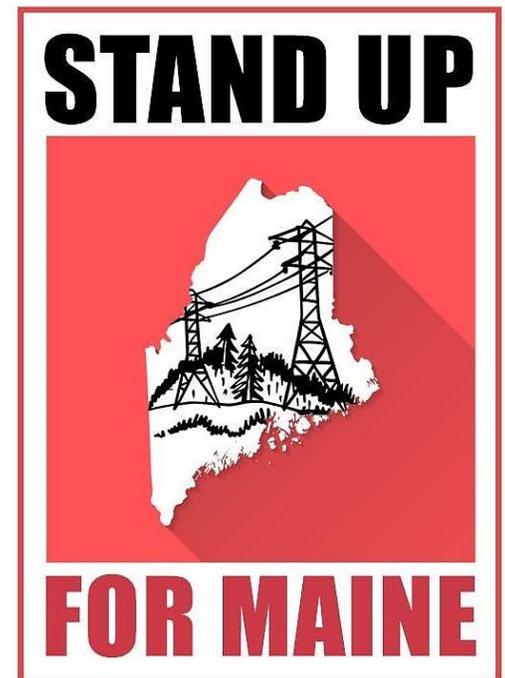
Central Maine Power's "New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC)" proposal was selected through that process. The proposal from Central Maine Power includes a transmission line project through Maine to transport HydroQuebec hydropower from Quebec to Massachusetts. The proposed line would include 53.5 miles of a new 150-foot-wide cleared corridor through undeveloped forest. The remaining 91.5 miles would be co-located within existing transmission corridors but would entail widening of the corridor and/or the installation of taller towers in many areas.

The Appalachian Mountain Club is opposed to the New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) transmission line as currently proposed. AMC has four primary concerns with this project:

- The significant scenic impact to the Kennebec Gorge, a nationally significant whitewater boating area whose value is recognized in a wide range of state laws and policies.
- The increased scenic impact to the Appalachian Trail.
- The fragmenting impact of the new corridor through undeveloped forest of high ecological value and conservation interest.
- The lack of evidence that the project will provide real greenhouse gas reduction benefits.

AMC strongly believes that we need to transition away from a fossil fuel-based economy and address climate change impacts. These efforts require a variety of tools, including increased energy efficiency and the development of new renewable energy sources. Technological advances and new market tools offer cost effective alternatives to the current large scale energy generation and long distance transmission model with its large environmental footprint. The impacts of this project and lack of evidence that it is generating new renewable energy resources are concerning. We are more interested in exploring new models including distributed energy and local renewable generation that would eliminate the need for a 145 mile transmission line.

AMC is closely following this issue and will alert interested members when there are opportunities to weigh in. We expect opportunities for public comment to be scheduled later this fall. If you would like to stay in the loop, please join [AMC's Conservation Action Network](#) or get in touch with AMC's Maine Policy Manager Kaitlyn Bernard (kbernard@outdoors.org)



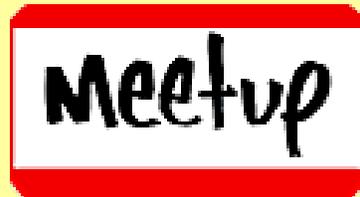


**You're Invited to the
AMC Paddlers'
Hike,
Pub Crawl,
& Party**

Sat, Dec 8, 2018
Join us in Manhattan
for one or all events

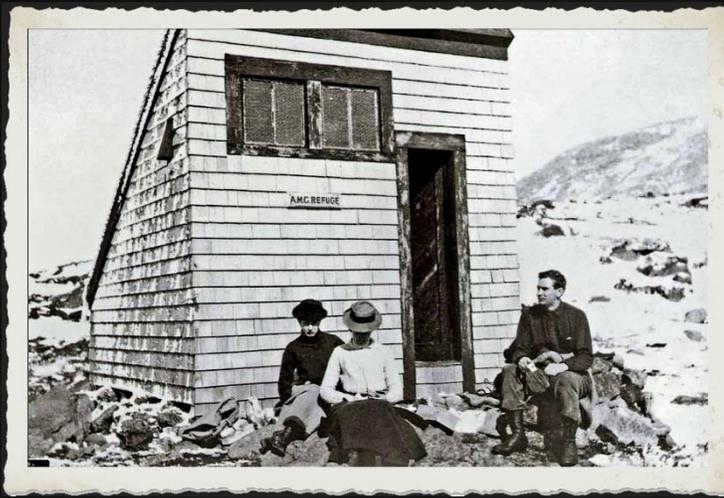


Let's Be
Social



LASTING IMAGE

Photos from AMC Library & Archives



After two members died in a midsummer snowstorm in 1900, AMC leaders built an emergency shelter. When hikers started using it as a convenient alternative to a tent, AMC leaders soon saw the need for the White Mountain huts that we have today.

Madison Spring Hut, post-1907



Carter Notch Hut, about 1919

Group of snowshoers at AMC's first shelter in Carter Notch, NH, 1913 (prior to construction of stone hut)

