A Story of Survival at Sea off the Massachusetts Coast

AMC-NH Chapter Dinner Program
Saturday, May 31
Canterbury NH

Nationally acclaimed author Michael Tougias will present a spell-binding talk and slide presentation on his new national bestseller *Fatal Forecast: An Incredible True Tale of Disaster and Survival at Sea.*

Using slides from the actual storm and rescue, Tougias will recount one of the most remarkable survival stories ever recorded. Tougias will chronicle how, in November of 1980, two fishing vessels, the Fair Wind and the Sea Fever, set out from Cape Cod to catch offshore lobsters at Georges Bank. The National Weather Service had forecast typical fall weather in the area for the next three days—even though the organization knew that its only weather buoy at Georges Bank was malfunctioning.

Soon after the boats reached the fishing ground, they were hit with hurricane force winds and massive, sixty-foot waves that battered the boats for hours. The captains and crews struggled heroically to keep their vessels afloat in the unrelenting storm. One monstrous wave of 90 to 100 feet soon capsized the Fair Wind, trapping the crew inside. Meanwhile, on the Sea Fever, Captain Peter Brown (whose father owned the Andrea Gail of *Perfect Storm* fame) did his best to ride out the storm, but a giant wave blew out one side of the pilothouse, sending a crew-member into the churning ocean.

Note from the Chair
Paul Berry

The new temporary committee for Walks and Short Hikes has started. The first event was an evening walk in Auburn on the first day of spring. On Saturday afternoon March 22 we had our 2nd trip, also a walk, in Auburn at the Audubon Center. We have more trips listed on our the AMC-NH Website. If there is interest and participation this committee will become permanent.

Initially there are 23 hikes that can be run on hills and mountains including Mts. Sunapee and Kearsarge. We will also lead walks on trails or paths with flat to rolling terrain with elevation gain of 500 feet or less.

This provides a lot of places to go anywhere in the state, but we need leaders. Currently, any NH Excursions leader or NH Mountaineering leader, as well as NH Paddling leaders that have significant hiking experience, can become a Walks and Short Hikes leader by taking a short training session on submitting trips and trip reports for Walk & Short Hikes. We are in the process of defining the criteria for new leaders. I expect we will have several categories that will accommodate the interests of our members.

Deadline to register is May 24.
See page 6 for a reservation form, the menu and directions to Canterbury Woods.
Note from the Chair
continued from page 1

Initially I am leading this effort. When the group grows, we will establish various committee positions. This is a chance to be involved in shaping the direction of this new committee. For more information please contact me.

Not interested in walks or short hikes? Try trail work or excursions or mountaineering or paddling. We offer trips in all of these areas.

How about suggesting other areas that our chapter could explore? Should we form a Biking Committee? Contact me or any EXCOM member with your ideas.

Paul Berry
603-423-1192 or PaulBerryAMCNH@aol.com

Mountain Passages

Receive Mountain Passages via email!

E-delivery saves the NH-AMC Chapter printing and postage costs and helps the environment, too!

Mountain Passages is distributed six times per year. The same day each issue mails, you'll get an email alert with a link to the members-only online version of Mountain Passages.

Members opting to get Mountain Passages online will not receive a copy in the mail. If you change your mind and want to receive a paper copy, simply email newsletter@amc-nh.org and we'll switch you back.

To receive your Mountain Passages online, send your name, email address, and member ID, found above your name on the address label of this issue of Mountain Passages, to newsletter@amc-nh.org.

Advertise in Mountain Passages

The AMC NH Chapter membership is over 10,000 strong. Members enjoy the outdoors year-round by hiking, paddling, skiing, backpacking, climbing and biking.

If you have a product or service that New Hampshire AMC members would benefit from, consider advertising in Mountain Passages, published six times a year!

Display ad rate: $12 per square inch (4 sq. inch min.)
Classified ad rate: $1 per word (20 word minimum)
Email newsletter@amc-nh.org for a rate sheet.

The AMC-NH Chapter reserve the right to refuse ads that are not related to the mission of the AMC (outdoor adventure, education and conservation).

For more information, or to place an ad, email newsletter@amc-nh.org or call 603-566-8270.
Thoughts from a Peak-bagger’s “Widow”
Or, Why I Wish I Had Kept My Mouth Shut
By Anne Gwynne

The last issue of Mountain Passages contained an article, “Winter’s Work,” which talked about winter peak-bagging. The author joked about feasting on frozen peanut butter sandwiches while hiking 20 miles over 12 hours, all with the object of climbing a bunch of mountains nobody has ever heard or cared about.

The author intimated that this was all jolly good fun, but I know from personal experience that there is a down side to this seemingly benign behavior. Let me count the ways.

First: the entire house has turned into a sporting goods store—a messy sporting goods store. When I am not tripping over enormous boots in the hallway, I am stubbing my toe on a pack, inconveniently left beside the bed. And the crampons: did no-one tell him that they are not to be deposited randomly under the breakfast table?

Second: what is it about half-eaten Fluff® and peanut butter sandwiches that they have to be brought inside? The stuff sticks to everything.

Third: the piles of spruce needles and twigs that seem to be the main result of all this peak-bagging. They infest pockets, packs, gloves, hats, socks, and even the shower stall. It’s the gift that keeps on giving.

Fourth: Oh, the laundry. Yes, loads of nasty-smelling long johns, scads of socks, fleece vests, bandanas, and balaclavas from hiking three days a week for 13 weeks. It’s a joy, let me tell you.

Fifth: the computer, which sits on the kitchen table and is running from earliest morning to late at night. This apparently has become an essential part of planning and organizing a hiking trip. Checking various Websites to see if other people have done this hike; emailing back and forth with buddies, consulting maps. How can anyone spend so much time doing this?

Sixth: the absence from home. Many times the peak-bagger leaves on Friday afternoon, often to return late Sunday, with the highly anticipated loads of laundry and spruce needles.

So, he’s not the only one glad to be done with winter peak-bagging, I assure you. It’s nice to be able to talk about something besides the approach to West Long, or whether the Morton Cut-off is plowed. It’s good to be able to give the Websites a rest from posting trip reports. It’s good to have someone else to do the cooking around here.

Anne Gwynne is a recovering peak-bagger. She has hiked the Northeast 115s in winter and has completed the 451 New England Three Thousand Footers.

Exploring the Sea Shore
What sea creature spends its whole life standing on its head? What seashore plant is also known as ‘rat’s brain’? With the new edition of Seashells in My Pocket by Judith Hansen, you’ll find scores of fascinating facts about the many sea creatures, shore birds and plants found along the Atlantic Coast. Take this book along on your next sea-side exploration for an easy and fun learning experience with children. The illustrations and brief descriptions explain how to find and handle sea creatures, provide safety rules such as maneuvering slippery rocks, express the importance of the shore environment, and so much more. The book features helpful tools such as a checklist to record your observations, a simple glossary, an imprinted ruler to measure the plants and animals you find, Internet resources, and a Sea Searcher’s Award for the expert explorer. AMC Member Price: $13.46.

Take a Walk on the Wild Side
AMC’s Best Backpacking in New England by Matt Heid, former senior editor of AMC Outdoors, takes readers through some of the wildest, least-touched trails from Maine to Connecticut. Although several day hikes are included, most of the 33 featured trips travel two- or three-days through wilderness areas, state and national forests and other protected regions of New England. Along with the expected trail basics—distance, elevation gain/loss and difficulty—each listing includes scrupulously researched details and tips, such as making the most of your adventure with side trips to not-to-be missed vistas. Listings often include ways to modify your trip based on your experience. You’ll also get trip planning advice, gear recommendations and an overview of the region’s natural history. AMC Member Price: $17.06.
Chris Thayer Receives Joe Dodge Award

Chris Thayer, White Mountain Facilities Director for the AMC, is the 2008 recipient of the Joe Dodge Award, the highest recognition for North Country-based staff and volunteers. An AMC employee for the past 19 years, Thayer received the award at the club’s annual meeting in January.

The Joe Dodge Award is named for AMC Huts Manager Joseph B. Dodge, who served AMC from 1922 to 1959. Dodge’s outstanding contributions to the AMC include expanding the hut system and introducing countless hikers to the outdoors. Since its establishment in 1988, the Joe Dodge Award has recognized “a staff or volunteer member of the AMC White Mountain community who best exemplifies the type of high quality public service that became the hallmark of longtime AMC Huts Manager Joe Dodge’s distinguished career at Pinkham Notch.”

“Chris is a key member of our organization, and he plays an important role in our North Country operations,” said AMC Deputy Director Walter Graff. “Chris’s knowledge of, and dedication to, the White Mountains has been invaluable to the AMC.”

Thayer started with the AMC in 1989 as a seasonal employee on the Pinkham Notch Visitor Center crew. Today, Thayer oversees operations, program development and budgeting, and ensures quality guest and visitor services. He is AMC’s liaison to the U.S. Forest Service and New Hampshire State Parks, as well as surrounding local communities in the North Country.

A graduate of Colby College, Thayer is also a “Leave No Trace” Master Trainer and a recent graduate of the Leadership North Country program.

“I’m thrilled to receive this great honor, which reminds me of how fortunate I am to work alongside many talented colleagues, both at AMC’s huts and lodges and in the many communities that make up New Hampshire’s North Country,” said Thayer.

Chris Thayer, White Mountain Facilities Director for the AMC and a resident of Sugar Hill, NH, is the 2008 recipient of AMC’s Joe Dodge Award.

Mountain and Flower Watch

Would you like to participate in Mountain Watch and Flower Watch this summer (yes, summer will come!)? This program has been developed by AMC to help monitor ways climate change may be affecting our native plants and trees. It’s an easy and fun way for all ages to become more aware of your surroundings as you hike the trails, and learn to recognize the flowers and trees that you see. Packets with forms and instructions for monitoring forest flowers and alpine flowers can be picked up at backcountry huts, Pinkham Notch Visitor Center and the Highland Center. To learn more, go to www.outdoors.org/mountainwatch.

Top 10 Flower Hikes

White Mountain Guide (WMG) Online subscribers can access the Top 10 Spring Mountain Flower Hikes, selected by AMC staff naturalists. Not a subscriber yet? You can sample this content when you sign up for a FREE 14-day trial subscription. The WMG Online combines expert descriptions of over 500 trails and detailed maps in an online format that is easy to use and continually updated as conditions change. You can also take a virtual tour of your hike using 3D Google Earth satellite images! More at www.outdoors.org/wmgonline.

Be a Flower Child Fun for Families

Looking for a family hike activity? Take your kids on a scavenger hunt for six common New England flowering plants along either an alpine or forested trail. Download the guide and target plants. When you have completed your hike and flower watching, go online and enter your data into AMC’s database.

Field guides and instructions for forest or alpine hunts can be found at www.outdoors.org/conservation/mountainwatch.

Cornus canadensis, commonly known as bunchberry, can be found in moist North American forests.

Photo by Rob Burbank

Chris Thayer, White Mountain Facilities Director for the AMC and a resident of Sugar Hill, NH, is the 2008 recipient of AMC’s Joe Dodge Award.
Amaze your hiking companions
BECOME AN EXPERT AT
MOUNTAIN IDENTIFICATION
Are you aware that you can see the Atlantic Ocean from Mt. Kearsarge North; Canada from Moosilauke; and the highest points in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine simultaneously from Mt. Megantic in Quebec?

SCUDDER’S
WHITE MOUNTAIN VIEWING GUIDE

PHOTO BY MICHELLE GOODEARL

What is this a photo of?
Email your guess to mgphoto@metrocast.net. One winner will be chosen randomly from among the correct responses! [Anyone receiving an advance copy of the newsletter is not eligible to win.]

In the March/February issue of Mountain Passages, the photo was a view of Mts. Hight and Carter Dome. There was no winner.

Good luck on your next guessing adventure!!!
Happy Trails!
~ Michelle Goodearl

Views to Amuse
A photo contest

AMC Volunteer Trail Vacations
Through AMC’s Volunteer Vacations you can participate in a variety of locations in Maine and New Hampshire, spending a week with the AMC working in the White Mountains, NH and Baxter State Park and Acadia National Park, ME. New for 2008, Volunteer for Trails with the AMC in Mt. Rainier National Park, Washington. AMC Major Excursions and the Volunteer Vacations programs have teamed up with the Washington Trails Association to offer a week of trail work on Mt. Rainier! For more information on all Volunteer Vacation opportunities, visit www.outdoors.org/volunteer or contact Alex DeLucia at 603-466-2721 x192.

In Memoriam
John (Jack) Harrington of Shelburne, VT died Feb. 17, 2008. He served in the U.S. Navy in World War II. After his discharge from the Navy, he was employed by the U.S. Forest service in North Carolina and the U.S. Immigration Service in both Vermont and New Hampshire. Jack had worked on the opening and closing of the Cold River Camps for several years. He also had climbed most of the high peaks of the Northeast. A memorial service will be held May 8 at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Shelburne at 11 a.m.
May Dinner Program—Disaster at Sea  
continued from page 1

The book also explores the resulting court case against the National Weather Service that made the front page of newspapers across the country.

“Most of the fishermen,” says Tougias, “still live in New England, and they still go out to Georges Bank to fish. Unlike the perception of fishermen detailed in the Perfect Storm, these men are very bright and articulate. They are also made of tougher stuff than the rest of us.”

Fatal Forecast has drawn praise from such publications as the Los Angeles Times which said the book was “breathtaking...the story is both marvelous and terrifying. And Boston Magazine wrote that Fatal Forecast is “a worthy successor to Perfect Storm—a real page turner.”

The author’s other true adventure book, Ten Hours Until Dawn: The True Story of Heroism and Tragedy Aboard the Can Do in the Blizzard of ’78, was selected by the American Library Association as one of the “Top Books of the Year” and described as “a white-knuckle read, the best book of its kind.”

On a lighter note, Tougias chronicled his misadventures at his remote cabin in Vermont in his award-winning book There’s A Porcupine In My Outhouse: Misadventures of a Mountain Man Wanna-be. This book won the Independent Publishers Association Award for the “The Best Nature Book of the Year.”

After the program, Tougias will be available for questions and book-signing.

---

AMC-NH Chapter Dinner Program  
Saturday May 31, 2008  
Canterbury Woods Country Club, 15 West Road, Canterbury NH 603-783-8900

Guest Speaker: Michael Tougias, Author

6 p.m. social hour (cash bar and appetizers)  
7 p.m. dinner followed by the program

For questions or more information,  
call Janice Bremer, Hospitality Co-Chair, at 603-672-9626 (7 to 9 p.m. only).

Menu: fresh fruit platter, orange cinnamon pork roast, vegetable lasagna, Caesar salad, vegetables, rice, rolls, coffee, tea, sodas, and brownie hot fudge sundaes for dessert.

Directions: Take Exit 18 off I-93 north or south. Turn left at end of exit ramp. Follow until fork in the road; take left fork and go up the hill. Just beyond the farm on the left side is the entrance to the golf course and country club. Follow this road to the meeting facility. The entrance road to the Club is less than 1.5 miles from I-93.

---

Registration Form

AMC-NH September Chapter Dinner  
Saturday, May 31, 2008  
$25 Members and $30 Non-Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Ph#:</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please indicate the number of vegetarian meals requested______  
Total enclosed: $ 

Send this Registration Form and a check payable to AMC-NH Chapter to:  
Janice Bremer, 50 Quarry Circle, Milford, NH 03055

Registrations must be received by May 24.  
You will not receive a confirmation.
Chapter Hut Night at Carter Notch Hut
June 14, 2008

This special night is exclusively for the great people of the AMC-NH Chapter. Come on out and visit old friends and meet some new friends.

We will ascend Nineteen Mile Brook Trail to the hut where we have reserved 25 bunks for Saturday night June 14. A SOCIAL HOUR will begin at 4 p.m.

COST: The cost is $85.00 and includes the social hour, Saturday night dinner, speaker, Sunday morning breakfast, tip for croo, and a wonderful bunk with blankets.

The location of Carter Notch Hut is in the middle of a unique notch that has two ponds and “The Ramparts.” Come explore this wild and scenic area.

REGISTRATION: Send application and check, or for more information and an application, contact Tim Kennedy at 603-635-2517 or takhike@comcast.net; 15 Garland Drive, Pelham, NH 03076.

Federal Conservation and Recreation Funding Cuts

The Fiscal Year 2009 budget released by the Bush Administration in February includes dramatic cuts to federal funding for public parks, forests, and open space conservation across the AMC region.

The proposed budget cuts the Land and Water Conservation Fund by $104 million from last year, and reduces the Forest Legacy Program to only $12.5 million (a $40 million cut from the previous year) to protect only 300 acres in three states. The Highlands Conservation Act (HCA), which authorizes $10 million annually for land protection projects in the four-state Highlands Region, received no funding in the budget.

The Administration budget also cut the Forest Service Trails Budget by 34 percent and includes cuts to the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program (RTCA), which helps community groups working with local, state, and federal government agencies to conserve rivers, preserve open space, and develop trails and greenways. AMC staff and volunteers recently traveled to Washington D.C. to make the case for reinstating funding.

Please consider writing and/or calling federal legislators in support of funding for federal land protection programs. For more information contact Kristen Sykes at ksykes@outdoors.org, or join AMC’s Conservation Action Network at http://ga0.org/amc/join.html.

Upcoming Events

May
3 Chapter Activity Day, Cardigan Lodge, Alexandria.
10 Top Rope Set-up Clinic
31 Dinner Meeting: Survival at Sea, Canterbury Woods Country Club, Canterbury, NH

June
14 Hut Night at Carter Notch. More information at left.

July
12-20 Presidential Range Hike
19-20 Wilderness Heals Pledge Hike

September
13 Hut Night at Greenleaf Hut

October
4 AMC-NH Annual Meeting, Canterbury Woods Country Club, Canterbury, NH
8 Mountain Leadership School Reunion. More information below.

More information on the above events can be found in the March/April issue of Mountain Passages or online at www.amc-nh.org.

AMC Outdoors magazine has a complete listing of AMC chapter activities, including hikes, paddling, mountaineering, trailwork, and conservation.

AMC’s online event calendar is now up and running at http://www.outdoors.org/about/calendar

Mountain Leadership School Plans 50th Reunion

The AMC’s Mountain Leadership School (MLS) is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. The MLS staff is coordinating a day long event on Oct. 4, 2008 at the Pinkham Notch Visitor Center.

If you are interested in helping out, have pictures or stories you would like to share, etc. please contact Leo Kelly at lgk48@aol.com or phone at 203-464-7752. Plan on reuniting and reminiscing with your group and instructors.

Membership in a Bottle

The Perfect Gift for your favorite outdoors person!

AMC Nalgene® Bottle with Gift Card*

• Single membership $50
• Family membership $75
• $10 Gift Certificate for AMC workshops, books, or lodging!

Call Bob at 603-456-3708.

*Available to new members only
Moving or Need to Renew Your Membership?

Contact AMC Member Services in Boston for address changes or membership renewals. To update your member information call 617-523-0636 Ext 0 —OR— Or visit www.outdoors.org/membership

Please note: AMC-NH officers and committee chairs cannot take updates to your membership information. You must change your address via the phone number or website noted above.

AMC Welcome Weekends
Open to All Members

Whether you’re a new member or a current member just looking to find out more about the AMC, Welcome Weekends are a great introduction to all that AMC and AMC Destinations have to offer. These special programs are held at the AMC’s Highland Lodge, Joe Dodge Lodge, Cardigan Lodge, and Mohican Outdoor Center. In addition to meeting new people with similar interests, you’ll learn how to make the most of your membership while enjoying our guided outdoor programs. To get started, simply pick a theme and location, and AMC will take care of the rest — including all meals (dinner served family style), Saturday night social, and outdoor and evening activities. More information at www.outdoors.org/lodging/member-weekends.cfm.

Inside this issue...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>May Dinner Meeting</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Note from the Chair</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peak-bagger’s &quot;Widow&quot;</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New AMC Books</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain and Flower Watch</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Dodge Award to Chris Thayer</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Views to Amuse</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail Vacations</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Memoriam</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dinner Program Registration</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upcoming Events</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Funding Cuts</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt. Leadership School Reunion</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMC Welcome Weekends</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>