



## On the Western Slope

### Chapter Chair



Spring is a great time to get out to witness the change of season with wildflowers and foliage.

For our part, the MH chapter has planned many opportunities for hiking and trail work events. Our

Spring meeting will be held at the Huyck Preserve – we have a great program in store for you!

There was good news on the conservation front in February. The U.S. Congress passed a package of public lands bills containing over 100 important items, including the permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. (See **We Did It!** article on page 6.) Thanks to all of you who participated in urging the Congress to pass this legislation.

Locally, there's good news about the [Long Path](https://www.nynjtc.org/news/victory-long-path-schoharie-section-trail-permanently-protected) – another mile in Schoharie has been permanently preserved, thanks to the efforts of the NY NJ Trail Conference. See: <https://www.nynjtc.org/news/victory-long-path-schoharie-section-trail-permanently-protected>.

Our Young Members Chair, Marielle Postava-Davignon, has stepped down due to the sudden announcement of her employer's closing. We thank Marielle for all her energy and efforts to cultivate young members in the chapter and wish her well in her search for and transition to a new position.

Looking forward to seeing you out on the trails,

**Kevin Cox**

### Spring Chapter Meeting & Event

Please join us for the Spring meeting of the Mohawk-Hudson chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club, to be held at the Huyck Preserve in Rensselaerville on April 27th, from 2-4 p.m.

Adam Caprio, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, will talk about the Preserve's history and mission, and then we'll head out for a leisurely hike around Lincoln Pond, right outside the Eldridge Research Center. Caprio will discuss the history of the land and the use of the forest for long-term research projects and point out items of interest along the walk past diverse forest, pond, wetland, and stream communities.

We'll return to the Eldridge Research Center to see a Wildlife Alive! presentation by wildlife rehabilitator, Kelly Martin. The presentation will feature live native wildlife with an emphasis on natural history; what to and not do when finding a distressed wild animal in need of rescuing; and the impacts of humans on wildlife.

Please RSVP by April 24<sup>th</sup> to Leader: Kimberly Berg at: [bergkimberly@gmail.com](mailto:bergkimberly@gmail.com).

We will meet at the Eldridge Research Center: 284 Pond Hill Road Rensselaerville, NY. Please plan to arrive shortly before 2 p.m.

As shoulder season weather and ground conditions (i.e., the amount of mud) can be variable, please bring layers and wear appropriate footwear.

### Dates to note:

- April 22 Earth Day  
April 27 Spring Meeting, Walk, & Wildlife Program,  
Huyck Preserve, Rensselaerville, NY  
May 4 I love my Park Day  
May 13 EComm Meeting, EGCL 6:45 p.m.  
Jun 1 National Trails Day

### Save the date!

- July 8 EComm Meeting, EGCL 6:45 p.m.  
Jul 10 or 11 Summer Picnic/Meeting & Hike,  
Peebles Island State Park

## AMC Mohawk Hudson Chapter Executive Committee:

**Kevin Cox, Chapter Chair, Outings Chair**

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**Membership Chair, *vacancy***

**Young Members Chair, *vacancy***

**Kimberly Berg, Program Chair**

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**Mohawk Hudson Chapter Website:**

<http://www.amcmohawkhudson.org>

## “Like Us” on Facebook



Ctrl + click the “facebook” image at left to view the Mohawk Hudson AMC chapter Facebook group page.



Once there, click the “Like” image (shown at left) to “like” our page: if you have a Facebook account, log in; else, you’ll have to set one up to “like” our page. We’re up to 239 “likes” on Facebook, and 421 “enthusiasts” on [Meetup](#).

## Chapter Outings

### April / May / June 2019

**Listings below are as of the March 30<sup>th</sup> newsletter distribution date.** Leaders may post e-mail updates for their trips (published in the newsletter or not) via the AMC calendar of events which is available via the [chapter website](#). Leaders may also post updates via the chapter Yahoo group. Please join our [Yahoo group](#) (it’s free!) to see the updates and connect to others.

**All activities require advance registration:** Please contact the Leader for information about hike difficulty, meeting time and place, carpooling, and hike updates due to weather or trail conditions. If you leave a message, please include a phone number where you can be reached in case hike plans must be changed.

## April

**Sat 4/6 South Taconic Trail to Mount Frissel B-3-B**

**(Hiking)** We’ll start at the southern terminus of the South Taconic Trail. Following the white blazed trail going over South and Brace Mountains (highest point in Dutchess County) to turn on a red blazed trail. Then, follow the trail pass the three-state monument (NY/MA/CT) to the summit of Mount Frissel and return the same way. The distance is 6.6 miles round trip and the ascent is 1600 feet. Bring micro spikes with you. Leader: Kevin Cox 518-279-4839 (NCA 9 p.m.) [mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com).

**Sat 4/6 eBirding Training: A Citizen Science Volunteer Opportunity (Birdwatching)**

The Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy has invited MH chapter members to participate in eBirding training. Once trained, you will be eligible to participate in MHLC’s eBird surveys throughout the Spring and Summer. Beginning training will take place at the First United Methodist Church, 428 Kenwood Ave. in Delmar. You’ll need a smartphone for the class; please register early at <https://mohawkhudson.org/events/> as space is limited and contact Leader John Tifft 518-439-5686 (NCA 9 p.m.) [jtift2@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jtift2@nycap.rr.com).

**Sat 4/13 Alander Mountain Loop B-3-B (Hiking)** We will start from the Mount Washington State Forest Headquarters trailhead, following the blue-blazed trail to Alander Mountain. Then, follow the South Taconic Trail to the Connector trail to Ashley Hill trail, back to the parking lot. The distance is 8 miles and ascent of 600 feet. Leader: Kevin Cox 518-279-4839 (NCA 9 p.m.) [mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com).

**Sat 4/13 Annual Cleanup of the Tomhannock Reservoir Shoreline (Conservation)** Each year around Earth Day we assist the Rensselaer Land Trust in helping to clear litter from the shoreline of the Tomhannock Reservoir, an important source of water for Rensselaer County. Please bring gloves, wear weather-appropriate clothing and sturdy boots. Garbage bags will be provided. We will meet at the NYS DEC public access parking lot on NYS Rte. 7 just before the causeway. If interested, please contact Leader: John Tiffitt 518-439-5686 (NCA 9 p.m.) [jtiff2@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jtiff2@nycap.rr.com).

**Sat 4/20 Earth Day Trail Work at Bennett Hill (Conservation)** Here's a chance to celebrate Earth Day by helping the folks from the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy to improve their most popular trail, Bennett Hill in Clarksville. We will be moving gravel, digging water bars, and installing culverts. No prior trail work experience is needed. We will meet at the trail head. Wear muck boots as there is sure to be mud. If interested, please register with Sawyer Cresap at [sawyer@mohawkhudson.org](mailto:sawyer@mohawkhudson.org) and contact Leader: John Tiffitt 518-439-5686 (NCA 9 p.m.) [jtiff2@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jtiff2@nycap.rr.com).

**Wed 4/24 Peebles Island Hike (Hiking)** Join us for this easy hike at the confluence of the Mohawk and Hudson rivers, with views of heavy spring runoff. We will meet at Peebles Island State Park entrance. Bring lunch if you wish and we will eat at the Pavilion. Leader: Will Crowther 518-698-0531 [nancy@crowther.org](mailto:nancy@crowther.org) Co-Leader: Nancy Crowther.

**Sat 4/27 Mohawk Hudson Spring Meeting Huyck Preserve, Rensselaerville, NY (Birdwatching|Cultural|Hiking|Meeting)** Please join us for our Spring meeting at the Huyck Preserve's Eldridge Research Center from 2 to 4 p.m. We'll learn about the history and the mission of the Preserve and take a guided hike around Lincoln Pond. Returning to the Center, a wildlife rehabilitator will give a presentation, featuring live, native wildlife. Please RSVP to Leader: Kimberly Berg at [bergkimberly@gmail.com](mailto:bergkimberly@gmail.com) by April 24th so we know how many people to expect. For more information, please see the article on page 1 of this newsletter.

## May

**Sat 5/4 Taconic Crest Trail Petersburg Pass to Southeast Hollow B-3-B (Hiking)** We will be starting at Petersburg Pass to hike to Southeast Hollow, using car spotting at both locations. The distance is 7.3 miles with an ascent about 1300 feet. The Taconic Crest Trail has benefited from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Heavy rain will cancel the hike. Leader: Kevin Cox 518-279-4839 (NCA 9 p.m.) [mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com).

**Sat 5/4 Trail Work on the Appalachian Trail (Conservation)** Imagining a robust Spring, our section of the AT will be bursting with overgrowth over the trail, especially near the river. We will attempt to clear that section using power tools, loppers, and clippers. Bring a lunch, water, gloves and, if you wish, a snack. Carpooling will start from the I-90, Exit 8 Defreestville Park and Ride. Please contact the Leader: John Tiffitt 518-439-5686 (NCA 9 p.m.) [jtiff2@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jtiff2@nycap.rr.com).

**Fri to Mon 5/10 to 5/13 Keene Valley, N.Y. Hiking weekend B-3-B (Hiking)** Hikes will be Hopkins Mt., Hurricane Mt. and Rooster Comb (subject to change based on conditions, etc.) We will hike at a moderate pace. Each hike is approximately 6 miles round trip with elevation gains ranging between 1,800 - 2,150 ft. Group size will be limited to 8. We will be staying at a Keene Valley B & B. Prices range from \$160 - \$270 pp based on double occupancy. This includes three nights' lodging (Fri, Sat and Sun; May 10, 11 and 12), three breakfasts, and a family style dinner on Saturday night. For details and to register, contact Leader: Jean Quattrocchi [jeanquattrocchi@gmail.com](mailto:jeanquattrocchi@gmail.com).

**Sat 5/11 Citizen Science: Invasive Plants Program and Workday with Capital District PRISM (Conservation)** We will meet at the Rensselaer Land Trust's John B. Staalesen Vanderheyden Preserve in South Troy at 9 a.m. There we will learn about and help rid the preserve of invasive plants found there. For directions go to: <https://www.renstrust.org/explore/preserves/public-preserves/8-john-b-staalesen-vanderheyden-preserve>. Please wear appropriate clothing for outdoor work. You're welcome to stay as long as you want; if you wish to remain past noon, consider bringing a lunch. If interested, please contact the Leader: John Tiffitt 518-439-5686 (NCA 9 p.m.) [jtiff2@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jtiff2@nycap.rr.com).

**Mon 5/13 Executive Committee Meeting (Social Events)** We will be meeting at the East Greenbush Community Library to discuss future events for our chapter. The public is invited. Leader: Kevin Cox 518-279-4839 (NCA 9 PM) [mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com).

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**Wed 5/15 Hadley Mountain Hike (Hiking)** Join us for a hike up Hadley Mountain in the southern Adirondacks in spring, before the bugs arrive! This is a short hike, about 3 miles total round trip, but it is fairly steep with elevation gain of 1500 feet. There is a fire tower and beautiful views of Sacandaga Lake and surroundings from the bare stone top. Bring lunch and water, and a light jacket in case it is cool at the top. Leader: Will Crowther 518-698-0531 [nancy@crowther.org](mailto:nancy@crowther.org). Co-Leader: Nancy Crowther.

**Sat 5/18 Trail Work on the Taconic Crest Trail (Conservation)** Spring will have finally arrived (we hope) and we will clear the runoffs and trail of our section of the Taconic Crest Trail. It's a hardy climb and, as always, we will attempt to ascend to the summit of Berlin if the work is light enough. Bring rakes and/or shovels if you have them; I will bring some extra tools. Other tools are optional as they represent additional weight to carry. Bring a lunch, water and, if you wish, a snack. If interested, please contact the Leader: John Tiffit 518-439-5686 (NCA 9 p.m.) [jtiffit2@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jtiffit2@nycap.rr.com).

**Sat 5/25 Range Trail B-3-B (Hiking)** Easy-to-moderate 6.2 mile / 550' gain out-and-back ridge walk to Spruce Hill offering splendid views across the Hoosic River Valley to Mt Greylock and the southern end of the Green Mtns. Leader: Jean Laverdure 518-593-2058 [jalz111er@yahoo.com](mailto:jalz111er@yahoo.com).

**Wed 5/29 Tyringham Cobble & AT: Shaker Series (Hiking)** This is the rescheduling of a history hike, part of my Shaker Series, that was rained out last November. It will begin at the Tyringham Cobble parking lot (Trustees of Reservations), go up the cobble trail to the intersection with the Appalachian Trail, then travel uphill on the AT for a mile or so, reverse, return to the cobble trail, and complete the loop.(4-5 miles, 500' + elevation gain) The Shakers from Connecticut settled in the area surrounding the cobble in the 19th century; they left in 1874. One original building remains, though it is privately held as the property has changed hands several times since then. Leader: Sharon Bonk 917-864-7437 (NCA 9 p.m.) [sboqc@mindspring.com](mailto:sboqc@mindspring.com).

## June

**Sat 6/1 Greylock Range Traverse A-3-B (Hiking)** We will hike 12.7 miles with an elevation gain of 2,390 feet. We will begin on the Money Brook Trail and turn onto the Mount Prospect Trail to climb Mount Prospect. We will turn onto the AT and ascend Mount Williams, continue along the AT over Mount Fitch and on to the

summit of Mount Greylock. We will descend via the AT and Hopper Trail to Sperry Road and the Haley Farm Trail. This will be a full, strenuous day on the trails. Please bring plenty of food and water. Although not rated as a "fast" paced hike, due to the length of the hike, we will be moving right along. Leader: Michelle Filiault [arthemise29@gmail.com](mailto:arthemise29@gmail.com).

**Sun 6/2 Peekamoose - Table Mountains A-3-A (Hiking)** We will start from the trailhead on Peekamoose Road and follow the red-blazed trail markers to both summits. We will look for the scenic outlook, after the summit of Table. The distance is 9.4 miles and the ascent 2820'. Leader: Kevin Cox 518-279-4839 (NCA 9 p.m.) [mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com).

**Sat 6/8 National Trails Day Trail Work (Conservation)** Celebrate National Trails Day by helping the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy to install a new trail along a beautiful ridgeline on their Holt Preserve in New Scotland. Please wear sturdy hiking or work boots and bring gloves. Here is another great opportunity for those new to trail work, whether young or old. We will be meeting at the upper Holt parking lot. If interested, please register with the Leader: John Tiffit 518-439-5686 (NCA 9 p.m.) [jtiffit2@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jtiffit2@nycap.rr.com).

**Wed 6/12 Citizen Science: Invasive Plant Removal on the Hudson Helderberg Rail Trail with PRISM (Conservation)** In conjunction with the Capital Mohawk PRISM and the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy, we will be removing the northernmost Wineberry Patch, an emerging invasive species in the Capital Region, as well as other assorted invasive species. Please wear gloves and bring a lunch if you wish. We will meet at the Slingerlands Lot. If interested, please register with the Leader: John Tiffit 518-439-5686 (NCA 9 p.m.) [jtiffit2@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jtiffit2@nycap.rr.com) and with Sawyer Cresap at [sawyer@mohawkhudson.org](mailto:sawyer@mohawkhudson.org).

**Fri to Sun 6/21 to 6/23 Vermont Hiking Weekend (Hiking)** Hike in the Green Mountain National Forest near Weston, Vermont. We will be staying at the Colonial House Inn and Motel. Cost \$224. to \$275. ppdo \$288. to \$430. ppso Includes 2 breakfasts, 2 trail lunches and 2 dinners, all taxes and gratuities. Please contact Leader: Randy MacDonald 518-766-7675 (NCA 9 p.m.) [randy04415@yahoo.com](mailto:randy04415@yahoo.com).

**Wed 6/26 Huckleberry Point Hike (Hiking)** This is a spectacular, moderate hike out to Huckleberry Point in the Catskills, where you are rewarded with views of the Hudson Valley and nearby mountains. This hike is also famous for its mountain laurels, and we are hoping to coincide with the height of their blooming.

Total hiking distance is just under 5 miles with 640 feet of elevation gain. Leader: Will Crowther 518-698-0531 [nancy@crowther.org](mailto:nancy@crowther.org) Co-Leader: Nancy Crowther.

**Sat 6/29 St. Regis Mountain B-3-B (Hiking)** This hike is one of the Saranac Lake 6ers, which will get you a patch after completing all 6 mountains. We will start at the trailhead. Following the trail up to the summit, which has a fire tower. The views are outstanding! The distance is 6.6 miles and the ascent 1266 feet. Leader: Kevin Cox 518-279-4839 (NCA 9 p.m.) [mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com).

**Sat 6/29 Survey of the Long Path through Thacher Park (Conservation)** We will survey the northern section of the Long Path through Thacher Park looking for reportable downed trees and clearing the trail wherever necessary and/or doable. This is a perfect opportunity to check out one of our area's hiking treasures and help fulfill our obligation to the New York New Jersey Trail Conference. Bring loppers, and a saw if you have them. If interested, please contact the Leader: John Tiffitt 518-439-5686 (NCA 9 p.m.) [jtiff2@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jtiff2@nycap.rr.com).

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## Volunteer Opportunities

**Conservation Programs & Activities Volunteer(s)** Here's a fun volunteer opportunity for anyone with an interest or background in conservation. We're looking for a person or persons of any age to help brainstorm, organize, and present some conservation programs and or activities for our membership and concerned citizens. The Appalachian Mountain Club's mission is to further the protection, enjoyment, and understanding of the mountains, waters, and forests of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. What better way to do our part than by promoting conservation in our area! For more info, contact John Tiffitt 518-439-5686 (NCA 9 PM) [jtiff2@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jtiff2@nycap.rr.com).

**Membership Chair** – Our chapter is looking for an enthusiastic, welcoming member with good communications skills to volunteer as Membership Chair. The Membership Chair focuses on initiatives in support of member development and retention, and as such, coordinates events for new and existing members. For more information, please contact Kevin Cox at 518-279-4839 (NCA 9 p.m.) or [mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com).

## Introducing Charlie Arsenault

### New AMC Central Regional Director



Since January 31<sup>st</sup> of this year, Charlie Arsenault serves as Regional Director for the central region of the AMC which includes the Mohawk Hudson, Berkshire, and Worcester chapters. Regional Directors (RDs) serve on the Board of Directors and in addition to board-related work, their unique roles are to represent the interests and concerns of the chapters.

Charlie has been an AMC member since 2004 and an active volunteer since 2005. He has held several AMC volunteer roles including Worcester Chapter Chair, Hiking Chair, Programs Chair, and Mountain Leadership School Instructor. Charlie is an avid four-season hiker, backpacker, and skier. In 2012 he completed the NH 48 and in 2017 he completed a successful thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail.

Charlie's professional career included engineering and senior management roles related to development of computer, information, and storage technologies. He served as a Director of Hardware Engineering for Dell EMC Corporation and currently works as an Engineering and Management Consultant and Ski instructor at Wachusett Mountain in Princeton, MA.



January 2019 – Cherry Plain State Park Snowshoe

**Not getting email messages from AMC/Mohawk Hudson?**  
For help, call AMC Membership at: **1-800-372-1758**

## More Volunteer Opportunities

**Webmaster and Content Editor Volunteer(s)** – We are looking for a volunteer interested in using his/her technical skills to maintain our current site, and work toward migrating existing web content to a new template and managing the new website's structure. If you can help us out, please contact Dave Esmond at [David.Esmond1@gmail.com](mailto:David.Esmond1@gmail.com).

**Nominating Committee Volunteers** – This three-person committee identifies candidates for the chapter's four leadership positions and fills vacancies that may arise during the year. If interested, please contact Kevin Cox at 518-279-4839 (NCA 9 p.m.) or [mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mmcloug1@nycap.rr.com).



January 2019 Harvey Mountain Hike

## Local Color

Recommended websites and HARP news of interest:

- David Behm's Curious by Nature site, <https://curiousbynature.wordpress.com/>, lists nearly 20 wildflower walks from March through September!
- The Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy's site, <https://mohawkhudson.org/events/> is offering a guided morning walk with Rich Guthrie, local birder (and featured speaker at our 2018 chapter dinner), and a three-part "Couch-to-46er" series geared for new and novice hikers.
- Due to recently-revised AMC leadership requirements, Frank and Dee Wind plan to continue to Hike at a Relaxed Pace (HARP) without AMC affiliation. Thanks for the great walks and talks!

## We did it! Congress Passes Permanent Reauthorization of LWCF

After allowing the Land and Water Conservation Fund to expire on September 30, 2018, all eyes have been on Congress as AMC and our partners mounted the #SaveLWCF campaign to permanently reauthorize the LWCF and secure full, dedicated funding for the program.

On February 26<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly voted in support of a package of public lands bills including the permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This vote came on the heels of the Senate's passage of the identical package of bills on February 12<sup>th</sup>; now S.47, the Natural Resources Management Act, is on its way to the president's desk for his expected signature.

The LWCF is a national conservation program that uses revenue from offshore oil and gas drilling to support open space, park, and trail projects across the country. During the #SaveLWCF campaign, AMC volunteers hosted trips to places protected by LWCF and thousands of AMC supporters made calls and sent messages to their elected officials.

Policymakers across the aisle have finally responded, swiftly approving by large margins (98-2 in the Senate and 363-62 in the House of Representatives) a public lands package including over 100 important items, including the permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

However, reauthorization for LWCF is only one part of the whole story. While it is a major victory for LWCF to be permanently reauthorized, these projects cannot be completed without adequate funding. LWCF is authorized to receive \$900 million from Congress each year; however, it consistently receives less than half of that amount through the appropriations process.

For LWCF to be as efficient, impactful, and successful as possible, Congress must dedicate the full \$900 million of oil and gas revenue authorized to LWCF. Many national and state parks, scenic trails like the Appalachian Trail, battlefields, and working forests have been conserved with LWCF funds.

Contact your Senators and Representatives to thank them for their support of LWCF and stay tuned to AMC's Conservation Action Network for future opportunities to speak up in support of the LWCF and other important conservation policy issues.