

BOOTPRINTS

Volume 8 Issue 3

May 2004



Maple Corner Farm

Pancake Breakfast & Hike

by Ann Marie Visconti

It's the second day of spring, March 21st, and sixteen club members were joined by friends and family for what has become a tradition in the club; the annual Maple Corner Farm Pancake Breakfast and Granville Hike. After a hearty breakfast of pancakes with fresh native maple syrup, we headed over to the sugarhouse to watch the sugaring processes. The smell of smoke, the sweetness and steam in the air, and the looks on the kids as they listened to the stories of how the sap is turned into the wonder of New England Maple Syrup and Maple candies was captivating.



The warming weather left the snow in poor condition for cross-country skiing so Norm led us on our traditional Granville Hike along the Hubbard Brook and he didn't even get lost this time.

Bartholomews Cobble

By Frank Kamilowski

I would like to thank all of the people that helped with our annual spring cleanup at Bartholomews Cobble. Fourteen people showed up with a good attitude and a smile on a beautiful day.

A bridge was replaced, a fence was repaired, brush was picked up and burned, another bridge was repaired, and we managed to have a great meal (baked ham and turkey). After lunch we did our annual walk up Hobarts Hill for a social gathering.

Thanks again for your help and making it a special day.

Frank Kamilowski

*All photos' courtesy of
Ann Marie Visconti*

M-M Trail cleanup on Section 1 & 2

On Saturday, March 27th seventeen members of the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club participated in our annual spring cleanup of sections 1 and 2 of the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail. With warm weather and clearing skies we had a very enjoyable hike while clearing blow downs and picking up trash. The trail is in good shape and ready for spring hikers. The bog bridges we built are sturdy and a highlight of section 1. Someone removed the small bridge we built a few years ago over the river crossing toward the north end of section 1. It is easily forded over rocks but might be a problem during high water in the spring. We discussed relocating some larger boulders to improve the crossing as a future project. The



stone steps we built last year on the north end of section 2 are a great





Newt on M-M Trail

improvement. We plan to extend the stone steps further in the coming year. Future maintenance plans on section 2 include a stairway in another steep section and rock steps at the south end. The workday ended with a club sponsored thank you lunch at EB's. Thank you to all of you that helped out in our annual spring trail maintenance workday.

*Ed Laroche & Rob Schechtman
(PHVC Trail Maintenance Committee)*

Falls Brook Shelter

By John Klebes

On March 6-7, 2004 the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club officially opened the new Falls Brook Shelter with the first formal backpacking overnight adventure. We had a short hike into the shelter where we found that Dick O'Brien, from The Trustee's of the Reservations, had left us a house-warming gift of a bag of chocolate kisses. Thanks Dick!

In no time the teens took over the loft as their own and the rest of us made our selves at home setting up



our sleeping bags in the bunk beds of our cozy new cabin. While the teens stayed behind to decorate the cabins loft with painted dragonflies, the rest of us headed down the icy trail toward Royalston Falls. As the trail followed along the bank of the Falls Brook we were treated to an amazing display of ice formations along the rocky banks and cascades. At the falls we took in the view as the water crashed down the sixty foot Royalston Falls. The ice forms on the gorges rock walls were spectacular.



When we returned to the shelter Ann Marie convinced Leah and Stephanie that they were really missing out not seeing the falls and they too headed out for the short hike to the falls. When they got back Ann Marie added her handiwork to painting the dragonfly loft.

That night we cooked lots of warm drinks and had dinner on our sturdy porch while gazing out at the Falls Brook below us. Everyone enjoyed what I hope is only the first of many years of adventures in the Falls Brook Shelter.

On April 24th the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club returned to help the Trustees with further work at the site.

We built a sturdy bridge over the Falls Brook, put railings and ladders on the bunk beds in the shelter, and built two sturdy benches to sit on. We should all be proud of how nice this new shelter has come – due in no small part

by the efforts of all the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club members that put in long weekends of effort to construct her. Join us as we return in August when the Hiking Club will coordinate an open backpack trip for the TTOR around the newly finished Tully Loop Trail with an overnight at the Falls Brook Shelter.

John Klebes

America's 10 Most Endangered National Parks

Each year since 1999 the National Parks Conservation Association has presented a list of America's Ten Most Endangered National Parks. This year's list includes:

- 1) Big Thicket National Preserve, in Texas, protects a diverse collection of wildlife and wild land.
- 2) Biscayne National Park - The largest marine park in the National Park System, its fragile ecosystem is in danger from overfishing and irresponsible uses of anchors, fishing gear and motorized boats.
- 3) Everglades National Park - One of the last remnants of the original Everglades, this Florida park is home to 15 endangered species.
- 4) Great Smoky Mountains National Park - With more than 9 million visitors annually, Great Smoky, in North Carolina and Tennessee, is the most visited park in the National Park System, but it is also one of the most polluted.
- 5) Joshua Tree National Park - this vulnerable California desert park is vulnerable to development that would fracture important wildlife corridors, add more pollution to the park's already problematic air quality, and tax the water supply.
- 6) Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument - Celebrating the life and landscape of the Sonoran Desert, the Arizona monument is one of the world's few biosphere reserves.
- 7) Shenandoah National Park - Pollution endangers plants, animals, and scenic vistas in the park and across the state.
- 8) Underground Railroad - This dynamic Park Service program that helps chronicle the heroic efforts of slaves and those who assisted them in their quest for freedom has been stymied by financial neglect.
- 9) Wrangell - St. Elias National Park & Preserve - The largest unit in the National Park System, this Alaska park was created, in part, to preserve the majestic scenic beauty and rich biological diversity of the area.
- 10) Yellowstone National Park - The world's first national park and its inhabitants including park bison.



Mt. Adams Backpacking Adventure

By John Klebes

Winter in the White Mountains is one of my favorite times of year and this year was no exception. During our annual attempt on Mt. Adams lofty summit we were greeted to some of the best views ever. Mt. Adams is the second highest peak in the northeast and sports an impressive view over to her companion Mt. Washington from the Gulf side. Our group headed up the Lowe's Path and it wasn't long before most of us switched to crampons as the trails snowy surface changed to ice as we got steeper and steeper up the trail.

Just below the steepest sections we stopped at the Log cabin shelter for lunch and to catch our breath. From here only fools

would venture without crampons. As we gained altitude the air turned cold and crisp and the wind, no longer sheltered by the trees, blow hard. As we crested the Quay (a castled rock outcropping with fantastic views up and down the mountain), we were forced to hurry under cover of the alpine pines to get out of the bone chilling wind. Some of the group stopped to check out the Gray Knob cabin before all of us headed over the half-mile trail to our destination for the night, the Craig Camp Cabin. Craig Camp sits right on the lip of King Ravine but we would have to wait for the fantastic views into the ravine that we knew were there as fog and clouds covered our view.



After getting settled in the cabin we took on a new adventure as we hiked to the spring for water. Normally this is a simple chore. This year the water flow was low in the spring and in an attempt to improve the water flow someone had disrupted the pipe that funnels water out from the rocks. We had to scoop up water from a puddle below the pipe that made for much work. While it seemed tedious it was certainly easier than spending hours melting snow.

Returning to the Craig Camp we found that we had a full house with over 24 people in the cabin. Later into the night, after everyone had had their fill of dinner and hot drinks the sky began to clear and we were greeted, at times, to a fantastic view of stars.

Sunday morning was beautiful, with clear skies, sunny weather, and a perfect day for sumitting. We headed up the one and half very difficult miles to Thunderstorm Junction just below



the final summit cone. Then it was up the majestic pile-of-rocks that is Mt. Adams. Basking in the sunlight we gaze across the snow and ice covered peaks of the presidential range from the windy summit of Mt. Adams. The buildings atop Mt. Washington almost seem lower as we snap our summit pictures with this New England highpoint in the background. Who could ask for better winter weather?

- John Klebes



PVHC Mailbox



Keystone Arches in Chester

(thanks Phyllis Dassatti for passing this on to us!)

The Friends of the Keystone Arches would like to invite the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club to attend and/or participate in our day-long opening celebration of the Keystone Arch Bridges Trail on May 22. The day will feature hikes, an encampment of Civil War re-enactors, model trains, crafts, fly fishing, fly tying, kayak demonstrations, live music, a special postal cancellation, a blacksmith, special label local wines and food. There will be an official ribbon cutting featuring state dignitaries.

Meeting at the new Chester Elementary School, Middlefield St. (2 miles off Rte. 20) Chester, MA. 9am to 4pm. Call 413.354.7752 or see the website at: <http://home.att.net/~rickarbour/Index2.htm>

Pacific Crest Trail

By Dick Forrest

My brother-in-law, Steve, and his daughter, Sarah, who both live in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, are starting the Pacific Crest Trail on the border of Mexico and California this week. (Former PVHC club member, Diane Arnold King, hiked the entire PCT, most of it alone and in the same year, about six or seven years ago. She gave at least two slide presentations to the club of her adventures. Of a length of 2,650 miles, the PCT is in wilderness areas on the west coast, thru California, Oregon, and Washington, and is longer than the Appalachian Trail. There is a link on our club web site to the Pacific Crest Trail Association, www.pcta.org. Club members, Rick Briggs, Mike Carrier, John Klebes, and Ed Laroche, hiked a small portion of the PCT when they climbed Mt. Whitney in California last year.) Steve and Sarah plan to hike for three months straight, all of it in California, I suspect. Steve asked me to mail him some maps on CDs from Maptech. Since he lives in Canada, Maptech, an eastern Massachusetts company, does not ship to Canada for some reason. This was the only company that had maps of the PCT for his GPS. (I remember that Diane had problems with finding the trail at times, because of a large snowpack in the Sierras the winter before her trip. I also remember that winter was quickly approaching when she hiked the PCT in the northern Cascades in Washington state. So a GPS is an excellent thing to have for this trip.) Steve has a Garmin Geko 301 GPS unit (the Geko is touted by Garmin as the smallest and lightest of GPSs on the market), and he spent a couple of days ago marking and loading waypoints for the PCT in his GPS. I'll keep the club abreast of Steve and Sarah's PCT adventures when I hear of them. -- Dick Forrest

The following letter of support, for the PVPC Grant Application for the M-M Trail, was sent on the club's behalf:

Dear Ms. Howard (Dept. of Conservation & Recreation)

I am writing on behalf of the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club to express our support for the Pioneer Valley Planning Commissions Recreational Trails Program 2004 Grant Application. The Pioneer Valley Hiking Club, with over 200 active members in the Pioneer Valley, has had a long tradition of using, supporting, and helping to maintain the Metacomet-Monadnock Trail. Our club has adopted sections one and two of the trail and routinely performs maintenance including blazing, brush trimming, removal of trash and blowdowns, and the construction of bog bridges, stone steps, and water bars to maintain and improve the trail.

As one of the premier long distance trails in New England, it crosses the best features in western Massachusetts in its 117-mile continuous path from the Connecticut border to Mt. Monadnock. We have routinely seen this path threatened as individual landowners concerns have caused rerouting or discontinuities in the trail. This project would provide much needed visibility to insure the long-term survival of the trail, better relationship and goodwill with the landowners that make this trail possible, and promote appropriate use of the trail.

We strongly encourage funding of this important project. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have regarding our support of this valuable project.

Sincerely, PVHC

For Sale

Trunk Mount Bike Rack for sale. \$25.00
Contact Ann Marie Visconti (413) 547-2729.



Important Notice

The following memberships are up for renewal:

May Renewals:

Joyce Berg
Stephanie Bustos
Diana Cizek
Timothy Dalton
Barbara Delisle
William Finnerty
Dottie Gates
Susan Board Gillham
Kathy Henderson
Ravi Kulkarni
Betsy Loughran
Jennifer Pariseau
Michael Reed
Marlene Spencer & Family
Janice Webb & Family
Joe & Carol-Anne Zawrotny
Celeste Ziembra & Family

June Renewals:

Bill Burgart
Allison Cook
Amy Dunn & Ed Ryan
Sandra Fountaine
Kerry Frechette
Karen Gallik
Marion Germino
Mark Henke & Family
Edward Kleciak
Lori Martin
M. Martino & F. Anson
Barbara Pelland
Teri Szlosek

Please renew early, and renew by mail. *(Make checks payable to PVHC)* Mail your renewal with your name and any address or phone number changes to:

Pioneer Valley Hiking Club
c/o Wilderness Experiences
P.O. Box 265
Southwick, MA 01077

(Dues are \$25 member, \$40 family, and \$15 for students)

Club Meeting Minutes

Summary of March 2, 2004

As result of the Cardiac episode on the Haystack Snowshoe Hike a discussion took place regarding individual and group leader responsibility for appropriate fitness for various. Know you limits and check with your doctor if any doubts.

Reminder to Members; You need to contact leaders early to reserve space and give leaders a head count so appropriate arrangements/preparations are made to insure a good time for all, including leaders.

Wilderness Experience is offering trips and local activities call or visit store for details.

Reminder that Noble View will be offering AMC classes over the next 3 months. Scholarships of \$25.00 are available, if interested contact executive committee.

John Klebes is continuing to research a new PA system Members with knowledge were asked to supply pertinent information to facilitate in search.

Mike Gross reported on the M&M feasibility meeting in Hampshire County. Hampden County meeting to take place March 9, 2004. Members are encouraged to attend public forum when they are scheduled, as early as May.

Summary of April 6, 2004 Club Meeting Minutes

Ed Laroche was interview by Channel 22 TV when he attended the Hampden County meeting regarding the M&M feasibility study.

41 people signed up so far for the Adirondack Camping trip in July. Malcolm is looking for individuals to share lean-to with him. Back out date is May 30th.

Mt. Katadin trip Labor Day weekend 13 people so far. A cabin for 15 people is being held at Big Moose Inn. Contact Dick and Sue for more info.

WEU more trip upcoming see store for info.

Reviewed day hike participation caution advised for leaders and to revisit leader responsibility at hike planning meeting next week.

Motion made for a \$500.00 budget for the club picnic. Voted on and approved. Picnic scheduled for Sept. 12, 2004 to be held at Look Park. A shelter has been rented for the day. More info to follow in future Bootprints. Monica Gross is chairperson for picnic will be looking for help especially to cook the day of picnic.

PA system has been researched. Motion was made to approved a budget of \$600.00 to be spent to purchase a amplified speaker and microphone. Motion was passed.

EMS club day at the Holyoke Mall and all other EMS stores April 23rd and 24th 20% off to all club members. Dave Rotondo will be at the Avon, Ct. store. Holyoke Mall is looking for a representative. No one volunteered John is going to leave brochures at the store. There is a note from Shari John has it if you wish to see it.

Al Roman is working to get us parking at Tighe and Bond in Westfield more info to follow as available. Malcolm proposed trips to Tanglewood and/or Jacob's pillow performances info to follow as available. NY bus trip for fall late Sept. or early Oct. more info to come.

Respectively submitted: Monica J. Gross, Secretary

REMINDER TO ALL IT IS TICK CHECKING TIME. THEY ARE OUT THERE, HUNGRY, AND WAITING FOR YOU.

Upcoming Hikes and Activities:

Boston's Emerald Necklace – May 15th

A park ranger may join us for part or all of the walk. It is 8 miles and takes 6+ hours depending on how much lollygagging we do. Please sign up in advance and call to determine exact time of departure. Lunch - you can either bring your own or it will be a casual stop. I will make reservations for dinner ahead of time and only those who sign up will have a seat. Probably in the North End. We will go to Franklin Park to start walking. Transportation will be carpooling. *Marcia Kelly*

“Stretching from the Boston Common downtown to the Arnold Arboretum and Franklin Park in Roslindale and Roxbury, the Emerald Necklace is one of the oldest series of public parks and parkways in the country.” Jewels in the necklace include: Boston Common, The Public Garden, Commonwealth Mall, The Back Bay Fens, The Riverway, Olmsted Park, Jamaica Pond, Arnold Arboretum, and Franklin Park.

For more information see:

<http://www.boston-online.com/emerald.html>

Tully Lake, June 26-27, 2004

Day hike or overnight to the beautiful Tully Lake. Come for just the day to hike around the lake or join us for the full weekend with tent camping lakeside and canoe or kayak around the lake. Nearby waterfalls and lots of wildlife. The campground has a bathhouse with showers and rental canoe or kayaks for \$35 for ½ day or \$45 for all day. Contact Ann Marie Visconti (413) 547-2729.

Barton's Cove Canoe Trip, July 10-11, 2004

Overnight canoe trip on the Connecticut River. Starting from Barton's Cove we will take a shuttle upstream and canoe back to Barton Cove. Shuttle leaves Barton's Cove at 12:00 noon on Saturday. We will canoe five miles downstream to Munn's Ferry Camp Ground. Spend the night in a riverside lean-to shelter and continue the next day downstream back to Barton's Cove. Can also do as a day trip to meet up with us on Sunday, July 10th at Munn's Ferry and continue together. Approximately 13 miles start to finish on the Connecticut River. Cost for kayak or canoe is \$25.00 per day plus \$10.00 for shuttle. If you have your own canoe or kayak there is a \$15.00 fee for the shuttle. The \$25.00 cost of the overnight shelter will be split between all participates. Contact Ann Marie Visconti (413) 547-2729.

Pioneer Valley Hiking Club Officers & Committees

John Klebes, President (413) 786-3620
 Ann Marie Visconti, Vice President (413) 547-2729
 Monica Gross, Secretary (413) 536-6611
 Kimberly Stevens, Treasurer (413) 569-1970
 Scott Cook, *Wilderness Experiences Unlimited*
 Ray Tibbetts, Founder

Standing Committee Chairs

Hike Planning Coordinator: *Sue Forest & AnnMarie Visconti*
 Backpacking Coordinator: *Ed Laroche & Mike Rattelle*
 Trail Maintenance: *Ed Laroche & Rob Schechtman*
 Web Page Editor: *Dick Forrest*
 Email Correspondent: *Rob Schechtman*
 Email List: *John Klebes*
 Quartermaster: *Jack Leary*
 Bootprints Editor: *John Klebes*

Bootprints is a publication of the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club. Send your story contributions to the editor at: klebes@aol.com (Email) or by USmail to John Klebes, 157 Thalia Drive, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

- ❑ Next Club Meetings:
June 1, 2004, 7pm at **FBC**
July 6, 2004, 7pm at **FBC**
- ❑ Next Hike Planning Meeting:
June 8, 2004, 7pm at **WEU**
- ❑ Deadline for Submissions for next BootPrints is: June 22, 2004

FBC – First Baptist Church, West Springfield
WEU – Wilderness Experiences Unlimited

*** Check out our web page at:
<http://www.geocities.com/pvhcweb>

Join the PVHC Email List by sending a message to: pvhc2000@hotmail.com

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