



BOON PRIMS



Volume 3 Issue 2

May 1999

"Waterfall Hikes" Springtime in New England

One of my favorite scenic locations in springtime is the site of a cascading waterfall with its splashes of color, shapes, and sounds as the water flows from rock ledges into the deep pools carved from the rock. What better place in the spring for a hike than one of our local New England waterfalls! Join us as we explore a sampling that includes some of the most beautiful waterfalls in this corner of New England.

➤ **Bash Bish Falls,**
(Mt. Washington, MA)
3.7 miles (April 25, 1999)

We start off with Massachusetts' most spectacular waterfall--the Bash Bish Falls. Bash Bish Brook tumbles down through a vertical stack of giant boulders, splitting the stream into twin columns of water as it rushes around a huge triangular boulder at the brink of the falls. The 80-foot twin waterfalls form a deep pool at the base before dropping in a foaming torrent through the water-carved rock walls of Bash Bish Gorge.

➤ **Royalston Sampler,**
(Royalston, MA)
3-5 miles (May 8, 1999)

Royalston is known for three spectacular waterfalls. We will start out with a three-mile round trip hike to the dramatic Royalston Falls where the Falls Brook flows over a single large drop of over 60 feet to splash into a round pool in a narrow gorge with sheer rock walls. After a short drive, we will explore Spirit Falls

Please see *Waterfalls*, Page 3



Purgatory Chasm Hike & Cookout

June 26, 1999

Purgatory Chasm is a fascinating gorge some 60 feet wide with sheer rock walls rising 70 feet high on either side. We will begin our hike by winding and scrambling our way through the maze of boulders lining the chasm floor. Hiking through the center of the gorge, we will pass such features as the Devil's Pulpit, Lover's Leap, and the Devil's Coffin. There will be plenty of opportunity for the young at heart to climb over boulders and squeeze through small crevices and caves. We may even get a chance to observe some rock climbers scaling the sheer rock walls. Our return loop will follow the edge of the cliff rim above the chasm, past deep cracks that have been given such names as Fat Man's Misery and the Devil's Corn Crib. The main trail through the chasm is only half a mile so we will be following up this adventure with a trip along Charley's Loop and the Old Purgatory Trail for a total of approximately two miles.

After our hike, we will regroup at the picnic area near our cars for lunch. I plan to bring a small gas grill and will provide a group appetizer of grilled steak teriyaki. Bring your own foodstuff; all are welcome to use my grill. If anyone else has one, that would be even better. There are many picnic tables and a visitors' center, bathrooms, and a playground area. (Expect an hour and ten minutes drive to the trailhead and \$1.60 toll on the MA Pike.)

--John & Stephanie Klebes

Building Bridges

On Saturday, April 10, about twenty-five club members, led by President Al Goodhind, drove an hour and a half to the southern Berkshires to participate in the annual spring work day at Bartholomew's Cobble. It turned out to be a beautiful spring day. In past years many of us have gone there to do various sorts of clean-up or construction projects. This year, we helped the Trustees of Reservations relocate a hiking trail.

Don Reid, chief naturalist at the Cobble, who gave a great presentation at our April club meeting, met us in the parking lot. Don was grateful that so many PVHC members showed up. He directed us down the road to the work site where his crew had already started tearing up the old bog bridges. There, we divided into groups to tackle various projects.

Please see *Cobble*, Page 2



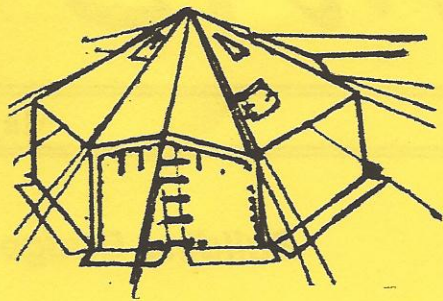
Breast Cancer Fund Peak Hikes



The Breast Cancer Fund will be organizing three challenging 10-12 mile day peak hikes, in three regions of the country this fall to raise money for breast cancer research.

August 28--Mt. Crested Butte, Colorado
September 12--Mt. Washington, NH
September 18 & 19--Mt. Tamalpais, CA

For more information, call the Breast Cancer Fund Special Events Coordinator



10 PERSON ARCTIC TENT

6-sided pyramidal tent supported by a telescopic center pole. Tent has 2 screen doors with flaps, 5' high on opposite sides, and 4 built-in ventilators near the peak.

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We paid:

- \$ 350 Tent
- \$ 50 Poles
- \$ 50 Leather carry-bag for tent

We're asking \$250 for everything. If you or someone you know is interested, call the store at (413) 786-1023.

Cobble: Bridging the gaps

My group built a twenty-foot bridge over a secondary run-off stream bed. I was impressed that the rangers/trustees didn't tell us how to do things, but occasionally offered suggestions. Mostly, we accomplished what we did through trial and error.

Essentially, we were relocating a trail. We built two bridges over wet areas from the bog bridges that had been disassembled. Some club members cleared trail; others built wooden steps or put in rock stepping stones on the steeper parts of the new trail. Terry Cripps was in his glory building stairs. Don and company certainly put Terry's construction skills to good use.

We worked for a few hours, then walked back to the main building where we were provided with snacks—a grateful reminder that our services were appreciated. We ate lunch while many of us soaked up the glorious warmth of the spring sun. After lunch, we hiked to the top of Hurlburt's Hill at the Cobble. It's my favorite viewing point in the whole southern Berkshires with a spectacular view of Mt. Everett, Mt. Race and the Housatonic River valley. Overall, it was a very rewarding day. We earned a sense of accomplishment for our hard work, and also got in a little hiking.

--Dick Forrest

**Join Today!
Enjoy Hiking the Great Outdoors**

I understand that hiking is a privilege and that I do so at my own risk. Neither the PVHC nor landowners are in any way liable for any accident I may sustain while hiking.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Family Memberships:

Spouse's Name: _____

of children under age 18: _____

- Individual Membership \$25
- Family Membership \$40
- Student Membership \$15

Additional Contribution: _____

Make Check Payable to: **Backpacking, Etc.**



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Waterfalls: Springtime in New England

in a shorter one-mile hike. Spirit Falls is a secluded cascading set of two falls totaling about 50 feet of drop buried in shaded forest. Lastly, we will stop on our way home for a quick half-mile hike to Doane's Falls. Here, the Lawrence Brook forms an impressive series of cascades of over 200 feet.

➤ **Chapman Falls & the Devil's Hopyard,**
(East Haddam, CT)
2.6-7.5 miles (May 22, 1999)

The Eight Mile River crashes 60 feet over the rock escarpment to the calm pool below forming Chapman Falls and unique pothole rock formations. This trip to the Devil's Hopyard has something for everyone. Although this would be perfect for a day-hike, I encourage everyone to join us after the hike for overnight car-camping (approximately \$2.50 per person).

We will start the hike from the campground at Chapman Falls and hike a short loop of 2.6 miles to explore the Vista Trail through a scenic covered bridge, the Devil's Oven, and scenic ledges where we may see rock climbers and magnificent views of the Eight Mile River Valley. The loop returns to the Chapman Falls and Campground where younger hikers may end their hike as the more hearty souls continue on to explore the rest of the Devil's Hopyard via the Witch Hazel Trail and Baby Falls bringing the total hike to 7.5 miles. Those staying overnight will be well-positioned to hike the Seven Falls the next morning in the nearby town of Haddam, CT.

➤ **Seven Falls, (Haddam, CT)**
8 miles (May 23, 1999)

This hike is one of my daughter Stephanie's favorites. While the hike begins at the Seven Falls Roadside Park, most of the hike features great views from rock outcroppings as the trail corkscrews around and on boulders and rock ridges with several stream crossings. The terrain makes this one of the best hikes in the area. (This hike will make a great accompaniment to the Chapman Falls car-camping trip the day before.)

➤ **Tannery Falls & Balanced Rock,**
(Savoy Mountain State Forest)
3 miles (July 18, 1999)

This hike offers an easy wooded walk along the riverbank to Balanced Rock, a huge glacial boulder weighing 250 tons that seems to be "balanced" on a bluff. This will be followed by a short trip to the thundering Tannery Falls to watch rushing water plunge 60 feet into the gorge below.

--John Klebes

Recipe Corner

Blueberry Bread

- 1 7-oz package blueberry muffin mix
- 4 tablespoons dry milk powder
- 1/2 cup cold water
- 2 8-inch aluminum pie pans
- 3-4 wooden snap-style clothespins, soaked in water
- 4-6 tablespoons vegetable shortening

Grease the two pie pans well with the shortening. Set the camp stove burner to a steady low flame and put one of the pans on the burner to melt the shortening. Combine the muffin mix, dry milk powder and cold water. Stir just until blended. The batter will be lumpy. Spoon the dough into the pie pan which has been pre-heated. Spread the dough evenly around the outer edge of the pan, and top with the second greased pie pan. Secure the edges of the pans with the clothespins which have been soaked in water to prevent burning. Bake for 4 to 5 minutes on one side, invert the pie-pan oven and continue to bake for another 5 minutes. Alternate the pan sides for another 4 minutes until the bread is done. Cut into wedges and serve.

Camp Cooking
Bill and Jo McMorris
Available at Backpacking, Etc.



TO ALL MEMBERS:

If you have any ideas on how we can improve our club or you just don't like the way it's run, **PLEASE TELL US.** either in person or by letter.

We are growing and need your help. How are our meetings? Too long? Too short? Or they stink? Let's hear from you. The club belongs to all of us and we **ALL** need to participate in some capacity.

Thanks,
Activities Director



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Sara Babb | Christine Donatore |
| Rick Dzerwinski | Justin Gibbs |
| Judi Haines | Larry & Risa Hall |
| Linda Januzkiewicz | Jeff Kecke |
| Ed Sullivan | Carol Vanderheiden |

WE NEED HIKE LEADERS

Please come in and **volunteer**.
We need more hikes at all levels.
Most of all, we need **YOU** to
lead or participate.

Call one of your officers:

Ray Tibbetts, **Backpacking, Etc.**
(413) 786-1023

All Goodhind, President (413) 788-6608

Joe Zawrotny, Vice President (860) 749-1950

Jay Sylvain, Treasurer (413) 786-6912

Dottie Gates, Secretary (413) 527-9432



WANTED

ARTICLES

CLASSIFIED ADS
(HIKING AND CAMPING-RELATED ITEMS
FOR SALE)

SUGGESTIONS

Boot Prints appears four times a year.

Next issue: August
Deadline for submissions: July 7

PHONE: (413) 569-5736 (Home)
(413) 794-4095 (Work)
FAX: (413) 794-2390
or MAIL TO:

Boot Prints

Bernadette Johnson, Editor
c/o Backpacking, Etc.

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BOOT PRINTS

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► Inside This Issue ◀

- Waterfall Hikes
- Purgatory Chasm
- Bartholomew's Cobble
- Recipe Corner: Blueberry Bread