



POTOMAC
APPALACHIAN MTN CLUB

2021
Annual Report

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Chapter Chair Report**Lisa Novins**

The challenge continued in 2021, although getting outdoors has become very popular leading to membership and event growth for the Chapter. We welcomed over 300 members in 2021 (membership growth year over year was 176, indicating some non-renewals) and by year end had filled the majority of our executive committee positions.

- In 2021, the Chapter sponsored events in ~30 parks and in 5 states and DC: Hikes, Backpacking, Bicycling (a new committee!), Bike-packing, Paddling (a reestablished committee!)
- We scheduled a lot more activities in 2021 than in 2020 offering 98 programs in 2021 (over 61 in 2020) and got people outside on 144 days (over 80 days in 2020).
 - Hikes increased by 42% over 2020 (from 24 to 34)
 - Backpacks trips increased by 42% (from 29 to 38) and by nearly 90% (from 46 to 87) in days out over 2020
 - Paddles increased from 0 to 6, including overnight trips
 - Conservation programs doubled (from 2 to 4)
 - Social events (all online) increased tenfold (from 1 to 10)
- We reengaged with skills training: map & compass training (Sky Meadows); leader role plays and Leave No Trace Workshops (Pocahontas). We now have two leaders trained as LNT Trainers and who will be incorporating their training at events and in their outdoor activities in 2022.
- We supported Ward 8 Woods application to the DC recreational trails program.
- We had a very fun first Chapter Weekend Gathering at Pocahontas State Park, an amazing Novice Backpacking Workshop at the Boy Scout's Summit Bechtel Reserve in WV and created the Wilderness Supper Club.
- We organized several fascinating Conservation Conversations on topics from the night sky to the Chesapeake Bay.

With all of our key board positions filled and active committees continuing these initiatives, we anticipate that the Chapter will experience continued growth in its membership and a broader range of activities to offer them.

Vice Chair Report**Peter Mason**

In addition to assisting each of the groups in the Potomac Chapter with their initiatives, Peter represented the chapter on the DEI subgroup of the Chapters committee. One of the focus areas has been to broaden the scope of our recruiting efforts to encourage people from underrepresented groups to take on leadership roles.

Peter worked with Ranger Claire Comer from Shenandoah National Park on her research project on the history of Lewis Mountain Campground. In August AMC approved our request to transfer up to \$10,000 from the Potomac Chapter reserves to support her project. Ranger Comer was our keynote speaker at our annual meeting.

Treasurer Report**Rich Batiuk**

The Chapter ended 2021 with \$15,396.51 in the Chapter's checking account. Total expenses were \$7,363.79 over the past 12 months, with income of \$9,727.25. Most of the expenses were related to 1) group outing at Pocahontas State Park 2) cabin reservations at Blackwater Falls State Park carried over to 2022 for rescheduled Wilderness Supper Club; 3) recognition gifts and 4) chapter operations, Zoom account, liability insurance

The Chapter has \$1,000 in cash reserve funds and \$61,007 in invested reserve funds, both being held by the AMC Finance Office, but available to the Chapter for making investments supporting AMC's mission.

The executive committee approved the "Process for Expending funds in the Potomac Chapters Reserves accounts" and has expanded the number of ways participants can pay for outings to include PayPal and WordPress and of course check mailed to the Treasurer.

Conservation Committee**Laura Falender**

The Chapter hosted six virtual Conservation Conversations in 2021. These included talks by representatives of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and our own Jill Watkins, “Building the Environmentally -Friendly Way”. Rich Batiuk presented “How Healthy is Chesapeake Bay after Three Decades of Restoration Efforts”?

We also supported Ward 8 Woods application to DC recreational trails program, provided input on I-495 American Legion Bridge Transit study and participated in Capitol Trails coalition.

Communications Committee**Vacant**

The Chapter continued its newsletter, further updated and enhanced its web site, continued being active on social media, and began updating its Meetup presence.

Excursions Committee**Dave Mong**

This year we added a bicycling leader and expanded our paddling offerings. Running 6 paddle trips in 2021. We ran 34 hikes and 38 backpacking trips. We continued to expand offerings jointly with other chapters including Del Valley and NY-NoJersey. Leader trainees in the pipeline continue to increase. Fantastic Fall weekend at Pocahontas State Park with activities for everyone.

Paddling Subcommittee

Rich Batiuk

The Chapter hosted several paddling outings during the past year, including two hosted jointly with the New York/North Jersey Chapter. In the spring, members of both chapters paddled down the upper James River over four days, camping along the river. In the summer, members of both chapters traveled up to the Adirondacks in upper state New York for four days of paddling and backpacking.

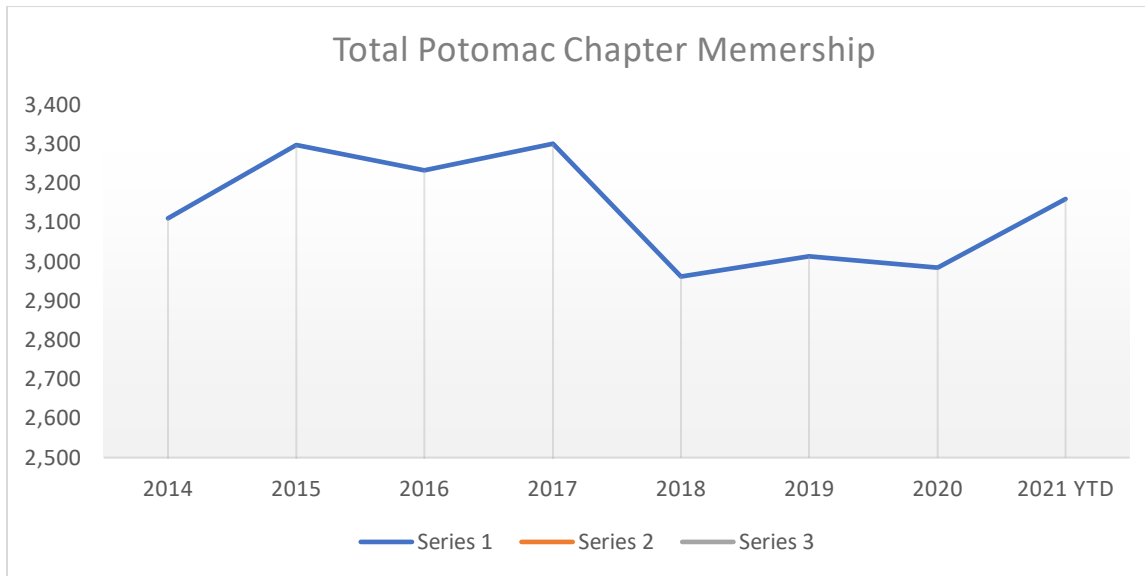


Membership Committee

Peter Mason

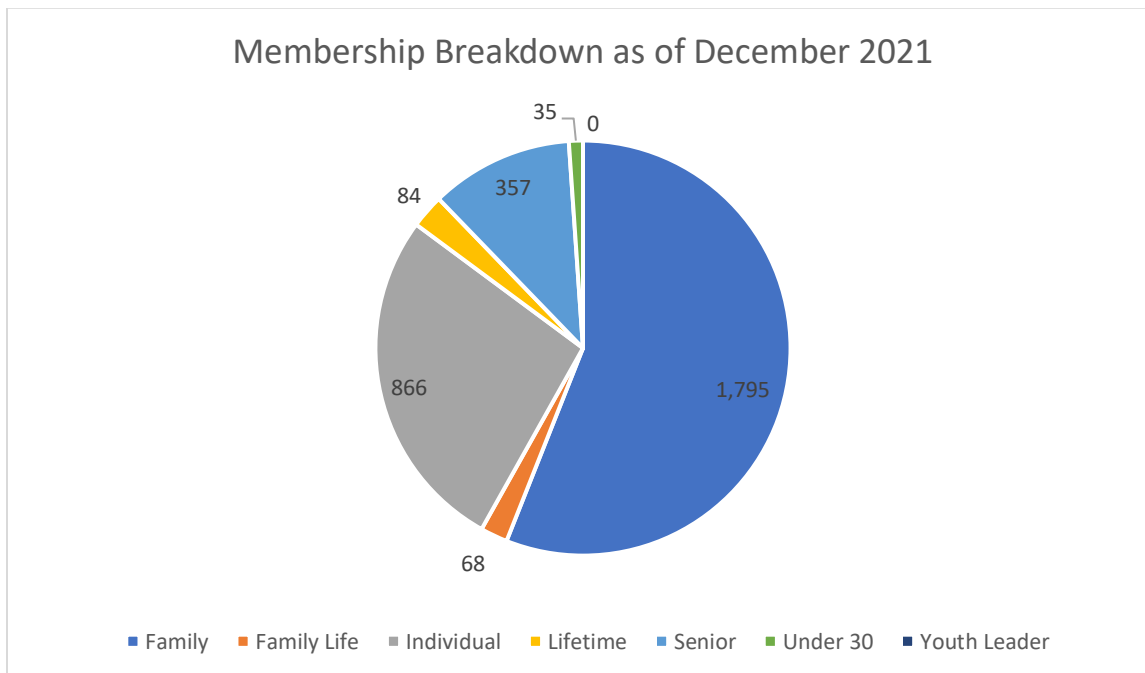
We closed the year with 3160 members, an increase of 176 from a year ago. We had a large group of folks join as new or renewing after a lapse in membership but also number of people who did not renew. Please see graphics on the next page.

Numbers have moved around a bit, which is likely due to people's status changing. For example, the number of family memberships dropped while the number of senior memberships and lifetime memberships increased. The numbers show that we need to focus efforts on recruiting and retaining more young members: we had 81 under-30 members in September and at the end of 2021 we had only 35 under-30 members.



2014 = 3,111; 2015 = 3,298; 2016 = 3,233; 2017= 3,301;
 2018 = 2,962; 2019 = 3,014; 2020 = 2,984; 2021 YTD = 3160

Note: As of May 2018 AMC began counting family memberships as 2.5 members instead of 2. Final numbers were re-calculated and the chart reflects this change for all years.



Family = 1,795 Family Life = 68 Individual = 866 Lifetime = 84 Senior = 357
Under 30 = 35 Youth Leaders = 0

Social Activities

Chapter Annual Meeting Dinner

The Chapter's annual meeting was again held virtually, given COVID restrictions on group meetings. The meeting opened with a photo-filled slide show, highlighting Chapter sponsored events in the past year as well as opportunities for members to become more engaged. As an element of our diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, National Park Service ranger, Claire Comer presented an online talk about her efforts to tell the story of Lewis Mountain Campground in Shenandoah National Park which was the Black campground when the park was segregated. In addition, Susan Arnold, Vice President for Conservation at the AMC provided an AMC Headquarters update.

The new Chapter Officers for 2022 were also introduced and unanimously elected. The full 2021 Executive Committee is listed below.

The Chapter recognized our seven 25-year members and our six 50-year members.

The Chapter also recognized the following members for their outstanding contributions over the past years:

- Rich Batiuk-for working to rebuild the Potomac Chapters paddling program and as the Treasures, he brought us into the 21 century and updated policies and procedures to facilitate annual budget planning and tracking procedures.
- Robin Burt-supporting our leaders as a co-leader to assist those traveling by train and mass transit to the Novice backpacking workshop in Glen Jean WV. Making sure all participants stayed safe and had fun.
- Carey Butler – for leading many, many hikes and back packing trips and for sharing his love of stargazing.
- Dave Mong- for teaching beginners backpacking and leading so many hiking, biking, backpacking, winter camping and winter backpacking trips not just for Potomac but also in concert with New York/North Jersey chapter colleagues.
- Kate Ratcliffe- for leading many day hikes in the greater Baltimore region.

2022 Chapter Executive Committee

At the Chapter’s Annual Meeting on November 14, 2021, a new slate of officers was elected for 2022. The entire 2022 Executive Committee is below.

Elected Chapter Officers

Chapter Chair	Lisa Novins	chair@amcpotomac.org
Chapter Vice Chair	Peter Mason	vicechair@amcpotomac.org
Treasurer	Rich Batiuk	treasurer@amcpotomac.org
Secretary	Deborah Ward	secretary@amcpotomac.org

Appointed Chapter Committee Chairs

Conservation	Kathy Campbell	conservation@amcpotomac.org
Membership	Randy Turk	membership@amcpotomac.org
Leadership	Open	leadership@amcpotomac.org
Excursions	Dave Mong	excursions@amcpotomac.org
Communications	John Pacovich	communications@amcpotomac.org
Family Program	Open	family@amcpotomac.org
Young Members	Dushyant Chaudhari	youngmembers@amcpotomac.org

Other Committee Members

Member at Large	Laura Falender
Member at Large	Kate Lawrence
Member at Large	Kate Ratcliffe



Potomac Chapter Chairs

Year	Chair	Year	Chair	Year	Chair
1985	Joseph Loughron	1997	Peg Nation	2009	William Weber
1986	Joseph Loughron	1998	Alix Pratt	2010	William Weber
1987	Louise K. Snell	1999	Alix Pratt	2011	Jody Inglis
1988	Louise K. Snell	2000	Alix Pratt	2012	Jody Inglis
1989	Frank Carlson	2001	Paul Rowe	2013	Bruce Milhans
1990	Frank Carlson	2002	Paul Rowe	2014	Bruce Milhans
1991	Ellen Kohn	2003	Sylvia Reis	2015	Mike Darzi
1992	Ellen Kohn	2004	Sylvia Reis	2016	Mike Darzi
1993	Jim Slater	2005	Paul Rowe	2017	Ken Shuck
1994	Jim Slater	2006	Paul Rowe	2018	Ken Shuck
1995	Helen Price	2007	Paul Ray	2019	Julia Elkind
1996	Peg Nation	2008	Paul Ray	2020	Vacant
				2021	Lisa Novins