



**Narragansett Chapter seeks Executive  
Committee Volunteers**

The Executive Board is looking to fill three important positions:

- Chapter Vice-Chair,
- Young Members Sub-Chair
- Archivist

The duties of each position are summarized below:

**Vice Chair** - voting member of the Executive Committee who is responsible for all family, young adult, educational and social events including the annual meeting and spring fling. The Vice Chair serves as Chapter Chair in his/her absence and typically assumes the role of Chapter Chair at the end of the Chair's term.

**Young Adult Members Sub-Chair** - responsible for planning and organizing activities that encourage people in their 20s and 30s to get involved in the AMC and enjoy the outdoors.

**Chapter Archivist** - responsible for maintaining records and documents that relate to the history of the Chapter. Anyone who is interested in any of these positions should contact Gene Mihalyat [eugene@mihaly.org](mailto:eugene@mihaly.org) or Larry Rollins at [rollinslf@excite.com](mailto:rollinslf@excite.com).

**AMC Fall Gathering October 16-18, 2009**

The 2009 AMC Fall Gathering will be held in the beautiful Berkshires October 16-18, during peak foliage season! Hosted by the Berkshire Chapter, at Becket-Chimney Corners in Becket, Mass., the event will run from Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon. Hikes, bike rides, paddles, cliff/wall climbing, rope courses, workshops and presentations, Contra-dancing, campfires, socials – we'll have it all! Bring the family – the program is "kid-friendly." For more information go to [www.amcberkshire.org/gathering](http://www.amcberkshire.org/gathering), or [amcfg2009@gmail.com](mailto:amcfg2009@gmail.com).

**Know Your Leader: Charlie Killam**

*by Shamon Kelley*

- Lives in Rehoboth MA.
- Chief Estimator for a commercial general contractor
- Member of AMC since 1994, leader of Northern Hikes since 2000.

-Leadership Development Chair for Narragansett Chapter since 2006 and also a member of the Northern Hikes Committee.

- Member of the NH 4000'er club, has completed the NE 4000'ers and the NH 4000'ers in winter. Has completed 88 of the NE 100 Highest.
- Also enjoys bike riding, gardening and woodworking projects.



• *Why do you lead?*

I have been fortunate to have learned my outdoor skills from many people that I respect and enjoy hiking with. Leading gives me the opportunity to pass these skills and knowledge along to others so that they can enjoy the mountains as I do. Also, by leading what many consider challenging hikes, I give others the opportunity to challenge themselves and try things that they may not realize that they can do and would probably not try on their own.

• *What are a few of your favorite places to hike?*

I have recently been hiking in Vermont and really enjoy the less crowded trails and better trail conditions than we typically encounter

**Request for the  
Appie of the Year Nomination**

Every year at the Annual Meeting and Dinner an individual is awarded with the Chapter's highest honor, Appie of the Year. This award is presented annually to that person who, in an outstanding manner, exemplifies the mission of the Appalachian Mountain Club. The recipient of this award receives an engraved plaque as a permanent memento. The Appie of the Year is also presented with a plaque with his name engraved along with the names of the previous Appies. The plaque is retained for one year before it is passed on to the next Appie of the Year. The recipient of this award is chosen by the Narragansett Chapter membership and the Chapter Executive Board. Please send your Appie of the Year nominations to Tom Eagan at [tom@amcnarragansett.org](mailto:tom@amcnarragansett.org) by Monday, October 5, 2009.

## Narragansett Chapter AMC Leadership Roster

**Chapter Chair**-Tom Eagan;

tomeagan.amc@gmail.com

**Past Chair**-Gene Mihaly; eugene@mihaly.org

**Secretary**- Jeannine Peterson

**Treasurer**- Debbie Mitchell;

dmitchell@thebravergroup.com

**Membership Chair**- Robin Kuznitz;

rmd@PSH.com

**Membership Vice-Chair**

Mary Bonaventure; mlb448@yahoo.com

**Activities Chair**- Chris Shafer, 789-8331;

Christopher.Shafer@dem.ri.gov

**Communications Co-Chairs**

Mark Dennen; mdennen@cox.net

Shannon Kelley; outside@cox.net

**Conservation Co-Subchairs**

Jack Schempp, 331-4553; JSchempp1@msn.com

Linda Pease; linda.pease@cox.net

**Leadership Chair**

Charlie Killam (508) 252-4349

**Trails Subchair**- Elise Del Barone;

elise.delbarone@us.ngrid.com

**Backpacking & Northern Hikes Subchair**

Ed Poyer; edpoyer@gmail.com

**Biking Co-Subchairs**

Marcie Madsen, 364-6538; Marcie18@att.net,

Michael Krabach; 333-5350; mkrabach@cox.net

**Local Hikes Subchair**

Herrick Spencer; spencer295@cox.net

**Technical Climbing Co-Subchairs**

Peter Barlow, 860-675-3772

Brian Phillips, 783-0133; bphillips38@cox.net

**Flatwater Paddling Subchair**- Linda Pease,

351-2234; linda.pease@cox.net

**Sea Kayaking Subchair**

Michael Krabach; 333-5350; mkrabach@cox.net

**Skiing Co-Subchairs**- Dan Reardon;

daniel.reardon@verizon.net, Elizabeth Reardon;

bunnycello@yahoo.com

**Young Adult Members Subchair**

Andrew Shearer, 453-2769;

amc2005@shearersoftware.com

**Family Outings Co-Subchairs**

Tom Eagan, tomeagan.amc@gmail.com

Debbie Mitchell; dmitchell@thebravergroup.com

**Webmaster**-Mike Krabach, 333-5350;

webmaster@amcnarragansett.org

**Photographer/Publicist**

Shannon Kelley; outside@cox.net

**Gazette Editor**

Ilse Hill, amcri@ids.net

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### CHAPTER WEBSITE:

[www.amcnarragansett.org](http://www.amcnarragansett.org)

User Name:

Enter the word "members"

(without quotes) as the User Name

Password: ski1911

in New Hampshire. I also enjoy hiking in the western states because it is so different from New England

- *What is the best thing you've achieved as a leader?*

Although I tend to lead mostly fairly challenging hikes, I enjoy leading beginner winter hikes the most. It's fun to see new winter hikers learn that you can stay safe, warm and comfortable in really cold conditions and also see them realize that they can enjoy mountain hiking all four seasons.

- *What are your suggestions for aspiring leaders?*

Go with your gut. If something feels wrong, it probably is.

- *Do you have a good story of a trip gone horribly wrong?*

One in particular stands out. This was a beginner backpack to Ethan Pond that I was originally not even supposed to be leading. The hike was the last weekend of October, and the Halloween gremlins had a little fun with us. Started out well, but after setting up camp and taking a little side trip to a waterfall, I injured my knee and had to limp back to camp. Turns out my co-leader also injured her knee, but she didn't tell me about it at the time. Back at camp that night, the wind picked up, the temperature dropped, and we ended up burning most of our fuel cooking dinner. And then it snowed. The next morning, I got up early and decided to take a picture to memorialize the situation. When the flash went off, the comment "Oh, no, not lighting, too!" came from inside the tent. With that, we packed up and went to a diner for breakfast.

- *Do you have a good story of the*

### *perfect outdoors moment?*

My son and I were hiking Mt Washington. We had ascended Huntington Ravine and were on our way down the Nelson Crag Trail. It was one of those rare summer days on Washington when the air was clear and dry and you could see forever. We stopped at a little outcropping for lunch and just sat there eating our lunch watching the hawks, and then a couple of Air National Guard jets on practice maneuvers, circle around below us. We did eventually get up and continue, but not willingly.

### *What piece of gear do you never leave home without?*

Although there is nothing in my pack that I would not take, the one piece of gear that I always check for is my boots. Anything else, I can beg, borrow or even buy, if necessary, but properly broken-in boots cannot be replaced at the trailhead.

### *What places do you still want to see?*

Alaska, Newfoundland, Pacific Northwest

## ACTIVITIES

**Fri-Sun Sept 25-27 Cape Shores, Golden Season, Naturalist Walks, Bike, Kayak.** Explore National Seashore and 1400 acre Audubon refuge, bike paths, walks, Bay kayaking. Camp at Wellfleet Audubon. Arrive Friday 2-8 pm. Cost \$65 pp, food not included. Res/w CL Mike Krabach 333-5350, L Jack Schempp 331-4553, mail check to J. Schempp, 47 Arbor Dr., Providence, RI 02908.

**Fri-Sun Sep 25-27 Hike Mt. Mansfield, Stowe, Vermont.** Join us for a weekend of challenging day hikes in scenic Vermont. For experienced, well-conditioned hikers. Cost \$150 includes 2 nights lodging in Stowe, 2 breakfasts, 1 dinner. L Charlie Killam (508-252-4349, Charlie.Killam@gmail.com), CL Ed Poyer

**Wed Sep 30 Hike/Social in Lincoln Woods and Blackstone Bike Path.** Meet at Lincoln Woods at 6pm. Ask about carpooling. For information call L Herrick Spencer (723-1974 or spencer295@cox.net)

**Fri-Sun Oct 2-4 Autumn Splendor at AMC's Cardigan Lodge.** Join us for day hikes in Mt. Cardigan Reservation during this beautiful hiking season. Moderate hiking with time to enjoy views and company; 6-10 mile hikes with 1500-2000' elevation gain. \$145 fee includes 2 nights full service hut lodging, meals & social hour. L Jim Dunn. Reg/w CL Tom Grasso (860-878-4099 or email thomas.grasso@pw.utc.com)

**Sat Oct 3 Family Trails Event.** Join with other AMC families in an easy brushing project (removal of vegetative overgrowth) on the Shelter and JB Hudson trails in Arcadia Mgt. area (Exeter, RI). Children and teens encouraged to attend, accompanied by a parent. All tools provided. Meet 9 AM. Rain date Oct. 4. For details and to register, contact L. Chris Shafer (789-8331, 7-9 PM, or daytime (weekdays) at 222-2797, ext. 7511).

**Sat Oct 3 Hike Mt. Misery, CT,** 5.5 miles. We will be visiting a rhododendron sanctuary on our way to this double topped hill with beautiful views of the surrounding area. 5.5 miles intermediate hike. Bring hiking boots, snack and water. L John Ross (884-8458).

**Sat Oct 3 Easy Riders Tiverton/Little Compton Bike Ride.** 23 scenic miles, easy paced on flat & quiet terrain. Bag lunch on beach and ice cream stop. Helmets req'd. L Steve Morra (231-5365), CL Roger Cole.

**Sat Oct 3 Moonlight Paddle Hundred Acre Cove, Barrington.** Join us for a

paddle as the sun sets and the moon rises. Suitable for all size boats. L Gregg O'Brien (245-0677, goh243@aol.com), L Antoinette Breed (751-5086, scenicroute@verizon.net).

**Sun Oct 4 Foliage Conservation Walk, Swan Point Cemetery, Providence.** Swan Point has a remarkable selection of trees and shrubs in autumn colors. Patty D'Ambra, a noted expert, explains unique characteristics, answers questions will tell a story as you enjoy the morning stroll. Contact L Patty D'Ambra (949-3374).

**Sun Oct 4 Haines Park Sea Kayaking.** Haines Park launch, paddle either up or down the coast. Intermediate open water paddle. Weather decides route. L Mike Krabach (333-5350, mkrabach@cox.net).

**Wed Oct 7 Hike/Social in Wakefield** at 6pm. Walk through Wakefield along the Saugatucket River and part of the bike path. Meet at municipal parking lot in center of Wakefield, behind Phil's Diner. L Dick Sullivan (338-2880).

**Sat Oct 10 Pachaug Trail Hike:** 8 miles loop, moderate at moderate pace. Good views and a nice breeze of Beach Pond. Some ups and downs with chimney like decent and glacial boulders. Boots and Legal Orange req'd. Call before Thursday L Maria Earley (789-8331, 7-9pm).

**Sat Oct 10 Pawtucket/Seekonk/E.Providence Bike Ride.** 22 mile easy intermediate ride of new neighborhoods, local historical places and future bike path locations. Hybrid bikes welcome. Helmets req'd. L Herrick Spencer 401-723-1974.

**Sat-Sun Oct 10-11 Rock Climbing, Gunks, NY, New Paltz, Catskills:** climbers comfortable on 5.5 trad routes. Reg/w L Dave Curry (401-739-2604, dmc Curry13@yahoo.com), CL Bill Baxter (mitziakramer@yahoo.com).

**Wed Oct 14 Hike/Social at Goddard Park, E. Greenwich** at 6 p.m., walk 2-3 miles. L John Ross (884-8458).

**Thursday Oct 15 Trails Committee Meeting** at 6:30 pm at 152 Fishing Cove Rd. in N.Kingstown. Everyone is welcome! For information and teleconferencing please contact Elise DelBarone (edelbarone@yahoo.com). For directions contact Marge Gaunt (295-7101).

**Sat Oct 17 Bog Bridge Trails Project.** Help replace a worn-out bog bridge on the Escoheag Trail in the Arcadia Management Area. All tools are provided. Meet at 9am. Rain date Oct 18. For details and to register, contact L Chris Shafer (789-8331, 7-9pm, or daytime (weekdays) at 222-2797 ext.7511).

**Sat Oct 17 Hike Mt. Holyoke & the Seven Sisters, South Hadley, MA.** Come and name the seven sisters with us and enjoy great views of the CT River Valley. Begin the day at Atkins Farm with pastries and end the day with dinner. Suitable for intermediate hikers, 7.3 miles that you'll swear was 15miles. L Steve Harrison (270-3363, hikersteve@cox.net), CL Ed Poyer.

**Sat Oct 17 Slatersville Reservoir Fall Foliage Flat Water Paddle** in Harrisville, Northern, RI. L Linda Pease (351-2234), L Janet Huntley (789-8842).

**Sat Oct 17 Hike/Social in Lincoln Woods. 10am start.** Moderate hike 5 miles through part of the park and crossing over to Butterfly Farm and see beautiful foliage. Call for new starting place. L Dick Sullivan (338-2880).

**Sun Oct 18 Tri-Pond Hike in Woodstock, CT.** 3 fairly, flat, beautiful, waterside trails in Bigelow State Park. Great foliage and beaver engineering. L Pam Hill (269-1610), L Linda Pease (351-2234), CL Bonnie England (bonniedune@aol.com).

**Sun Oct 18 Annual Fowl and Bird Migration Conservation Event** at Sachuest Pt. in Middletown, one of the best viewing spots in RI. Commentary by US Fish & Wildlife Naturalist. Contact L Jack Schempp (331-4553 or jschempp1@msn.com).

**Wed Oct 21 Hike Francis Carter Memorial Preserve, Charlestown.** 5 mile hike through this little gem which is Rhode Island's 2nd largest nature preserve. Easy walking on woodland trails. L Marcie Madsen (364-6538).

**Sat Oct 24 Narragansett Trail Projects.** We will do preservative painting of existing bog bridging, re-blaze portions of this trail at Ell Pond area in Hopkinton, RI, and finish up previous brushing project there. All tools provided. Meet 9 AM. Rain date Oct. 25. For details and to register, contact L. Chris Shafer (789-8331, 7-9 PM, or daytime (weekdays) at 222-2797, ext. 7511).

**Sat Oct 24 Hike a New Trail in the Wood River Area,** deep in the woods of Pawcatuck Borderlands, ablaze with fall colors with 3 secluded ponds, about 5-6 miles. L Jack Schempp (331 4553, jschempp1@msn.com).

**Sat Oct 24 Fall Foliage Paddle on the Pawtuxet River.** Escape civilization on the Pawtuxet River From Pontiac Mill's

to Rhodes on the Pawtuxet. Ice cream or coffee/soup after. Reg/w L Bill Rush (whr0316@msn.com), CL Linda Pease.

**Sun Oct 25 Wolf's Den State Park Hike, CT,** a 5 mile hike. We will be visiting Table Rock, Wolf's Den, and Indian Chair in our journey among numerous hills and bridges. Contact L John Ross (884-8458).

**Wed Oct 28 Newport Hike and Honorary Dinner for Bob Cilette.**

A fun hike followed by a special dinner to honor long time Leader Bob Cilette. Rain or Shine! Contact L's Gregg O'Brien (245-0677, goh243@aol.com) or Sid Wax (849-2595, sid\_w@yahoo.com) by Tuesday, Oct 27 to reserve a spot for dinner.

**Thur, Oct 29 Hike Trustom Pond, S. Kingstown.** A nice 4 mile walk through this National Wildlife Refuge with beautiful pond views. L Marcie Madsen (364-6538).

**Sat Oct 31 Long Pond/Ell Pond Hike,** 5.5 miles hike, short in distance, but challenging on the terrain. Rain will cancel. Boots and Legal Orange req'd. Call before Thursday L Maria Earley (789-8331, 7-9pm), CL Bonnie England.

**Sun Nov 1 Fall Hike in Weetamo Woods and Pardon Gray Preserve, Tiverton** at 10am. New 5 mi fun hike with views of the Sakonnet River. Bring water, snacks, hiking boots and warm attire in case it is cool. Something hot after the hike possible. Ask about carpooling. Contact L Paul Wynn (644-8529 after 5pm or paul.wynn@navy.mil), CL Gregg O'Brien (245-0677).

**Tues Nov 3 Local Hikes Meeting at Stop & Shop in N. Kingstown.** Meet at 6:30 PM. Join me for the third year doing the meetings. We will do Feb/March 2010 and later Apr/May 2010. Everyone welcome, for information and directions L Herrick Spencer 723-1974.

**Wed Nov 4 Hike/Social in Barrington.** Meet at 6pm at Barrington Middle School Tennis Courts, Middle Highway. Bring flashlights. For information call L Gregg O'Brien (245-0677, goh243@aol.com).

**Sat Nov 7 Walk Glacier Park in Westerly and Kettle Pond.** Meet 10am. We will first do a short walk through Kettle Pond and then car pool down to Glacier Park for another short hike (total 5 miles). Beautiful views at Glacier Park with fall colors. Contact L Dick Sullivan (338-2880).

**Sat Nov 7 Rock Climbing Lead Workshop.** Must be an experienced climber who has seconded on multi-pitch climbs. Reg/w L Brian Phillips (783-0133,

bphillips38@cox.net), CL Peter Barlow (860-675-3772, freeclimb@aol.com).

**Sun Nov 8 Snake Den Hike, Johnston.** Meet at 9:30 at the Apple Valley Mall on Rt.44 in Greenville, in front of the CVS. Hoping for late foliage on this easy paced 3hour hike. Discover unexpected trails and views in Johnston. Hiking boots and Legal Orange req'd. Bring water and snacks. Rain cancels. Contact L John Feather (764-0438 or jfeather67@cox.net).

**Wed Nov 11 Hike/Social in Wickford.** Meet at 6pm at Wilson Park. Short walk through Wilson Park and then part of town. For information call L Dick Sullivan (338-2880).

**Sun Nov 15 Big River Hike, West Greenwich.** Starts 9:45am. This scenic area, located in central RI, has for some reason been forgotten. Legal Orange req'd. L Herrick Spencer (723-1974), reg/w L Sandi Barber (467-7881 evenings).

**Wed Nov 18 Hike/Social in Providence.** Meet at 6pm at Kiosk on S. Waterstreet. Rain cancels. For information call L Janet Harris (272-6772).

**Sat Nov 21 ANNUAL DINNER- see registration form in this issue.**

**Sun Nov 22 Hike in the Great Swamp, W. Kingston.** Meet at 9am for an easy 5.5 miles. Ideal for new members. See many Holly trees. Lunch and a bit of history by Wordens Pond. Legal Orange req'd. Possible social to follow. Call by Thur. L Maria Earley (789-8331 7-9pm). CL Matt Putnam.

**Sat Dec 5 Goddard Park Hike in E.Greenwich.** A 6 mile hike with views of both the cove and bay sides of this park. We will also be visiting the horse stables. L John Ross (884-8458),

**Sat Dec 19 Arcadia Management Hike,** a loop of 8-10 miles through JB Hudson-, Breakheart-, and Shelter-Trails with possible lunch at Penny Hill. Moderate hike at moderate pace. Boots and Legal Orange req'd. Call by Thursday L Maria Earley (789-8331, 7-9pm).

**Sat Jan 2 Hike the Du Vault Trail, Charlestown.** Meet at 9am for a 5 miles hike with nice ups and downs (good footing), Many mountain laurel and possible sightings of Block Island. Good hike for anyone who wants to do a short hike but a nice workout. Call by Thursday L Maria Earley (789-8331, 7-9pm).

**Fri-Mon Jan 15-18 X-C SKI Weekend at Sunday River, Bethel** (Choice of 4) Stay at a fine AAA rated NE Inn near skiing, cozy room for 2 w/shower, TV, net, 3 breakfasts, one happy hour, 1



dinner, 3 nights, hot tub. Cost \$448 for two. Contact Jack Schempp (jschempp1@msn.com or call 331.4553). Reserve before Dec 15, 2009.

**Fri-Sun Jan 29-31 Best X-C SKI in the Whites** for active int. skiers. Enjoy AMC Highland Center, 2 nights, fine dining, ski best snow, Bretton Woods, Jackson and others. Possible après ski at Mt. Washington Hotel. Cost \$169 includes 2 breakfasts & 2 dinners. Contact L Jack Schempp (jschempp1@msn.com or call 331-4553).

**Trip Report 10 Mile River**  
*By Shannon Kelley*

A great group of folks paddled the Ten Mile River in Pawtucket on Saturday May 23, led by Antoinette & Herrick. We met at the Pawtucket Country Club, where we left our boats and headed off for shuttle duty. Keith Gonsalves from the Watershed Council (and President of RI BlueWays) greeted us and invited us to future paddles he has organized but wasn't able to paddle today. See riblueways.org for those paddles.

We were already a half-hour behind schedule as people continued to show up and the rain tapered off. The 3-mile drive to the take-out turned into a 30-minute tour of Pawtucket and Seekonk backroads because of the Memorial Day parade. Apparently no one had told the city fathers that



# AMC NARRAGANSETT CHAPTER 2009 ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER



**Date:** Saturday, November 21st

**Location:** To be announced Sept 15th – check the chapter website at [www.amcnarragansett.org](http://www.amcnarragansett.org)

**Agenda:** 6:00 – 6:30 PM Social

6:30 – 7:15 PM Business Meeting/Awards

7:15 – 8:00 PM Dinner

8:00 – 9:00 PM Slide Show and Presentation

**Cost:** \$20 per person (includes appetizers, buffet dinner and soft drinks)

**Don't miss this exciting presentation by Veteran Mountain Climber Dr. Tim Warren, sponsored by our friends at REI Cranston.**

## "Mt. Everest"

On May 24, 2008 at 5:11 AM, Dr. Tim Warren, a Warwick Chiropractor reached the summit of Mt. Everest at 29,035 feet and became the first and only Rhode Islander to reach the world's highest peak. Dr. Warren will present a slide show and discuss his epic adventure – the preparation, challenges, breathtaking sights and perils that climbing Everest entailed.

In sharing his experiences, Dr. Warren will rekindle the fire in all of us to reach higher and go further than we had ever thought possible.

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## Registration

Please return with check of \$20 payable to: "Narragansett Chapter AMC" by **October 31st.**

Registrations **after this date** will be \$25/person.

Mail to: Tom Eagan

29 Tockwotton Farm Road

North Kingstown, RI 02852

Questions – contact Tom at [tomeagan.amc@gmail.com](mailto:tomeagan.amc@gmail.com)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E – MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF PERSONS: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20 EACH = TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Memorial Day wasn't until Monday. But by the time we were back and ready to launch the rain had stopped.

The paddle starts with hardly any current, no wind and a wide berth along the edge of the golf course. Herrick led us past one lone swan who wandered around on the opposite side. The river twists and turns gently, becoming more forested and wild. No flowers were out today but ginormous bouquets of poison ivy coated the banks. We went upstream for an hour or so until two blowdowns forced us to turn around. We limboed under low-hanging trees while floating back downstream. At the Club again, we walked our boats around the 4' spillover and got back in. The lower part of this paddle is much more narrow with way more corkscrews. This is also where current plays a bigger role. Only a few yards from the put-in was a rock garden that required us to follow Antoinette's thread-the-needle route. The next challenge was as if we were walking a tightrope through the sudden current. Word is that several areas of this river (including this one) are too low to paddle in summer so the choice of late May was perfect.

We continued through the stone wall corridors and greeting guys fishing from the banks. Or downstream as soon as we passed by. A zillion Pond Reservoir. Initially the water was so low of her boat to find deeper water and found a definitely not be passable in the summer.



Most of us elected to stay in our boats as we ate seen - there must have been over 100. They other sound was a pair of ducks overhead and time, paddling through meadows of lily pads and jostled. As crowded as this photo looks,

of Slater Park, watching bikers and joggers on the path above us maybe it was one guy who kept jumping into his car and moving twists and turns later and the river widened out into the Central that we were stuck good and proper on the sand. Linda got out deer's carcass, probably a casualty of thin ice. This area will

to the cacaphony of the biggest flock of swans any of us had ever kept their distance even while pretending not to see us. The only the breeze rustling trees on all sides. We stayed there a long with yellow flowers, watching as the swans occasionally sparred it's still only a small portion of the flock we saw.

Only another ¼ mile was required to reach our cars, parked on the Newman Ave bridge. This paddler's biggest treat of the day - besides the obvious 'being in the kayak' - was to find a great blue heron stalking fish at the water's edge. He stood perfectly still, sometimes moving his pencil legs very slowly to advance forward without causing any ripples. Eventually he moved way under the tree canopy so I could no longer see him. Only then did I admit defeat and de-kayak.