

EXPEDITION MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ARNOLD EXPEDITION
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Spring, 2011

AEHS Activities Planned for Summer

A number of activities are planned for 2011. Below is a synopsis of these activities. There are several articles in this edition of the *Messenger* that elaborate in more detail on these events.

May 21 A one day trail maintenance work trip will be conducted to open the portage trail in the East and Middle Carry Ponds area. The Society maintains about 4 ½ miles of the Great Carrying Place in this area. For more information on where to meet and what to bring, contact trip leader, Ron Gamage. He can be reached by calling (207) 474-3530.

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

- **2011 Summer Activities**
- **AEHS Receives Sizable Grant**
- **AEHS Opposes Highland Wind**
- **AEHS Membership Day Scheduled**
- **An Invitation From Lac-Megantic**
- **The Denis Getchell Scouting Trip**

June 11 Lac Megantic, Canada. (about 50 miles north of Stratton). An open house will be held in the refurbished old railroad station which has been made into a cultural center. One of the displays will be built around the Arnold Expedition (American Invasion). A contingent of AEHS members will be attending and it is open to the public. See article on this elsewhere.

June 25 AEHS Directors Meeting, at Colburn House, Pittston, ME at 9:00 AM. Members are invited.

June 25 **AEHS Members Day**, to be held at the Colburn House in Pittston. This will include four workshops. See article describing this event elsewhere in the *Messenger*.

July 18 Land Use Regulation Commission public hearing on the controversial Highland Wind Proposal will be held in a two-three day session at Sugarloaf, USA. AEHS will be testifying at this hearing. See article elsewhere in the *Messenger*.

August 20 Exploration to search out and explore the site of the so-called "Arnold Hospital" near East Carry Pond. This is open only to AEHS members. Call Steve Clark, trip leader for more details. His number is (207) 510-1230.

October 1 AEHS Directors and Annual Members Meeting at Great Western Motel function room in Augusta. More information on this meeting will be given in the September *Messenger*.

AEHS To Receive Sizable Grant

TransCanada, a Canadian energy company, has agreed to donate a \$50,000 grant to the Society for seed money to acquire a protective corridor along the old Height of Land portage trail. The company has received a permit from the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission to build 11 wind turbines north of the Chain Of Ponds. It will be an expansion of the already operating Kibby Mountain Wind Development.

The grant is predicated upon the actual construction of these turbines. It is not clear at this time as to when the project will begin construction.

The use of this grant, assuming it will be forthcoming, is dependent on many factors. It will take time to formulate a comprehensive plan. Possible proposals will be discussed and debated during the next year. It should be noted that any possible acquisition of land can only occur if landowners agree as a willing seller, and if substantial additional funds can be generated.

The goal would be to form a protective preserve along the portage trail and around some of the small ponds connecting the portage route. It will take years for this to happen, and will require many people's support other than AEHS members to succeed. The larger current need to stabilize Local, State and Federal budgets will also play an important part in this process.

We would like to hear from our members as to their opinions on the use of this grant, and if land acquisition is a viable goal for the Society. Please write us and we will include them in future *Messengers*. Feel free to contact us at our mailing address or e-mail clarkbooks@hotmail.com

We will report on the outcome of these plans in our September newsletter.

AEHS To Oppose Highland Wind Power Development

As many of the AEHS members know, a huge, 39 turbine wind development has been proposed for construction on the Highland Mountains, just south of West Carry Pond. The 37 story high wind turbines would be very visible from both the east shore of West Carry Pond (particularly from Arnold Point) and to a lesser degree from East Carry Pond. It is estimated that the distance from Arnold Point to the northern most turbine would be approximately 4 miles.

The AEHS directors voted to oppose the development on the grounds that the visual impact would be detrimental to the long term goals of maintaining the Great Carrying Place as close as possible to the original 1775 condition that was experienced by the expedition's men. These industrial scale turbines in such close proximity to the old portage trail, would have a very negative visual effect on those passing along the route.

The application of the developer, Independent Wind, is currently being considered by the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission. A public hearing will be held sometime in the early summer. A coalition of other groups will also be opposing the application. These include the Friends of the Highland Mountains, the Maine Appalachian Trail Club, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the Appalachian Mountain Club and other organizations and individuals.

This is the first time the AEHS has taken a position either for or against such a development. The AEHS directors felt that the negative visual effects from this proposed development were so great, that action was warranted. The Society is not an environmental organization. It strives to maintain the integrity of the route of the

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