

## ADOPT A TRAIL

All trails like the Djouce summit path, which get heavy usage require regular monitoring and maintenance – cleaning drains, repairing the scree walls or clearing water bars. As a trail adopter you will need to commit to inspecting the path three times over a year in spring, summer and autumn.

If you are interested in adopting a path please contact Bill below and we will arrange to allocate a path and provide training.

The following trails are available for adoption:-

Djouce Summit path (allocated)  
Crough Dan access route  
Wicklow Way at Laragh  
Glensoulan  
Maulin to Wicklow Way

Bill Murphy at: [murphy\\_w@coillte](mailto:murphy_w@coillte) or at 01 2873603



### LINKS FORGED WITH THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

Mountain Meitheal has been busy forging links with the Appalachian Mountain Club. The AMC is North America's oldest outdoor mountain and conservation club and operates in the New England area managing many miles of mountain paths and backcountry facilities.

Last September, Andrew Norkin AMC's Trails Manager, accompanied by his wife Catherine who works as an interpretative specialist for the US National Forest Service, came to Ireland as guests of Mountain Meitheal. During their busy visit, Andrew and Catherine spent several days working with us and Mike Dales, Access and Conservation Officer with the Mountaineering Council of Scotland, on the Devil's Ladder on Carrantouhill in Kerry. His advice and expertise were a key part of the feasibility report and cost estimate for this project that is now with Kerry County Council.

Andrew was also one of the keynote speakers at the Wicklow National Park's Upland Trails Seminar where he spoke of the vital role of the AMC and its volunteers in path maintenance and repair. Andrew and Catherine also delivered an inspiring talk to members of the Mountaineering Council of Ireland on Leave No Trace – the internationally acknowledged outdoor ethics message. Subsequently, they invited Mountain Meitheal to send a participant to a LNT master trainer's course in the USA. Mountain Meitheal were delighted to nominate Ann Fitzpatrick, a Wicklow National park ranger, and the Appalachian Mountain Club paid all her tuition and course fees. Ann is now Ireland's first trainer in Leave No Trace principals, which are gaining acceptance with Countryside Access and Activities Network in Northern Ireland, The National Parks and Wildlife Service, Scouting Ireland, the Heritage Council and several others.