

Mohican Outdoor Center

large deck overlooking the pond that provides wonderful views, especially at sunset. Early in 2007, the AMC installed new insulation and a hardwood ceiling, making it an even more comfortable and inviting place to hold events. The basement of the Boathouse, which is right at water level with the pond, is used to store kayaks, canoes and safety gear that can be borrowed by visitors who register with the camp staff.

A short walk up the hill from the Boathouse is **Larchview Cabin**, built by students from Trenton State College in 1984. This cabin sleeps ten people and has electric service, but no kitchen or bath facilities.

While touring Mohican, you'll notice that the camp is surrounded by lush vegetation such as high-bush and low-bush blueberry shrubs that provide food and shelter to deer, porcupine, timber rattlesnakes, and the occasional black bear. The rattlesnakes venture out of their dens in the warmth of summer, and are typically non-aggressive, unless they feel they are under attack or startled by an unwitting hiker. The western edge of Catfish Pond is a protected area that features rocky cliffs that serve as homes, or dens, to area timber rattle snakes. The timber rattler is an endangered species, and although not really a water snake, will occasionally make its way down to the water for a little swim.

Finally, if you are a tenting enthusiast, you have many options to choose from at Mohican. At the south end of **Catfish Pond** is an area known as Indian Point; here, secluded, walk-in access tenting areas feature great views of the water, privies nearby and secure bear boxes for overnight food storage. Also situated on Indian Point are two of the camp's three private tent sites, The Executive Suite and The Place Above. In the evening, quiet visitors to Indian Point may be treated to the sound of nearby beaver flapping their tails in the water, warning away any people or animals encroaching on their area. At the north end of the pond is the third private tenting area known as The Place Beyond. This expansive site provides lots of privacy, an old pavilion, three tent spaces and, down a little-used trail, one of the only two legal outdoor fire rings in the camp.



AMC's Southernmost Destination!

Self-service all year, except summer family camp season or by prior arrangement.
Reservations and Lodge Office: 908-362-5670, 9 AM to 5 PM, seven days a week
Mohican Outdoor Center, 50 Camp Road, Blirstown, NJ 07825-9655

The AMC operates Mohican within the National Recreation Area to help provide quality outdoor programming and access to this important public resource. The AMC offers workshops in the Delaware Water Gap through a partnership with the National Park Service.

Appalachian Mountain Club

Join the AMC! Go to www.outdoors.org.



Mohican Outdoor Center Tour

The **Mohican Outdoor Center** is located in the heart of the 70,000 acre Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, in northwestern New Jersey and offers a diverse environment for hiking, backpacking, camping, swimming, paddling, and nature watching. It is open to the public year-round, and is a popular stop on the Appalachian Trail.

The **Appalachian Mountain Club** has been operating the Center since 1993 when it entered into an agreement with the National Park Service, the owner of the property. Before the AMC arrived, the Boy Scouts of America ran a camp on the grounds from 1929 until 1968. For a number of years after that, Mohican was run by Trenton State University as part of its Environmental Education program. When the AMC arrived, many of the buildings were run down and needed to be either torn down or significantly renovated, and that work has been under way virtually continuously since 1993. Below, you'll find some interesting history and highlights of many of Mohican's attractions.

The **Main Lodge** is the first building that greets visitors arriving at Mohican. Built in 1959, it was originally called the Cullimore

Lodge and served as an apartment for an on-site park ranger and his family. The lodge continued to house park service employees through several operating transitions until the AMC secured their lease agreement with the National Park Service. In 1998, the AMC took over the responsibilities of day-to-day management of the facility, replacing the on site caretaker with a full time resident manager. Now, half of this building serves as the home of the Mohican manager, while the other half includes a reception/registration area, office space for the Mohican staff, a large dining room/living room area and rest room facilities. Also part of the Main Lodge is a large, commercial-grade kitchen that was recently installed as part of the AMC's Capital Campaign-funded improvements at Mohican. The dining area seats up to 40 visitors, and delicious meals prepared by the staff are served as part of scheduled weekend events. After Saturday night dinner, the dining area is often converted to a concert hall for "Music Night," a frequent event involving local musicians from the Delaware Water Gap area as well as Mohican staff and guests.

Just around the corner from the Main Lodge is a relatively new gravel path created with funds provided by the National Park Service and the work and expertise of Mohican staff and local volunteers. The half-mile trail, designed specifically to accommodate visitors with disabilities, connects the Main Lodge to a number of cabins and the tenting area. While this trail





Sunset View Cabin.

does not yet have a name, it's been rumored to be called the "Moonlight Trail" because of the beautiful evening views one can enjoy while on the trail.

Sunset View Cabin, located adjacent to the Main Lodge, is one of the camp's smaller cabins. Ideal for families that desire privacy, it sleeps six, has a small kitchen and bathroom, and is slated to be fully winterized for year-round use.

A few steps from Sunset View, you'll find **Black Oak Lodge**, which sleeps 18 and is available year-round. Originally built in 1957 by the Boy Scouts as a hospital, Black Oak Lodge replaced an original hospital that burned down. This lodge has enjoyed a number of recent upgrades, and more are to



Blueberry Hill Cabin interior.

follow, including enlarging the kitchen and common area and creating more individual

bunk rooms to enhance privacy.

Farther down camp road is **Blueberry Hill Cabin**, one of Mohican's largest. Built in 1959, Blueberry Hill is a favorite of frequent guests, offering a large, comfortable common area and a warm fireplace. This cabin received a major upgrade in 1998 with the addition of plumbing, three bathrooms and a kitchen.

Across the main camp road sits **Hilltop Cabin**, a cozy place that sleeps four and is a favorite of small families or groups. Its open air pavilion once served as the camp's chapel. Hilltop will also be undergoing upgrades in the near future.

While strolling down camp road toward the north end of camp, you'll pass a small, unusual structure on the right side of the road. This is the **Pumphouse**, and it protects the pump system that delivers water to many areas of the camp. The well is about 100 feet deep, and everyone agrees that it supplies guests with some of the best tasting water around!

Farther along the road, on the left side, overlooking Catfish Pond, you'll see an open area made noticeable by a single stone chimney. The chimney is all that's left of what used to be the Camp Director's Cabin. Unfortunately, this cabin was not salvageable, and had to be taken down. Cleverly, the staff decided to leave the cabin chimney standing, and now is known as **Chimney Park**, a favorite for those who wish to enjoy a legal, outdoor fire while enjoying the view of the pond. If you want to have a picnic on the lake, this is the place to do it - just remember to bring your own firewood!

A bit past Chimney Park, you'll find a group campsite area that offers tenting for approximately 35 people, along with a pavilion, a fire ring and a privy. These accommodations are popular with groups and extended families alike.

Trails End Lodge, situated at the north end of the camp, sleeps 16 and is frequently used by the hard-working Mohican Volunteer Trail Crew as well as participants in AMC's Youth Opportunities Program. This autumn, the lodge is scheduled to undergo a major renovation that will provide for a large,

sun-drenched common area within the building and more privacy in the sleeping areas, while still maintaining its old and much-loved wood stove.

Between Trails End Lodge and the Dining Hall sits a building called **Stone House**, which is the only building in the camp that is not available for use by visitors. Built in 1928 by the Army Corps of Engineers, Stone House is called home by some of the seasonal staff



Dining Hall

PROOF FILE

and crew during the summer months.

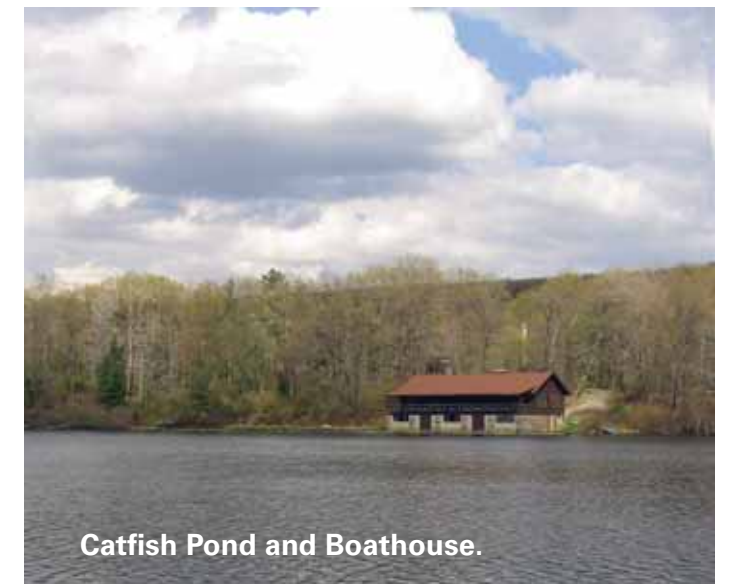
The largest structure in the camp is the **Dining Hall**, which at one time fed about 250 at one sitting. The Boy Scouts built the original portion of this building (now painted brown) in 1928, and all cooking was done outside. In 1962, the main kitchen extension was added which includes a small apartment for the cook, and is purported to be the largest kitchen in operation in the entire AMC. Large solid oak doors found throughout the Dining Hall were salvaged from a Catholic monastery somewhere in New York State, and



Catfish Pond and beaver lodge.

many still retain their original brass hinges and handles. During the early years of Dining Hall operation, ice was cut from nearby Catfish Pond and used to help keep food fresh before the availability of refrigeration.

At the far north end of the camp sits **Catfish Pond**, about 60 acres in size. The pond, measuring up to 80 feet deep in places, was formed about 10,000 years ago by the Wisconsin glacier. It's now continually fed by five local springs, is unusually clear and clean, and is home to large mouth bass, perch, catfish and sunfish. Fishing is allowed here, and if you are 14 or over, you'll need a NJ fishing license. Water leaves the pond at the south end, where it passes through a



Catfish Pond and Boathouse.

swampy area behind the Main Lodge. It then drains off into Yard's Creek, a source of local drinking water and a tributary to the Delaware River. Here at Catfish Pond, you can swim and paddle canoes and kayaks at your own risk (there are no lifeguards on duty), and small, electrically powered boats are permitted. For safety, kids are required to be with their parents or guardians at all times when they are in the water.

The **Boathouse**, situated directly on Catfish Pond, was originally built in 1928. Fire struck in 1964 and burned the building down completely. The Boy Scouts rebuilt the Boathouse the following year to the exact specifications of the original. This building is used frequently for large meetings, receptions and even weddings. There is a