



Green Mountain Club

ANNUAL REPORT • MAY 1, 2014 – APRIL 30, 2015

What an incredible fiscal year 2015 was. Two words come to mind: accomplishment and change.

Our major accomplishment was completion of the Winooski River Footbridge, first officially crossed by project supporter and former Taft Lodge Caretaker Daan Zwick. The smile on Daan's face as he finally achieved his dream of walking across a bridge connecting the Long Trail through the Winooski River Valley from Camel's Hump to Mount Mansfield was almost worth the 103-year wait. This project was made possible by 1,400 generous donors, committed partners and an amazing amount of work by the club's dedicated volunteers and staff.

We also had significant change at the club, including the hiring of several new staff members and the conclusion of Jean Haigh's three-year term as president. We are indebted to Jean for her wisdom, leadership and hard work.

What I've always admired about the club is its ability to maintain the Long Trail as a free world-class hiking trail, even with organizational, ecological and economic challenges. Last year was no different—we helped provide hiking opportunities to more than 200,000 visitors, and congratulated almost 200 long distance hikers for completing the Long Trail.



Daan Zwick

The club finished the year in the black, and contributions to the endowment continued. Through generous bequests, we were able to retire the mortgage on the club headquarters building enabling us to devote more funding to protecting and maintaining the Long Trail System.

We owe much of our success to the more than 9,000 voting members and volunteers who are the club's backbone, providing thousands of hours of labor to support trails, shelters, and organizational functions.

Next year hikers will enjoy hiking on two miles of new trail winding through the Winooski River Valley south of the Winooski River Footbridge. We will begin renovating Bolton Lodge and Bryant Camp, update and redesign the club's website, and develop a strategic plan which will lead the club through the next phase of accomplishment.

I am proud of our work, and confident we will continue to grow and strengthen together. I look forward to reporting more progress next year. Thank you for your support of the Green Mountain Club, and for your help keeping the Long Trail free and open to all.

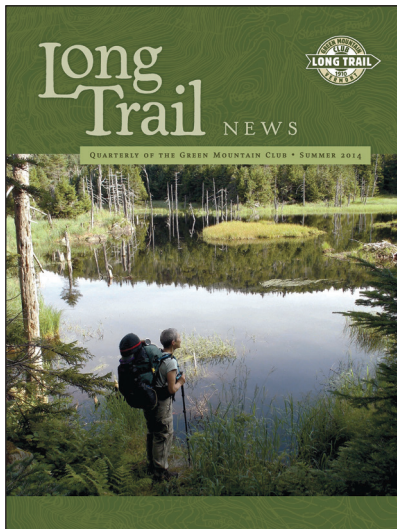
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike DeBonis".

Mike DeBonis, Executive Director



Because of your support this year...



The Long Trail embodies the spirit of Vermont and the people who call the state home – its beauty, solitude, camaraderie, generosity and the fact it has been sustained through the generations by dedicated, passionate people who know its significance.

—Adriane Edwards-Bacon

We Communicated Our Mission:

- The club's flagship publication, the *Long Trail News*, was produced and mailed quarterly to approximately **6,700 households**. The magazine was also distributed in our visitor center and at events throughout the year.
- Our visitor center staff provided more than **4,500 visitors** with hiking and recreational information. They also directed hikers to the Short Trail on our campus, ordered new GMC merchandise, shipped 1,500 orders, managed more than ninety Wheeler Pond Camp reservations, registered participants for outdoor skill education workshops, and answered your phone calls and emails.
- **More than 200,000 people enjoyed a hike on the Long Trail System.** 186 hikers were awarded End-to-End certificates for completing the entire Long Trail.
- Our publications staff and volunteer committee members were busy! They finished text for the seventh edition of *50 Hikes in Vermont*, and prepared the next editions of the *Long Trail End-to-End's Guide*, *Vermont's Long Trail Map*, and the *Northeast Kingdom Hiking Trail Map*. The Green Mountain Club now publishes **18 hiking books and trail maps**.
- Our education staff held 10 workshops with **155 participants**, including Introduction to Backpacking for Women, SOLO Wilderness First Aid, and our popular live broadcast end-to-ender panel.
- Our group outreach program helped 38 organizations develop low impact itineraries on the trail by using designated group overnight sites, minimizing overcrowding, and encouraging Leave No Trace practices. This improved the backcountry experiences of nearly **1,300 youth and college-aged hikers**.
- Our volunteer coordination staff welcomed nearly **400 eager attendees** to the club's annual Mud Season Egg Hunt and Winter Trails Day events, held at club headquarters.
- Our communications staff kept our online presence strong. The club's monthly electronic newsletter, *eBlaze*, reached an average of **9,900 readers**. Social media support steadily increased with more than **12,000 followers** on Facebook, 3,000 on Twitter, and rising numbers on Instagram, our newest platform.
- Our stewardship staff worked with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy to produce the second edition of the ATC-published *Backcountry Sanitation Manual*. This manual explains best practices for treating human waste to safeguard the backcountry environment and trail users.







We Protected and Stewarded Land:

- We reclaimed nearly thirty miles of boundary line on the Vermont Appalachian Trail from Bartlett Brook Road in Pomfret to Elm Street in Norwich. This was accomplished in addition to regular mowing, cutting brush and saplings, and burning of debris.
- We reclaimed two acres from overgrown native and non-native woody vegetation on Woodward Hill in North Bridgewater and Merrill Hill in West Hartford. GMC manages fifteen open areas along the Appalachian Trail between Route 12 and the Connecticut River—the largest concentration of open areas along the entire 2,168 mile AT.
- We obtained the 123-acre Thomas Parcel in Bolton, a critical piece of upland now part of the Long Trail Relocation north of the Winooski River. The parcel has been transferred to Mount Mansfield State Forest with GMC retaining a conservation easement.
- We completed our fifth season of sustainable timber management on the Meltzer Tract in Lowell. We acquired forty cords of log-length firewood to heat the Visitor Center, the Back Forty field staff housing and cabins, and the Wheeler Pond Camps in Barton.

We Cared for the Trails and Mountains:

- Our summit caretakers guided and educated more than **57,000 hikers** on Mount Mansfield, a thirty percent increase over last year, and **21,000 hikers** on Camel's Hump. Our Long Trail/Appalachian Trail backcountry caretakers hosted **1,700 hikers** at Stratton Pond, Griffith Lake and Little Rock Pond. And more than **4,000 hikers** made their way to the Stratton Mountain summit and fire tower.
- Caretakers and volunteers composted **2,600 gallons of raw sewage**, protecting the environment and creating sanitary and pleasant hiking conditions at high use areas.
- The Long Trail Patrol repaired and improved the Haystack Mountain Trail on the Green Mountain National Forest in Dover after a bulldozer trespassed and damaged the treadway. The LTP completed additional work along the Vermont Appalachian Trail corridor and built a solid rock staircase just north of Skylight Pond in the Breadloaf Wilderness.
- The Volunteer Long Trail Patrol worked for eight weeks making structural improvements to the muddy areas on the Peru and Styles Peak ridgeline and relocating the Old Job Trail away from Lake Brook in Peru.



It's the perfect way to get off the beaten path; to take the path less traveled. Thank you for all you do to maintain the trails!

—Terry Paquette



Thank You...



I know it takes a lot of support and hard work to maintain the Long Trail for all of us to enjoy. As a former caretaker, I am so thankful to current trail crews and caretakers for their work, and I want to see the GMC thrive into the future.

—Ryan Morra, 2011 Caretaker

To Our Members

Our members are the foundation of the GMC and the reason for our success. This year we had over 9,000 voting members!

The Killington Section hosted the 104th GMC Annual Meeting on June 14 at Mountain Meadows Lodge in Killington. President Jean Haigh presented the Honorary Life Membership Award to former GMC President and current Manchester Section President Marge Fish for her commitment to the club. Doris Washburn and Bill Lyons received President's Awards for steadfast service. Attendees took advantage of

afternoon outings on Killington Peak, Bald Mountain, Deer Leap, Kent Pond, and more.

GMC's fourteen sections led hikes and outings, represented the club at community events, and recruited new members. By section the member numbers were: At Large, 5,825; Bennington, 136; Brattleboro, 134; Bread Loaf, 253; Burlington, 1,071; Connecticut, 200; Killington, 266; Laraway, 60; Manchester, 162; Montpelier, 574; Northeast Kingdom, 195; Northern Frontier, 67; Ottauquechee, 299; Sterling, 126; Worcester, 123.

To Our Donors

We are continually amazed at the generosity of our donors, who are committed to protecting Vermont's celebrated trails and mountains. This year we had:

- 90 Ridgeline Society members who donated \$1,000 or more to support our general operating budget
- 25 donors who supported GMC on a monthly basis

- 56 Long Trail Legacy Society members who pledged gifts to the club, either by including us in their estate plans or by naming us as a beneficiary of a charitable gift annuity or life insurance policy
- More than 5,000 individual donors who recognized the value of their hiking experiences with financial contributions (for a complete list, please visit www.greenmountainclub.org).

To Our Volunteers

Dedicated and talented volunteers gave countless hours to keep the Long Trail System and the Green Mountain Club thriving! They spent their weekends clearing waterbars and drainage ditches, carrying shavings and bark mulch to backcountry privies, serving on committees, participating in fundraising phone-a-thons, and keeping our office running smoothly on Thursday Volunteer Days.

GMC staff planned the annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic in September to celebrate and recognize our force of unwavering volunteers. Killington Section members Barbara and Barry Griffith were named Volunteers of the Year for their service to the club as trail maintainers, section officers, fundraisers, meeting organizers and hike leaders. Dot Meyer received the Special Recognition Award in honor of nearly fifty years as a Burlington Section hike leader.





Fiscal Year 2015 Financial Report

The Green Mountain Club fiscal year ended April 30, 2015, with an operational surplus.

Total net assets increased by 5 percent to \$11.2 million. The value of our endowment decreased from \$4.5 million to \$4.4 million, a loss of just under 0.5 percent, as a result of market withdrawals exceeding market performance and contributions.

Total assets consist of land and easements, \$2.82 million (24 percent); endowment funds, \$4.4 million (38 percent); headquarters, field housing, Lamoille River bridge, and Winooski River bridge construction in progress, \$3.48 million (30 percent); with pledges receivable, cash, accounts receivable, prepaid expenses and inventory accounting for the remainder (8 percent). Total assets were \$11.59 million, offset by liabilities of \$381,509.

Total revenue and support as compared to total expenses showed a surplus of \$527,470.

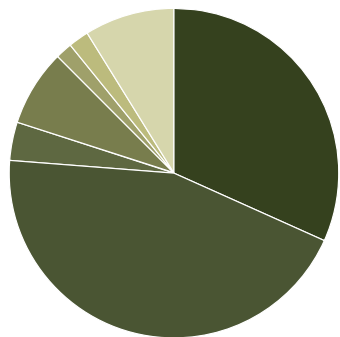
Total contributions and program income increased by 5.7 percent, while total expenses increased by 6 percent. In fiscal year 2015, 77 percent of the club's operating expenditures were in direct support of the Long Trail System, Northeast Kingdom

Trails, education and member services. Fundraising, facilities and administration account for the rest. Due to the receipt of a major bequest we were able to retire our outstanding loan on the headquarters building and, coupled with additional contributions, we expect to complete Winooski Valley Long Trail Relocation funding in fiscal year 2016.

In conclusion, the club finished fiscal year 2015 on a sound financial footing. Fiscal year 2016 will be our first post-Winooski Footbridge fundraising year, which means we will need to rely on other activities to support field operations. Contributions by our members and organizational grants will be important sources of revenue.

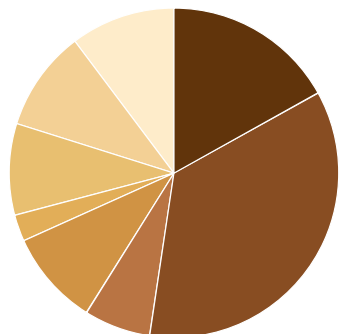
Thank you again to the many members and other supporters who have contributed to the Green Mountain Club and its mission in so many ways! We count on this continued support for annual revenue and to build the endowment which will, over time, contribute even more to our financial stability than it does today.

—Stephen Klein, Treasurer



Operating Revenues & Support

● Membership & Support	32%
● Trail Management	44%
● Long Trail Protection/Stewardship	4%
● Publications & Sales	8%
● Education Program	2%
● Facilities	2%
● Endowment Distributions	9%



Operating Expenses

● Membership & Support	17%
● Trail Management	35%
● Long Trail Protection/Stewardship	7%
● Publications & Sales	9%
● Education Program	3%
● Fundraising	9%
● Facilities	10%
● Administration	10%

GMC Officers

Jean Haigh, *President*
 John Page, *Vice President*
 Stephen Klein, *Treasurer*
 Tom Candon, *Secretary*

GMC Directors

Ted Albers, *Burlington*
 Lee Allen, *General*
 Michael Chernick, *Northeast Kingdom*
 Marge Fish, *Manchester*
 Chris Hale, *Laraway*
 George Hall, *General*
 Allison Henry, *Killington*
 Paul Houchens, *General*
 Lynda Hutchins, *General*
 Wayne Krevetski, *General*
 Sheri Larsen, *General*
 Ron Lucier, *Sterling*
 Doug McKain, *Bread Loaf*
 James Mitchell, *General*
 Millie Mugica, *General*
 John Oliva, *Worcester*
 Walter Pomroy, *Northern Frontier*
 Dick Ruben, *Ottawaquechee*
 Lexi Shear, *General*
 Laurene Sorensen, *Connecticut*
 Martha Stitelman, *Bennington*
 Mike Wetherell, *Montpelier*
 Richard Windish, *Brattleboro*

GMC Staff

¹Michael DeBonis, *Executive Director*
 Pete Antos-Ketcham, *Director of Land and Facilities Management*
¹Jason Buss, *Business Manager*
¹Alicia DiCocco, *Director of Development*
 Jennifer Donley, *Visitor Center Manager*
 Jill Haas, *Database Manager*
 Dave Hardy, *Director of Trail Programs*
 Kevin Hudnell, *Field Supervisor*
¹Jennifer Montagne, *Membership and Volunteer Coordinator*
 Jocelyn Hebert, *Long Trail News Editor and Communications Assistant*
²Maisie Howard, *Director of Development*
 Matt Krebs, *Publications Coordinator and Stewardship Assistant*
²Thorin Markison, *Group Outreach Specialist*
¹Caitlin Miller, *Group Outreach Specialist*
²Joe Sikowitz, *Member and Volunteer Coordinator*

1 Started in FY 2015 2 Departed in FY2015

Publication Credits:
 Editor: Jocelyn Hebert / Copy editor: Dick Andrews
 Design: Brian P. Graphics Arts