



Green Mountain Club  
2016 ANNUAL REPORT





WE STARTED THE NEW FISCAL YEAR ON A HIGH NOTE, LITERALLY. On June 20 over 100 members, supporters, and friends were suspended about twenty-five feet above the Winooski River on the new footbridge that finally provided permanent passage for the Long Trail through the Winooski River Valley. Completing this project after 100 years was a monumental achievement and one that says a lot about the staff, volunteers, partners, and supporters who came together over so many years to turn the dream into reality.

So what did the club do after completing this historic project? We went back to work maintaining and protecting Vermont's premier trails, thanks to the amazing support of our members, donors, volunteers, and staff.

We welcomed Mollie Flanigan, Amy Potter and Lenny Crisostomo to the staff, each of whom brought great energy and ideas, and adapted seamlessly to the team. Providing a high level of service during transitions is not easy, and a lot of credit goes to our seasoned staff members who have shouldered much of the load and handled these changes with poise and professionalism.

We launched a new and improved website that not only freshens our look, but communicates

better with our members. And, we began a review to improve our internal governance and provide the foundation for the club to grow and thrive.

In the field our professional trail crew and volunteers finished important projects on the Long Trail, the Appalachian Trail, and Northeast Kingdom trails. We are especially proud of completing portions of the Middle Mountain Trail in the Northeast Kingdom; greeting and educating more than 100,000 visitors to Vermont's highest peaks and ponds; and processing more than fourteen tons of raw sewage at nineteen backcountry sites, keeping this waste out of Vermont's waterways.

More than half of our annual operating budget comes from the generosity of our members and donors, and without this support we could not do this work. Thank you for making 2016 such a success and keeping the Long Trail, the Appalachian Trail and Northeast Kingdom trails beautiful for all to enjoy!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Debonis".

MICHAEL DEBONIS  
*Executive Director*



**9,500** Members

## PROVIDING A WORLD CLASS HIKING EXPERIENCE

**420** miles of trail were maintained

**9,882** hours of service were volunteered

**25,000** acres of land were cared for by our stewardship program

**8** miles of boundary line were re-established on the Appalachian Trail

**8.5** acres of open areas were reclaimed along the Appalachian Trail



## SERVING THE TRAIL COMMUNITY

**600** people participated in our educational workshops and trainings

**18** service trips drew more participants than last year

**7** James P. Taylor Series shows attracted record attendance of 500 individuals

**5,163** people visited our hiking center in Waterbury Center



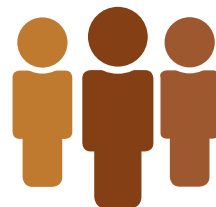
## CONNECTING PEOPLE TO THE VERMONT MOUNTAINS

**100,000** people enjoyed the Long Trail System

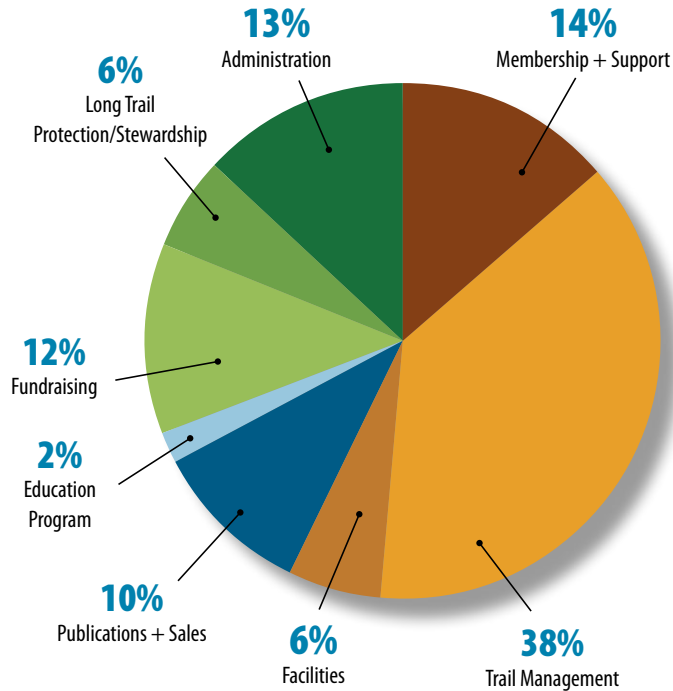
**271** registered as end-to-end Long Trail hikers

**57,929** people visited Mount Mansfield

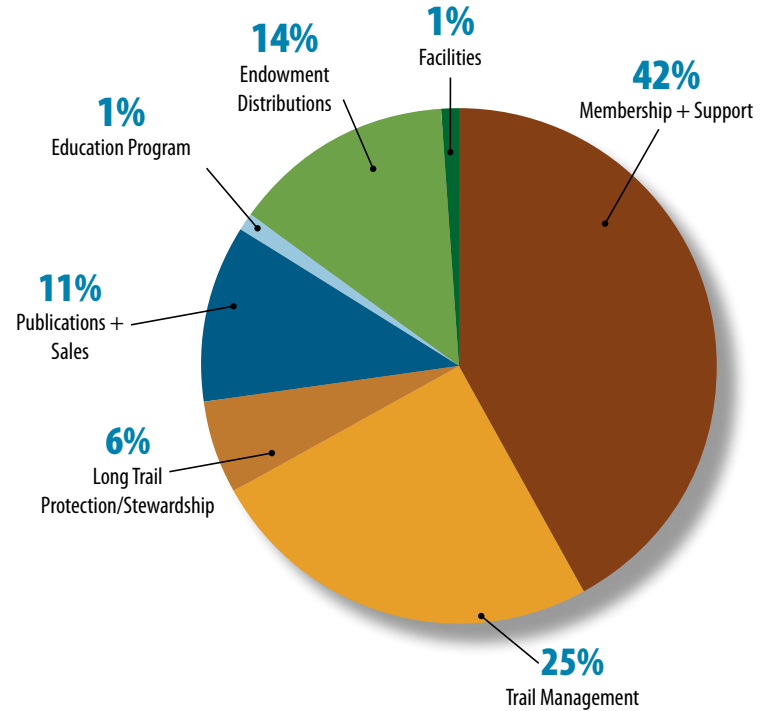
**24,729** people visited Camel's Hump



## Fiscal Year 2016 EXPENSES



## Fiscal Year 2016 REVENUES + SUPPORT



# FISCAL YEAR 2016

## Financial Report

**“Dave says that he remembers watching the May family rowboat transporting hikers across the river for 50 cents each, and he and our son did the “riverwalk” a few times on their thru-hikes, so this is a major improvement. We have contributed a couple “planks” toward the bridge, and consider it a great investment for the future!”**

— DAVE AND JUNE KEENAN

THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB FISCAL YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2016, WITH AN OPERATIONAL SURPLUS. Total net assets decreased by 2 percent to \$11.0 million. This was largely due to the value of our endowment decreasing from \$4.4 million to \$4.0 million, as a result of market withdrawals exceeding market performance and contributions.

Total assets consist of endowment funds, \$4.0 million (37 percent); net property and equipment including the headquarters, field housing, the Lamoille River bridge, and the Winooski River bridge, \$3.5 million (32 percent); Long Trail land and easements, \$2.8 million (26 percent); and pledges receivable, cash, accounts receivable, prepaid expenses and inventory accounting for the remainder (6 percent). Total assets were \$11.2 million, offset by liabilities of \$26,334.

Total revenue and support as compared to total expenses showed a shortfall of \$1,330, which is essentially a balanced budget. Total contributions and program income decreased by 25 percent, while total expenses were essentially unchanged at \$1,556,340 or \$7,200 more than in the year before.

The reduction in contributions and program

income was due to the club's receipt of a major bequest in fiscal year 2015, which we used to retire our outstanding loan on the headquarters building. The remainder of that bequest, combined with additional contributions, enabled us to complete the Winooski Valley Long Trail Relocation.

In fiscal year 2016, 73 percent of the club's operating expenditures were in direct support of the Long Trail System, Northeast Kingdom trails, member education, and member services. General administration and fundraising account for the rest.

In conclusion, the club finished fiscal year 2016 on a sound financial footing.

Contributions from our members, donors, and organizational grants continue to be critical sources of revenue. I thank the many members and other supporters who have contributed to the Green Mountain Club and its mission in so many ways!

We count on your continued support for annual revenue, and on your help to build the endowment, which strengthens our financial stability for the future.

—STEPHEN KLEIN, *Treasurer*





**The GMC is committed to responsibly managing our conservation lands and easements by working with our neighbors and trail landowners to maintain a first-rate hiking experience across high mountain summits and working forest lands.**

# We Protected and Stewarded the Land

We reestablished 8 miles of boundary line on the Vermont Appalachian Trail (AT) from River Road in Killington to Stony Brook Road in Stockbridge. Since 2010 GMC crews have steadily reclaimed AT boundary lines along the federally owned corridor between Killington and Norwich.

We reclaimed 8.5 acres from overgrown native and nonnative woody vegetation at Upper Lewis Field in Woodstock. GMC manages 15 open areas along the Appalachian Trail between Route 12 and the Connecticut River—the largest concentration of open areas along the entire 2,190-mile Appalachian Trail.

We completed our sixth season of sustainable timber management on the Meltzer Tract in Lowell. We acquired 40 cords of log-length firewood to heat the visitor center, the Back Forty field staff housing and cabins, and the two Wheeler Pond camps in Barton.



# We Cared for the Trails and Mountains

Our summit caretakers advised and educated more than 57,929 hikers on Mount Mansfield, and 24,729 hikers on Camel's Hump. Our Long Trail/Appalachian Trail backcountry caretakers hosted 2,568 hikers at Stratton Pond, Griffith Lake and Little Rock Pond, and a record 6,970 hikers made their way to the Stratton Mountain summit and fire tower.

Caretakers and volunteers composted 14 tons of raw sewage, protecting the environment and creating sanitary and pleasant conditions at high-use areas.

The GMC Construction Crew and Long Trail Patrol made many improvements at backcountry shelters and camp sites. They replaced the roof of Story Spring Shelter, built a drying rack for finishing the composting of

sewage at Stratton Pond, leveled piers at Spruce Peak Shelter, built tent platforms at Griffith Lake, replaced the roof at Sucker Brook Shelter, and began renovating Boyce Shelter.

We finished work on the Winooski River Footbridge in Bolton, completing a 100-year-old goal of the Green Mountain Club and securing a permanent crossing of the Winooski River.

More than 100,000 individuals visit the Long Trail System every year, and there was a 30% visitation increase to Vermont's fragile alpine areas this year. The Green Mountain Club places more than 40 staff in the field every year to educate the public, maintain the trail, and ensure the trail will be there for future generations.







# You Supported us through Memberships and Donations

The Green Mountain Club's dedicated membership has supported the club and shared in our mission for over a century. This year, we had nearly 9,500 voting members!

GMC's fourteen sections led more than 590 hikes, outings, and section events, represented the club at community events, and recruited new members and hike leaders. By section the member numbers were: At large, 5,802; Bennington, 143; Brattleboro, 157; Bread Loaf, 258; Burlington, 1,068; Connecticut, 202; Killington, 264; Laraway, 58; Manchester, 170; Montpelier, 575; Northeast Kingdom, 215; Northern Frontier, 52; Ottauquechee, 318; Sterling, 122; Worcester, 134.

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

more than 5,000 individuals who recognized the value of their hiking experiences with a financial contribution.



*Montpelier Section members out for an autumn paddle*



*Manchester Section puncheon replacement on the Long Trail north of the Bromley Brook crossing*

# You Volunteered Your Time

Our committed and hearty volunteers were out in full force this year maintaining trails and shelters, installing puncheon (plank walkways across wet ground), keeping backcountry privies running smoothly, calling and connecting with members, sending out membership mailings, and organizing hundreds of club events.



*Northeast Kingdom Section member Cathi Brooks stacking wood at Wheeler Pond*

More than 40 volunteer corridor monitors regularly walked and marked protected trail corridor boundaries to ensure that conservation restrictions were being upheld, and gathered valuable natural and recreational resource information.

More than 200 volunteer trail and shelter adopters helped to maintain the footpath, and made small repairs to bridges and shelters throughout the Long Trail System.

The Volunteer Appreciation Picnic in September recognized their hard work. Phil Hazen was named Volunteer of the Year for his service to the club as a former Burlington Section President, valuable committee member, and all around GMC ambassador. Special Recognition Awards went to longtime Thursday volunteer and Montpelier Section member Doris Washburn, and to Sandy Stare, who built the first Lost Pond Shelter.



*Phil Hazen (right) with Burlington Section President Ted Albers at picnic*

**“Before adopting the Sterling Pond Trail, we were far less conscious of how much effort the GMC and its volunteers expend in keeping the trails open. Like many people, we assumed that the only work went into signs and cabins and the trails sort of took care of themselves. We now realize that it’s a gargantuan task.”**

**— PETRA HALSEMA AND BEN LANGE**





## We Educated the Public



This year 213 volunteers worked on 18 projects—up from 130 last year! They stacked wood, worked on trails, and took pride in maintaining the Long Trail System.

Nearly 600 people participated in programs and workshops, including the End-to-Ender's Panel, Intro to Backpacking for Women, and several Leave No Trace and GMC history workshops. More than half of our participants were school children and college students.

Our James P. Taylor adventure series enjoyed record attendance. Attendees were transported to interesting and exciting places through stories and photographs.

At our annual Winter Trails Day we guided more than 80 participants of all ages on hikes throughout the Waterbury area. Some of them experienced winter hiking for the first time.

# We helped People Connect to and Experience the Mountains of Vermont

The visitor center staff welcomed more than 5,000 visitors, and provided hiking information ranging from where The Short Trail starts behind the visitor center to how to plan a 272-mile end-to-end hike on the Long Trail. They answered phone and email questions on trail updates, outdoor skills workshops, club events, and the Wheeler Pond camps.

In 1922, GMC shared news about the long trail and club activities through *The Green Mountain News*, a four-page black and white biannual magazine. Through the decades, as club membership increased, the publication became the 32-page full-color quarterly magazine you see today. This year we delivered it to more than 7,000 member households, and distributed it to the public through our visitor center and club events.

## Our Online Presence Continued to Grow



10,000 subscribers



@GreenMountainClub: 15,000 likes

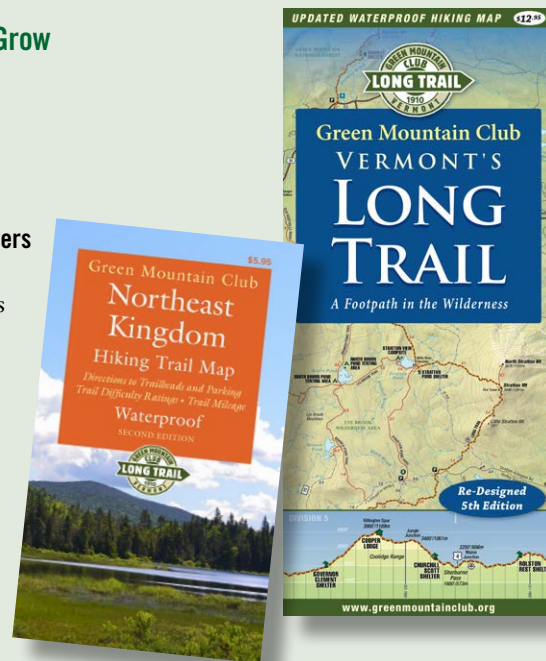


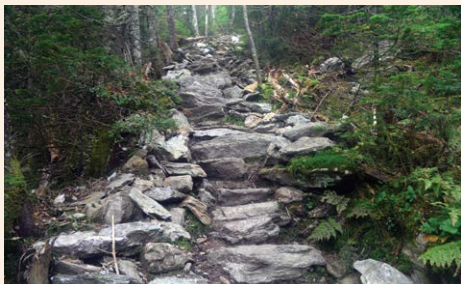
@GMC\_VT: 3,550 followers



green\_mountain\_club: 1,000 followers

The Green Mountain Club continues to produce 18 books and maps with information on hiking and backpacking in Vermont, and to distribute them throughout the world. This year, we released new editions of the *Vermont's Long Trail Map*, the *Northeast Kingdom Hiking Trail Map* and the *Long Trail End-to-Enders Guide* (the 20th annual edition).

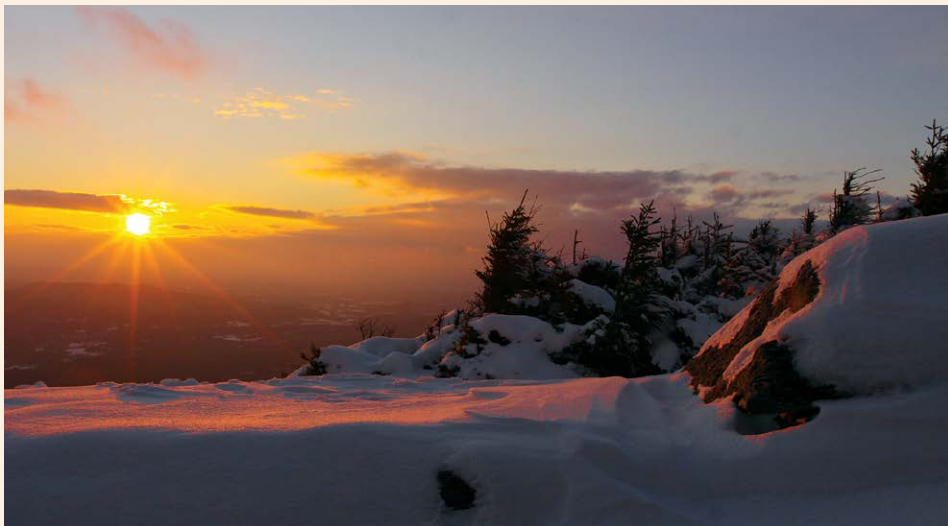




# GMC Board

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 Tom Candon, *Vice President*  
 Stephen Klein, *Treasurer*  
 Lee Allen, *Secretary*



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Jen Donley\*, *Visitor Center Manager*

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Kevin Hudnell\*, *Field Supervisor*

Mollie Flanigan, *Land Stewardship Coordinator*

Matt Krebs, *Operations and Publications Coordinator*

Caitlin Miller, *Group Outreach Specialist*

Jenny Montagne, *Membership Coordinator*

Meredith Naughton\*, *Database Manager*

Amy Potter, *Visitor Center Manager*

\* Departed during FY 2016

**12** PERMANENT STAFF  
(Full-time, year round)

**42** SEASONAL  
EMPLOYEES

**6** INTERNS



## GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB

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Waterbury Center, Vermont 05677  
[greenmountainclub.org](http://greenmountainclub.org)

## PUBLICATION CREDITS

*Executive Director:* Mike DeBonis

*Editor:* Aliecia DiCocco

*Copy editor:* Dick Andrews

*Design:* Sly Dog Studio