

Long Trail

NEWS



QUARTERLY OF THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB • FALL 2015



Long Trail

N E W S

The mission of the Green Mountain Club is to make the Vermont mountains play a larger part in the life of the people by protecting and maintaining the Long Trail System and fostering, through education, the stewardship of Vermont's hiking trails and mountains.

Quarterly of the Green Mountain Club

Mike DeBonis, Executive Director
Jocelyn Hebert, *Long Trail News* Editor
Richard Andrews, Volunteer Copy Editor
Brian P. Graphic Arts, Design

Green Mountain Club
4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road
Waterbury Center, Vermont 05677
Phone: (802) 244-7037
Fax: (802) 244-5867

E-mail: gmc@greenmountainclub.org
Website: www.greenmountainclub.org
The *Long Trail News* is published by The Green Mountain Club, Inc., a nonprofit organization founded in 1910. In a 1971 Joint Resolution, the Vermont Legislature designated the Green Mountain Club the "founder, sponsor, defender and protector of the Long Trail System..."

Contributions of manuscripts, photos, illustrations, and news are welcome from members and nonmembers. Copy and advertising deadlines are December 22 for the spring issue; March 22 for summer; June 22 for fall; and September 22 for winter.

The opinions expressed by *LTN* contributors and advertisers are not necessarily those of GMC. GMC reserves the right to refuse advertising that is not in keeping with the goals of the organization.

The *Long Trail News* (USPS 318-840) is published quarterly by The Green Mountain Club, Inc., 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Center, VT 05677. Periodicals postage paid at Waterbury Center, VT and additional offices. Subscription is a benefit for GMC members. Approximately \$5 of each member's dues is used to publish the *Long Trail News*.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Long Trail News, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Center, VT 05677.

Copyright ©2015 The Green Mountain Club, Inc., 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Center, VT 05677. Permission to reproduce in any form any of the material in this publication without prior written approval of The Green Mountain Club, Inc. is granted only to individuals for their own personal hiking convenience.

Cover: Lone hiker enjoying view from Mount Mansfield summit. Photo by Chris Diegel



Sunrise at Ritterbush Pond

SCOTT BARKER

C O N T E N T S

Fall 2015, Volume 75, No. 3

Features

5 / Outstanding Members Honored

6 / The Seven Principles

By GMC Field Staff & Caretakers

11 / Adventurous Women Learn Backcountry Skills

By Ilana Copel & Emily Benning

12 / Autumn Water

16 / Hiker Impacts: When Leaving Footprints is Too Much

By Elisabeth Fenn

17 / Club Closes on Headwaters Camp

By Jean Haigh

18 / Winooski River Footbridge Opening Celebration

Departments

3 / From the President

4 / Mountain Views

14–15 / Field Notes

20–21 / Trail Mix

22–23 / Volunteers

24–25 / Meet the Staff

26–27 / Sections

28 / GMC Outdoor Programs

29 / Board Report

31 / Journey's End



Executive Director Mike DeBonis (left), Ben Wetherell, and President John Page carrying banner in Montpelier Fourth of July parade

When Jean Haigh handed me the president's gavel at June's meeting of the board of directors, she also handed me the leadership of an organization in unprecedented health and vitality. This is my good fortune, and the club's too, of course. Jean, you did your job with unmatched devotion, skill and tact. You carried the flag well, and the Green Mountain Club is a much better organization because of your stewardship. Thank you!

I cannot describe how honored I feel to serve as GMC's new president. Some of my earliest memories are of hiking with my parents and the Burlington Section. I fondly recall the annual oyster stew hikes to Taylor Lodge on moonlit February nights, and the annual week-long intersectionals, which gave my brother and me the chance to section hike most of the Long Trail before we were old enough to drive. I remember hiking with GMC leaders like Roy Buchanan, Shirley Strong and Gene Bamforth.

In the summer of 1971 I worked as the GMC caretaker at Taylor Lodge. When I returned to Vermont in 1994 after a period of exile in Maine, I reacquainted myself with the Long Trail, and reconnected with the Green Mountain Club by joining its board of directors in 1999. Since then I have hiked the Long Trail end-to-end a second time, and am now half way to a third completion. The Long Trail and the Green Mountain Club are in my blood and part of who I am.

I am hardly exceptional. If there is one thing that characterizes GMC's volunteer

The collective human power of all that passion is our greatest asset.

leaders and near 10,000 members, it's a deep, almost mystical passion for the club and our beloved trails. This passion fuels so much of GMC's work, from the annual turnout of hundreds of trail "volleys" doing trail maintenance, to the seemingly bottomless financial support that materializes whenever we need it, to the hard work of the staff and volunteer leadership that keeps the club's daily operations running smoothly.

The collective human power of all that passion is our greatest asset. It is now my responsibility to nurture and channel it so that the Long Trail abides, in our lifetime and beyond. We've got a great thing going here, and I'm determined to keep it that way.

Now that the historic Winooski River Footbridge is finally completed, what's next for the GMC? Our priority must continue to be—as it has been for the past thirty years—the permanent protection of the Long Trail. The spectacular new bridge spanning the Winooski River is understandably the center of everyone's attention, and no doubt it will be much appreciated by hikers, but in the long run I believe our greater accomplishment has been the procurement of a permanent, safe, direct and aesthetic route across the entire valley.

We must now finish the task started thirty years ago when we developed the Long Trail Protection Campaign, and find a way to legally protect the last five miles of the trail that still cross privately owned land. We're down to the last few tough nuts to crack, where the landowners know of our interest but are as yet unwilling to sell. Eventually these properties will become available, and we must be ready to act when they are. We will stay on task.

Many of you know that in 2013 the State of Vermont acquired the so-called Bolton Nordic property at the head of Bolton Valley, just north of the new bridge and east of the relocated Long Trail. The land includes two historic cabins, Bolton Lodge (built by the Burlington Section in 1928) and Bryant Camp (built as a ski lodge in the early 1930s by Edward S. Bryant). GMC has agreed to renovate and manage both for public use, including the installation of wood stoves for winter use. Bolton Lodge will once again be part of the Long Trail System.

I'm particularly excited by our plan to build two or three new blue-blazed side trails in Bolton Valley. These new trails will give hikers many options for loop hikes combined with overnight camping in the new shelters, all within a half hour of downtown Burlington. After a fifty-year hiatus, hiking is finally returning to Bolton Valley.

Thanks for all that you do for the Green Mountain Club, and I'll see you on the trail!

—JOHN PAGE, PRESIDENT



GMC Officers

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

GMC Directors

Ted Albers, *Burlington*
Lars Botzjorns, *General*
Faith Brown, *General*
Marge Fish, *Manchester*
James Fritz, *Connecticut*
Jean Haigh, *Northeast Kingdom*
Chris Hale, *Laraway*
George Hall, *General*
Allison Henry, *Killington*
Paul Houchens, *General*
Lynda Hutchins, *General*
Anne Janeway, *General*
Wayne Krevetski, *General*
Sheri Larsen, *General*
Ron Lucier, *Sterling*
Doug McKain, *Bread Loaf*
Millie Mugica, *General*
John Oliva, *Worcester*
Walter Pomroy, *Northern Frontier*
Dick Ruben, *Ottawaquechee*
Lexi Shear, *General*
Martha Stitelman, *Bennington*
Mike Wetherell, *Montpelier*
Richard Windish, *Brattleboro*
John Zaber, *General*

GMC Staff Directory

Main Telephone: (802) 244-7037
Pete Antos-Ketcham, *Director of Land and Facilities Management*
E-mail: pantosketcham@greenmountainclub.org
Phone: (802) 241-8217
Jason Buss, *Business Manager*
E-mail: jbuss@greenmountainclub.org
Phone: (802) 241-8214
Michael DeBonis, *Executive Director*
E-mail: mdebonis@greenmountainclub.org
Phone: (802) 241-8212
Alicia DiCocco, *Director of Development*
E-mail: adicocco@greenmountainclub.org
Phone: (802) 241-8322
Jennifer Donley, *Visitor Center Manager*
E-mail: jdonley@greenmountainclub.org
Phone: (802) 241-8210
Dave Hardy, *Director of Trail Programs*
E-mail: dhardy@greenmountainclub.org
Phone: (802) 241-8320
Jocelyn Hebert, *Long Trail News Editor*
E-mail: jhebert@greenmountainclub.org
Phone: (802) 241-8215
Kevin Hudnell, *Field Supervisor*
E-mail: khudnell@greenmountainclub.org
Phone: (802) 241-8321
Matt Krebs, *Publications Coordinator/Stewardship Assistant*
E-mail: mkrebs@greenmountainclub.org
Phone: (802) 241-8321
Caitlin Miller, *Group Outreach Specialist*
E-mail: groups@greenmountainclub.org
Phone: (802) 241-8327
Jenny Montagne, *Membership and Volunteer Coordinator*
E-mail: jmontagne@greenmountainclub.org
Phone: (802) 241-8324
Database Manager
E-mail: adicocco@greenmountainclub.org
Phone: (802) 241-8325



Troop 22

Troop 22 on the Long Trail

Addressed to Caitlin Miller, GMC Group Outreach Specialist

We had such a good time. When we talked about what was different about this trip, the biggest difference was you guys from the GMC. You were such a big help, and the caretakers along the way made us feel so welcome and looked out for. I could not believe when we got to the visitor's center on Mansfield, and the caretaker asked if we were Troop 22. You should have seen my surprise and smile. Why yes we are!

Caretaker Adam is magnificent! He genuinely enjoyed the boys, which made me feel so good. We learned a ton from him, and he was very supportive after we got caught in that storm trying to get to the shelter. It was a race and we lost, but what a story! After we

got through it, the consensus was that it was awesome! We bypassed the Chin but were so lucky to have the opportunity to go back up the next morning with Adam. He is a gem.

The caretaker at Sterling cares so much about people. He saw that Matt didn't have much of a sleeping pad, and gave him one. We hiked down to the cars together, and I felt like he was totally taking care of me. I'm a little slow on the downhill, and he waited for me every time. That's hard to do!

Thanks so much for everything!

—MIKE MATHEIS,
BOY SCOUT LEADER, TROOP 22



**FACEBOOK
comments**

GMC Publications on Library Shelves

A huge thank you to the Green Mountain Club, which

donated a collection of brand new up-to-date hiking books to the Davies Memorial Library [in Waterford], where librarian Jennifer D'Agostino said people were asking to check out the books before she even had the barcodes added to their spines! Jean Haigh, you've provided guides to fresh trails for an exhilarated community—thank you again for bringing the books this way.

—BETH KANELL

Thanks Camille!

Just wanted to say, thank you so much to Camille [GMC caretaker] for everything! She helped us with a hiker who broke her ankle, and is generally amazing.

—ALICE SHLEP VOLKOV

Barnes Camp Volunteers

First volunteer day at Barnes Camp Visitor Center. Ira Sollace and I helped fifty-seven people thus far today! Lots of general hiking questions, and Long Trail questions too. It has been really fun, and everyone really has appreciated the information.

—CINDY GRIFFITH

If you would like to volunteer at Barnes Camp Visitor Center located on Vermont Route 108 in Stowe please contact Jenny Montagne, jmontagne@greenmountainclub.org.

Long Trail News

welcomes your comments.

Letters received may be edited for length and clarity.

GMC reserves the right to decline to publish those considered inappropriate. Not all letters may be published.

Send to: Jocelyn Hebert,
jhebert@greenmountainclub.org or
Letters to the Editor,
GMC, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Rd.,
Waterbury Center, VT 05677



Barnes Camp

OUTSTANDING MEMBERS HONORED

At the annual meeting each summer, GMC's president recognizes volunteers who have gone above and beyond with President's Awards. The president also presents the club's most prestigious accolade, the Honorary Life Membership Award, for incomparable contributions to the club. At the 105th Annual Meeting on June 13, outgoing President Jean Haigh had the honor of acknowledging the following outstanding members:

Honorary Life Membership Award Recipient: Matt Wels

Matt has spent more than ten years working on Long Trail and Appalachian Trail infrastructure. From restoring the historic Stratton Mountain fire tower, to constructing the Thundering Falls Boardwalk, to building the new Winooski River Footbridge, Matt's contributions are lasting gifts to future hiking generations. His dedication to his craft and workmanship, and the longevity of his commitment to the club made him an obvious choice. He is the youngest person ever to receive this high honor.



Matt Wels

President's Award Recipient: Ted Albers

Ted is a committed and energetic leader and supporter of the GMC. Some of his many contributions include: serving as president of the Burlington Section (the club's largest section); planning and organizing the 2015 Annual Meeting; representing the Burlington Section on the board of directors; and supporting GMC fundraising through work on the development committee.



President's Award Recipient: Kevin Williamson

Kevin is a Northeast Kingdom Section member whose passion for hiking in the Kingdom is unparalleled. His adventurous spirit has led him to the exploration and development of new trails in the area. Off trail, Kevin assists the club's publications program by distributing books and maps around the state. His devotion to the club is apparent to all who work or hike with him, and he has instilled his passion in a new generation of Northeast Kingdom hikers.



President's Award Recipient: Jim Sullivan

Jim's allegiance to both the Long Trail and the Appalachian Trail is unquestionable. From helping the southern field staff complete important trail projects with strong hands and good humor, to recording countless trail coordinates using a GPS receiver, his volunteer work in the field is immeasurable.

Caitlin Miller



Leave No Trace An Ethic of Best Practices

“We’re heading to Ethan Pond for our first night out, and we’ll definitely run into snow. Everyone should have warm socks and boots; waterproof would be best.”

My trip leader’s warning echoed in my head as I looked down at the torn up trail runners on my sorry, thinly adorned feet. I had forgotten my winter hiking boots, and therefore had already missed the first and, arguably, most important Leave No Trace (LNT) principle: Plan ahead and prepare.

It was mid-May in New Hampshire’s White Mountains, and I was (not very thoroughly) preparing to head out on a Leave No Trace Master Educator course run by the Appalachian Mountain Club. The five-day backcountry course, designed by the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), was implemented in 2004 as the highest tier of Leave No Trace education, as an addition to trainer courses and awareness workshops.

Master educator courses explore the seven Leave No Trace principles in depth, while covering different learning styles so participants can teach the principles effectively. They are intensive clinics in

the woods, and each participant teaches one of the seven principles.

Despite the passion for not stepping on diaspores I developed as a GMC caretaker, Leave No Trace education has always been a bit unclear to me. Not the principles—those are very clear and understandable—but how to apply them to the varied ecosystems of the Long Trail. When I took over group outreach at GMC early in September of 2014, one project that fell into my lap was developing a curriculum for our education program. Since LNT fits so much of what we do here, it made sense that teaching its principles would be a high priority.

Again, the principles are straightforward, but what really makes a ground surface in Vermont durable? Why shouldn’t folks use a bit of camp soap? Most importantly, how does LNT promote a sense of place in the mountains of Vermont?

Heck, I couldn’t even remember all seven principles without the handy acronym I still use: **Pass The Donut Left, My Righteous Brother**. I had no formal training as an educator, and I knew that to engage an audience with LNT and what it means in Vermont I would need help. A master educator course seemed like a great resource to help me teach the seven principles and instill a wildland ethic in youth, other staff members and hikers passing through.

My course mates helped me scrounge up some loaner boots, and we headed

for the trailhead the next morning. As we hiked, camped, and taught lessons over the next three days, I listened to the diverse perspectives of the participants. Our class included a White Mountain National Forest ranger (our co-instructor), several Appalachian Mountain Club employees preparing for their field seasons, an associate professor of adventure education, and a man preparing to head to Mozambique to help open a national park.

Leave No Trace meant different things to each participant. For the ranger, the principles guide Forest Service policies; in Mozambique it is hoped they will foster connections between locals and their heritage, livelihood and land; and for a professor of adventure education, the principles provide not only a crucial land ethic for future recreation leaders, but a nuanced ethic to examine with a critical eye. Understanding those applications showed me how LNT helps foster a sense of place in different land users.

The values of each participant highlighted the concept that “Leave No Trace is not simply about remembering exactly what minimum impact skill you can practice in every outdoor situation ... rather, it is first and foremost an ethic,” as Rich Brame and David Cole put it in *NOLS Soft Paths*.

The seven principles communicate a broad message, but it’s everyone’s responsibility to determine how to apply them in the backcountry. Minimum impact techniques for the desert may not work in the Northeast. You may want to broadcast wastewater at a low use site, but sump it (and pack out food fragments) at an established campground. And even if it’s May, and just chilly in the valleys, you’ll most likely want to prepare by using boots at higher elevations. Thinking of Leave No Trace as an ethic of best practices, rather than seven steadfast principles, enables you to ask the “how” behind each principle and to make the ethic as variable as the land.

How should I plan ahead and prepare for a winter trip, as opposed to summer? How can I respect wildlife in grizzly bear country rather than in Vermont? As the environments where we recreate differ,

our outdoor ethic should adapt to fit conditions and deepen our understanding of the land.

After four days of rain, snow and occasional sunshine, I was eager to take a warm shower and return my muddy boots to rental. However, I was also a little sad to be leaving the woods, ending the eye-opening conversations I'd had that week. I had gone into the course hoping, but not quite expecting, to learn more about Leave No Trace. Since I knew the principles (with the help of my handy

acronym), I figured there wouldn't be too much more to this whole LNT thing. But I not only got an entire book of fun teaching activities, I came down from the mountains with a whole new way



of understanding the ecosystems I hike through and my role in preserving them.

—CAITLIN MILLER,
GROUP OUTREACH SPECIALIST

Interested in reading more about Leave No Trace? Here are some great resources:

- *Wilderness Ethics* by Laura and Guy Waterman
- *NOLS Soft Paths* by Rich Brame and David Cole
- Leave No Trace, <https://lnt.org/teach/research>

Pass the Donut Left, My Righteous Brother

Most of us know the Long Trail is the oldest long-distance hiking trail in the country. Its popularity has grown for 105 years, and today tens of thousands of hikers follow it annually through some of Vermont's most pristine and fragile ecosystems.

Protecting the trail and its surroundings is a major part of the Green Mountain Club's mission. Thus, the club

stations stewards at frequently visited sites, including the summits of Mount Mansfield, Camel's Hump and Mount Abraham; and Stratton Pond, Little Rock Pond and Griffith Lake.

As backcountry exploration becomes ever more popular, people are venturing into remote areas more frequently, some seeking new extreme opportunities. Others are travelling deeper into the woods in search of solitude and unspoiled spaces to reconnect with nature.

Each of us has an impact.

The seven Leave No Trace principles, managed by the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, provide methods to minimize adverse impacts to mountains,

forests, waterways and wildlife. These principles and practices are based on an enduring respect for nature. Each principle covers a variety of detailed practices, but awareness and good judgment will guide you as you learn to apply them.

GMC field staff members spend their summer and fall seasons immersed in the woods. Part of what they do is teach and encourage people to follow the seven principles. Here are a few accounts of how they have practiced the principles in their jobs, what they have observed, and ways you can help reduce your impact and leave the backcountry healthy and thriving.

Plan Ahead and Prepare

Plan Ahead and Prepare is the one Leave No Trace principle you can accomplish before heading into the backcountry. By taking time for simple research and thinking through your plan you can stay safe, happy and healthy, and avoid potential problems.

As a crew leader, I consider the following: my crew size, our destination, adverse impact to the area, travel logistics, dietary restrictions and weather, to name a few. I also seek advice from folks or trail clubs knowledgeable about the area where we will travel. I make sure we have everything needed to spend the night: headlamps, rain jackets, extra snacks,

lighters or matches, water treatment systems, warm layers, first aid supplies and sleeping pads.

The deeper into the woods you venture, the farther from help you go. If you have the right gear you will be better equipped to handle a backcountry emergency situation. And remember, backcountry rescues often leave serious impacts on ecosystems.

Keeping the season, time of day and your (or your group's) capabilities in mind will ensure a safer, more fulfilling and more enjoyable experience for all. A good experience will connect you to the wilderness and nurture stewardship and appreciation for our natural world!

—MEGHAN PAUGH,
VLTP CREW LEADER 2015

Continued next page



Continued from previous page

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

I remember talking with a former trail crew worker at a shelter during my Appalachian Trail thru-hike. I love talking to passionate people, and this worker surely qualified. Learning the nuances of trail work gave me a surge of discovery and wonderment. He didn't dismiss my ignorance, but accepted and valued my questions.

I have been working on trails myself in the five years since that encounter. As a GMC caretaker on Camel's Hump and Mount Mansfield, I saw the damage caused by walking on fragile vegetation. An isolated step may seem insignificant, but when multiplied by hundreds of hikers there is significant impact.

This season I worked on a trail crew in the northern Presidential Range of the White Mountains. Trail stewards take Leave No Trace principles, like Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces, to heart. We do our best to define treadways and keep hikers on rocks rather than potential alpine vegetation sites. We agonize over seemingly minor questions. If we put a rock here, will the step up be too large? Will hikers take the easier way, through the vegetation?

These considerations weigh on us, but attention to detail is necessary. Recently we redefined scree walls and rebuilt cairns guiding hikers and keeping them on the trail to Madison Springs Hut. We hope that in the next few decades patches of diaspensia and tufts of mountain sandwort will return to damaged areas.

We all go to the woods for inspiration. By doing our best to preserve the beauty around us we can honor nature, and her beauties will be returned to us with a deeper sweetness.

—JOHN PAUL KROL,
FORMER GMC CARETAKER

John Paul Krol
and Cheryl Byrne



Dispose of Waste Properly

After working a season as the Coolidge Range ridge runner I've been on the business end of the Cooper Lodge privy, affectionately called the Cooper Pooper, more times than I can count.

There is a high volume of traffic from day hikers, thru-hikers and Killington Gondola riders coming to check out Cooper Lodge and, of course, use the privy. If I wasn't on top of my game and emptying the catcher at least once a week, the Cooper Pooper smelled real gross.

The Cooper Pooper is a batch-bin composting privy. Users are asked to not urinate in this type of privy because excess liquid hampers the composting process and worsens odor. Unfortunately, there was always a lot of urine and trash in the catcher. I did my best to add enough bark mulch to soak up the liquid and to transfer the waste into rapidly filling cans outside.

Proper disposal is essential to protect the woods. That's why the GMC has developed types of composting privies suited to different types of sites. Hikers

can help with backcountry sanitation by reading and following instructions posted in each outhouse.

People are quick to notice when privies are gross, but it's a lot easier to keep things pleasant if we all dispose of waste properly. So, use a privy when you can. If there isn't one, dig a "cathole," ideally six inches deep in organic topsoil, well away from water and trails, and bury your waste and TP.

—JAKE CHINITZ, GMC CARETAKER



Jake Chinitz

Leave What You Find

As kids my brother and I burned every hour of daylight in the woods in our free time. We explored, collected, and made discoveries that kept us intrigued and coming back.

Even as kids we knew litter didn't belong there. It was dirty and gross, something adults had done. They were our woods, and we respected them. So we did what kids do, and picked up trash when it ruined the magic of our place. We vowed to never be that kind of grownup.

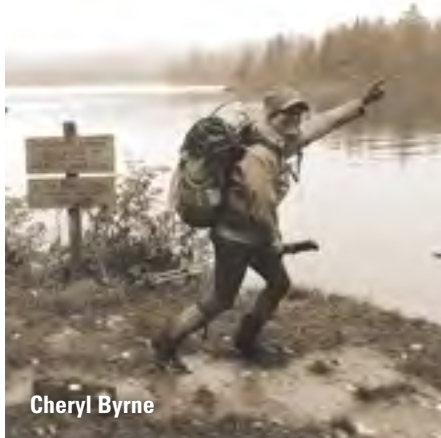
Fast forward twenty years, and I find myself in a profession taking care of the Long Trail, the Appalachian Trail and the Northern Presidential Range of the White Mountains. I have also taught others to be good backcountry caretakers.

Usually when I set out to hike, anticipation looms over me. Maybe I will see glittery sparkles of mica specks, the sheen of wet rock, the vibrant greens of bud break, the rich hues of fall, a single polka dot feather, the occasional wild flower, the layers of texture and character that lichens give sheer rock.

This beauty does catch my eye, but I also spot micro trash along the trail, around shelters and in outhouses; names and dates carved into shelter walls, bunks, tables and old beautiful beech trees; rogue campfires on rock outcrops; and not-so-stealthy campsites just a few feet from the trail.

POOF! Heartsink. Yanked from my whimsical state, I stop to pick up shiny bits of trash. When I pop in on a random shelter or stop at a familiar or favorite spot, my eyes automatically scan the floor (recently swept?), shelves-bunks-table (useless junk left behind?), log book (have the pages been graffitied or torn out and burned?), fire ring (are fires allowed here? And why are people still amused by trying to burn aluminum and glass?).

Of course, trash is not the only way to ruin a place. Don't pick that lady slipper, don't bust the fungus off that tree, don't



Cheryl Byrne

take the piece of white quartz sitting on that ledge. Leave them for others to enjoy.

If you're on the trail, you love the places the trail takes you. They are so unlike everywhere else in our frontcountry lives. Take care of the backcountry, and leave it the magical place it should be.

—CHERYL BYRNE,
FORMER GMC FIELD ASSISTANT

Minimize Campfire Impacts

Anyone who knows me knows I love fire. There is nothing I enjoy more than a campfire, the occasional small bonfire or putting my feet up in front of a woodstove. The GMC supports the use of wood as a low-carbon renewable energy source. But as a trail

manager, I'm torn. We've all seen it—the giant fire ring filled with half-charred green wood and scorched tinfoil.

More than 200,000 people hike on the Long Trail System each year, and many campsites are stripped of firewood. The only alternative until recently was to use a gas cook stove for meals and hot drinks. In these times of changing climate and diminishing fossil fuel supplies that answer is not as supportable as it once was.

Fortunately there is a new generation of backpacking cook stoves that burn small quantities and pieces of wood cleanly and efficiently. They are a great alternative to gas cook stoves or campfires, and they have low impacts on the environment. Just remember not to cook in shelters, on picnic tables or tent platforms!

Fires are prohibited at some campsites, where the forest is fragile and growth and regrowth are slow. Other sites have designated fire rings. If you decide to make a fire, build it no larger than necessary, use dead and downed wood, keep the wood small (wrist size or smaller), and burn it completely to ash if you can.

I appreciate the flexibility that this Leave No Trace principle affords, and the new technology and techniques that enable us, where permitted, to enjoy fires responsibly.

—PETE ANTOS-KETCHAM, GMC DIRECTOR
OF LAND AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Continued next page



Pete Antos-Ketcham

Continued from previous page

Kim Rosenbaum



Respect Wildlife

I haven't had any big dramatic wildlife moments, like rescuing a baby bear stuck up a tree while mama bear watches (don't try this). But I have had many small encounters, all instilling an ever deeper sense of my responsibility to the wild things I meet.

I am the girl who will stop and prod any living thing off the trail, encouraging it to move to a safer spot. Recently, I came across a snake lying across the trail in the worst, most vulnerable position of having recently swallowed another snake about its same size. This garter snake had ingested about half of the other snake, headfirst, its mid-body and tail hanging out of the victor's mouth. I gazed upon this sight in wonder for a few moments, and saw the snake watching me, assessing whether he himself was doomed, unable to fight or move. I bid him farewell and moved on quickly, not wanting to cause him further stress, this time knowing that attempting to move him along would have been the most disruptive thing I could do.

The animals we encounter in the woods are unique individuals that

deserve our respect, especially as we move through the places they call home. Whether in the city or the wild, I try to be as mindful as possible. It's about living with a heart of kindness. The more we do it, the easier and more habitual it becomes.

—KIM ROSENBAUM,
FORMER SOUTHERN FIELD ASSISTANT

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

Being considerate on the trail isn't always easy. As with any other Leave No Trace principle, there are differing schools of thought. For the most part, it means adhering to the golden rule and extending common courtesy. Your personal bubble should never become an atmosphere that absorbs others'.

If your music, smoking, language, proximity—or really, anything—is hindering someone else's wilderness experience, you should take that into consideration. There are few absolute rules when it comes to enjoying the backcountry, but rather much unspoken etiquette.

A few examples: yielding the right-of-way, keeping your music to yourself, not crowding a stranger's site, and my personal favorite—acknowledgement. It isn't in the LNT list of principles, but simply acknowledging a passerby is one of the most considerate things you can do in a four-second interaction on the trail. Just a simple "Hi", "Howdy", or "Happy trails!" can make a big difference.

When you notice someone crossing the line into discourtesy, it is best to address it subtly. Nobody wants to be lectured, and you'd probably prefer not to be thought of as "that guy."

—ADAM JOSEPH, GMC CARETAKER



Adam Joseph

Adventurous Women Learn Backcountry Skills

Two groups of women, led by GMC field staff Ilana Copel, Camille Robertson, Emily Benning, and Caitlin Miller, set out for an overnight backpacking workshop on the Long Trail this summer.

Not just any hiker decides to carry several days of food and gear, set up a tent, sleep through whatever weather develops, wake up, and do it all again. This June, however, I spent the weekend with six women who were learning to do just that.

Camille Robertson (2012, '13, '15 field staff) and I co-led a one-night introductory backpacking workshop to Beaver Meadow Lodge, just east of the Sterling Range. Our group ranged in age from the late twenties to the early fifties. It included a New Yorker and a retired schoolteacher, both planning Long Trail thru-hikes; an ice climber looking for a hiking network; a Senatorial aide wishing to gain map and planning skills; and a pair of young women inspired by their significant others.

Needless to say, we had a lot to talk about. There were the basics (What to pack! How to pack it!) and the endless gear options (Which stove? Which water treatment method?), but on this trip we also covered topics often glossed over, such as backpacking while menstruating, picking healthy trail food, and safety when hitchhiking alone.

Our group was enthusiastic, energetically reviewing equipment, brainstorming methods of finding hiking partners, and even setting a bear hang to protect their food. They were also inspiringly honest, voicing concerns about slowing down others in hiking clubs, encountering ill-intentioned strangers, or simply smelling terrible a week into the woods. Over a campfire we talked about why women might feel or be made to feel physically or emotionally uncomfortable on the trail, as well as methods of overcoming or taking action in response to discomfort.

Before walking out in the morning, we discussed what skills we'd gained and how we'd apply them in the future. A recurring sentiment was the desire for everything to become second nature, which



led us to one of the weekend's major takeaway messages: with practice, each camp stove dinner is less stressful, each tent setup is smoother, and each muddy, rocky, glorious step is taken a little more confidently.

Backpacking requires proper planning and preparation, but is a sport open to any age, experience level, and—of course—gender. Camille and I had a blast working with everyone, and we look forward to seeing them on the trail!

—ILANA COPEL, GMC CARETAKER

I'm not usually a fan of bribes. But I could tell the trip leaders were instantly more popular with our intro-level overnight class as we spread a field of brightly colored bandanas across the picnic table. The women laughed as they divided the array of zebra print, tie-dyed and neon camo cotton fabric among themselves and thanked us for the gift... until we told them the bandanas weren't to make fashion statements.

Looks of horror crossed the faces of more than a few as I explained that we were doling out "pee rags," an eco-friendly alternative to toilet paper for doing number one in the woods. Initial shock turned to cautious giggles as we told them that wiping with a pee rag rather than drip drying reduces chafing, the risk of urinary tract infections and other unpleasantness associated with wearing the same shorts for three days. When asked what you did with a damp

pee rag, we proclaimed that you proudly tie it on your pack to dry in the sun as your personal "pee flag" until you can toss it into the laundry with the rest of your hiking clothes.

At this point everyone was laughing outright. We had opened the door for a shameless weekend of excellent questions about sensitive women-specific issues while in the woods, as well as gear selection, packing, Leave No Trace principles and backcountry safety. Everyone emerged from the woods a bit dirtier, more confident and increasingly comfortable with themselves ... and proudly flying their pee flags high.

—EMILY BENNING,
SOUTHERN FIELD ASSISTANT





1



2



5



Autumn Water

- 1 Unknown location: Sheri Larsen
- 2 Ritterbush Pond: Chris Diegel
- 3 Big Branch: Matt Larson
- 4 Lye Brook Falls: Charles C. Helfer
- 5 Wheeler Pond: Megan Duni
- 6 Belvidere Pond: Charles C. Helfer
- 7 Hell Brook: Chris Diegel
- 8 Nebraska Notch: Chris Diegel
- 9 Little Rock Pond: Matt Larson



7



3



6



4



8



9



Caretakers: This fall our caretaker program is covering all of the usual high-use sites, including Griffith Lake thanks to some additional financial help from some members of the GMC Trail Management Committee. We are also helping the Green Mountain National Forest monitor visitor use and camping in the Lye Brook Wilderness by stationing a caretaker at Branch and Bourn Ponds. We are planning improvements to the Branch Pond Trail to minimize impacts to the watershed, and we are working with the University of Vermont to help learn about illegal motorized access into Glastenbury Wilderness.

Long Trail Patrol: The LTP is focusing on additional drainage and trail hardening to high use side trails.

We're preparing to relocate another mile of Long Trail road walk in Bolton onto Camel's Hump State Park. The trail will run along the Winooski River south of the new bridge between the river and farm fields. We will build stiles to cross electric fences where needed. Trail scouting south of Duxbury Road will be done with the Montpelier Section to see whether more of the trail can be relocated into the woods near the Long Trail parking lot at the base of Bamforth Ridge.

Bolton Lodge and Bryant Camp: We are acquiring permits to proceed with camp renovations in Bolton. We hope to start work on Bryant Camp during the

summer, and to work on Bolton Lodge in the fall. The Winooski River Footbridge and northern Long Trail relocation on Stimson Mountain are open to hikers. The former Long Trail between Jonesville and Bolton Notch Road is now a blue-blazed side trail.

Green Mountain National Forest: We are catching up on our shelter maintenance backlog on the Green Mountain National Forest, and plan to do roof work on Boyce, Sucker Brook and Story Spring Shelters. With funding from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy we will replace the composting privy drying rack at Stratton Pond Shelter. Other improvements to the Stratton Pond area are in the works. The major ones are more camping and waste management capacity near the shelter, and closing the North Shore Trail, which is repeatedly flooded.

Volunteer Long Trail Patrol: The VLTP is working on the Long Trail on the Peru Peak-Styles Peak ridge, and on reopening the East Dorset Trail. The East Dorset Trail leads east uphill along a stream toward Mad Tom Notch. Tropical Storm Irene severely damaged the stream valley, but we are confident a trail can lead from U.S. Route 7 in the Battenkill Valley to the Long Trail at Mad Tom Notch.

Because the GMC field staff is part of the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps we were able to get funding from the U.S. Forest Service for additional work on the East Dorset Trail and in the

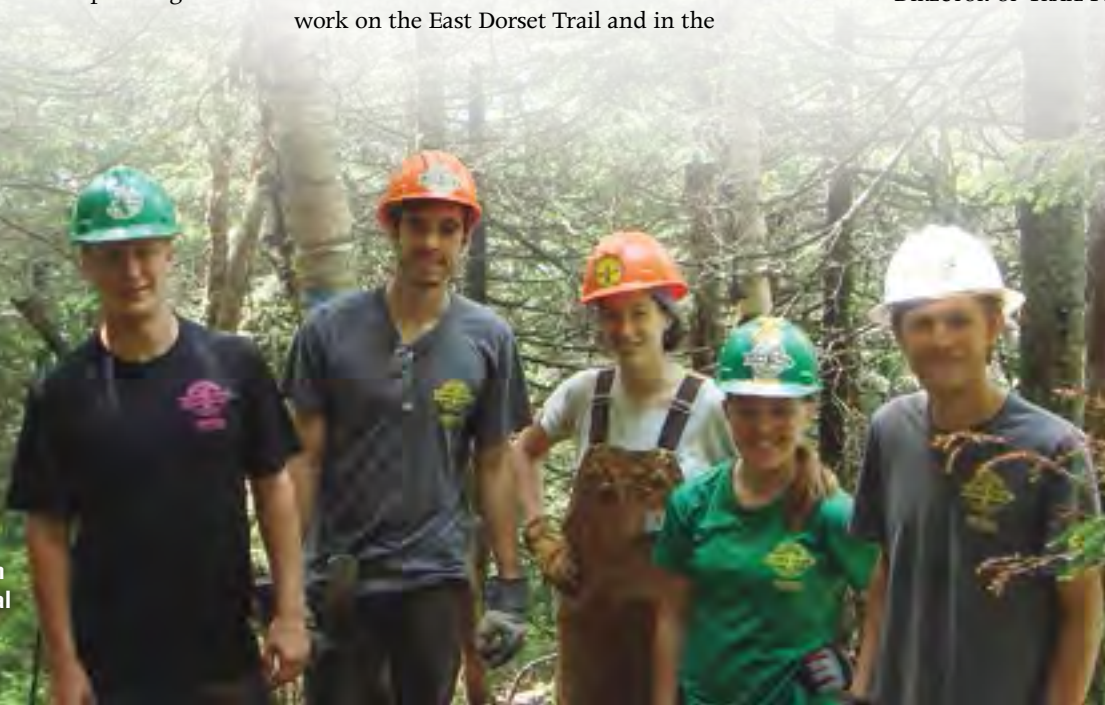
Breadloaf Wilderness near Ripton. Membership in the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps helps the club employ youth work crews and build a stronger link between outdoor recreation and America's youth.

Northeast Kingdom Trails: The Northwoods Stewardship Center's trail crew spent three weeks cutting the Unknown Pond Trail from Route 114 in Norton to Unknown Pond as part of the Kingdom Heritage Lands trail system. The club manages the system in cooperation with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Our goal is to complete the trail system from Bluff Mountain north to Gore Mountain in the next ten years.

Volunteers: We remain indebted to volunteers who regularly mark and brush the Long Trail through the hiking season, as well as clear drainage and perform spring and fall walk-throughs. They are essential to managing the Long Trail and the Appalachian Trail in Vermont. Thank you for your dedication and patience as we strive to both provide good maintenance of our trails and campsites, and improve the tracking of volunteer hours. Accurately reporting volunteer time is important to our partners, and is required for our participation in Americorps and the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps.

—DAVE HARDY,
DIRECTOR OF TRAIL PROGRAMS

Long Trail Patrol
l-r: Mike Kearns,
Gabe Haug,
Sorrel Dunn, Sarah
Kotnik, Max Crystal





2015 Field Staff Back row l-r: Kevin Hudnell, Kurt Melin, Emma Link, Sarah Kotnik, Dave Hardy (GMC Director of Trail Programs), Marla Davidson, Rachel Masoud, Darcy Anderson, Elisabeth Fenn, Camille Robertson, Sorrel Dunn, David Castrignano, Peter Weck, Megan Paugh, Tim Elkin, Amelia Williams, Steve Desaulniers, Matt Shea Front row l-r: Michael Lawrence, Jonathan Feldman, Sabory Huddle, Justin Towers, Mike Kearns, Carly Schneider, Ilana Copel, Gabe Haug, Jack Minich, Max Crystal, Emily Benning, Jake Chinitz, James Robertson, Caitlin Miller, Dana Passman, Daley Matthews-Pennanen Front, front row: Adam Joseph Missing: Hugh and Jeanne Joudry

Autumn Colors

Hiking in Vermont is one of the best ways to watch the beautiful ritual of death and renewal as trees prepare for winter and the next growing season. The kaleidoscope of color we enjoy so much is the result of chemical changes to leaves of deciduous trees, which shed their leaves or needles annually.

While multiple factors both inside the plant (for instance, nutrients and acidity) and in the environment (such as temperature, moisture and sunlight) contribute to the duration and color of foliage, day length is the primary signal that summer is over and it's time to prepare for winter. When days shorten you and I buy firewood and get out our warmer layers. Deciduous trees start a process called senescence—the dying phase of leaves.

Cells between the leaf and stem begin to expand rapidly, forming a corky abscission layer that serves two purposes: 1) it blocks the flow of water, minerals, and nutrients be-

tween tree and leaf; and 2) creates a clean breaking point that enables the leaf to harmlessly fall from the tree once its work is done.

To understand where fall colors come from, we need to know why leaves are green to begin with. The green color comes from chlorophyll—a light absorbing pigment in plants that is used in the process of converting sunlight to food. Chlorophyll absorbs certain wavelengths of visible light—reds and yellows—and reflects others. The green we see is the wavelength reflected from the leaves.

In fall, as the abscission layer forms, the production of chlorophyll slows, then stops. Without the production of chlorophyll, the green fades rapidly (imagine a piece of colored paper left out in the sun) and the yellow, orange, and blue pigments become visible.

We get red and purple pigments from sugars trapped in the dying leaves. Brown pigments come from tannins. They're what remain after all of the other pigments break down (picture brown oak or beech leaves rustling in cold winter winds).

Each year the process begins anew. We are fortunate in Vermont to witness this amazing blast of foliage color that is part of the necessary and natural cycle of renewal in our forests.

—MIKE DeBONIS

Mike is a forester and Executive Director of the Green Mountain Club



NIKA MEYERS

Hiker Impacts: When Leaving Footprints is Too Much

Mount Mansfield has a long and glorious history of exploration. From intrepid botanists collecting vegetative samples in the nineteenth century, to Summit House guests going for an evening stroll to Balancing Rock, to the 50,000 hikers who reached the ridgeline last summer, Mansfield sees a lot of use. Directing that use onto trails and durable surfaces is the job of the summit caretaker. My job this summer is to see how they've been doing.

As a quick refresher, the basic premise of this study is to duplicate photos taken along the ridgeline of Mount Mansfield in 2004. (Figure 1 shows the camera and meter board set up for a transect photo.) These locations were chosen because they showed distinct evidence of trampling. These sites were just off the side of the marked trail, and at least partially denuded of vegetation. The question is, how do these sites look now?

The answer is: excellent. Many of the sites show dramatic increases in vegetative cover. Figure 2 shows one of the more impressive recoveries. What used to be an off-trail shortcut is now home to many species of alpine vegetation, including crinkled hair grass, brownish sedge, spiked woodrush and alpine bilberry.

But that is not the whole story. Some sites, like the one shown in Figure 3, show little to no recovery. Why this is the case, and how we can encourage vegetative growth in these areas in the future, is the next challenge.

As the summer progresses, I'll move on from taking photos to analyzing them. It is likely that site conditions have an influence on recovery. Do wetter spots recover more quickly than dryer areas? Is the distance from the visitor center or the blazed trail a factor? Could the type of trail management have an effect? Perhaps areas with puncheon recover more quickly. I hope patterns will begin to emerge, and that by the end of the season



Figure 1: This shows the arrangement of camera and meter-board at Transect 1. This is the set-up from 2004. Having these reference photos helps in recreating the original images.



Figure 2: Transect 1, located just north of the Halfway House trail junction.

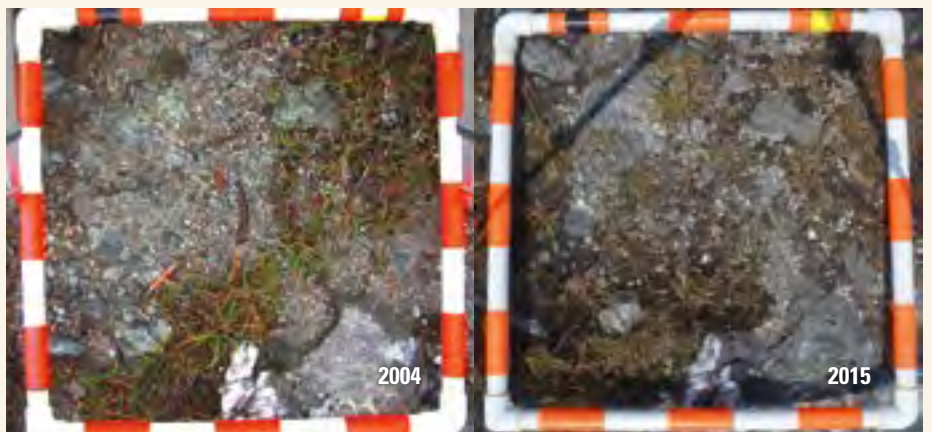


Figure 3: Quadrat 4b, which is located just north of Frenchman's Pile.

we'll have a handful of solid theories that can be used to influence future caretaking efforts.

So next time you're on an alpine summit, remember that those string lines and low scree walls have a purpose. Help us protect alpine vegetation, and maybe in another decade we will have changed

sites like Figure 3 into regrowth success stories.

—ELISABETH FENN,
GMC RESEARCH COORDINATOR

This project was made possible thanks to generous grants from the Lintilhac Foundation and the Waterman Fund.

Club Closes on Headwaters Camp

Many years ago Luke O'Brien, president of the Northeast Kingdom Section and director of trails and development for the Northwoods Stewardship Center, took me to visit Unknown Pond and Headwaters Camp, a very rustic one-room hunting camp.

We were in the middle of what seemed to be nowhere—no houses, no electricity, and few roads. But nowhere was actually Avery's Gore, a remote uninhabited and unorganized township. And Headwaters Camp—so called because Unknown Pond holds the headwaters of the Nulhegan River—sits at the southern base of Middle Mountain. I was smitten at first sight.

The camp was built in the early 1970s by the Stevens family of Island Pond. According to Ross Stevens, director of the conservation corps for the Northwoods Stewardship Center, the camp was built of lumber from a shed once attached to his multi-generation family home, with rafters cut on site.

The GMC had just become the corridor manager for hiking trails in the Kingdom Heritage Lands (formerly Champion Lands), and was scouting a new hiking trail over Middle Mountain near the camp. Once we decided to route the trail past the camp, Luke wrote an



article about the Kingdom Heritage Lands for the *Long Trail News*. He received a surprised response from Norm Grearson, the camp owner.

"The piece talked about the goal to connect the Bluff and Gore trails over Middle Mountain, and included a route map," says Luke. "A few weeks later I received a handwritten letter from Norman stating: 'It appears the trail goes through my front yard, and I would like to talk to you about it.' I was nervous, and didn't know what to expect, but sitting at my kitchen table looking at maps and discussing plans, he told me, 'I'm not an adversary, I'm an advocate ... and I would like to help.'"

"Norman did indeed help. And in return, we helped him keep the camp

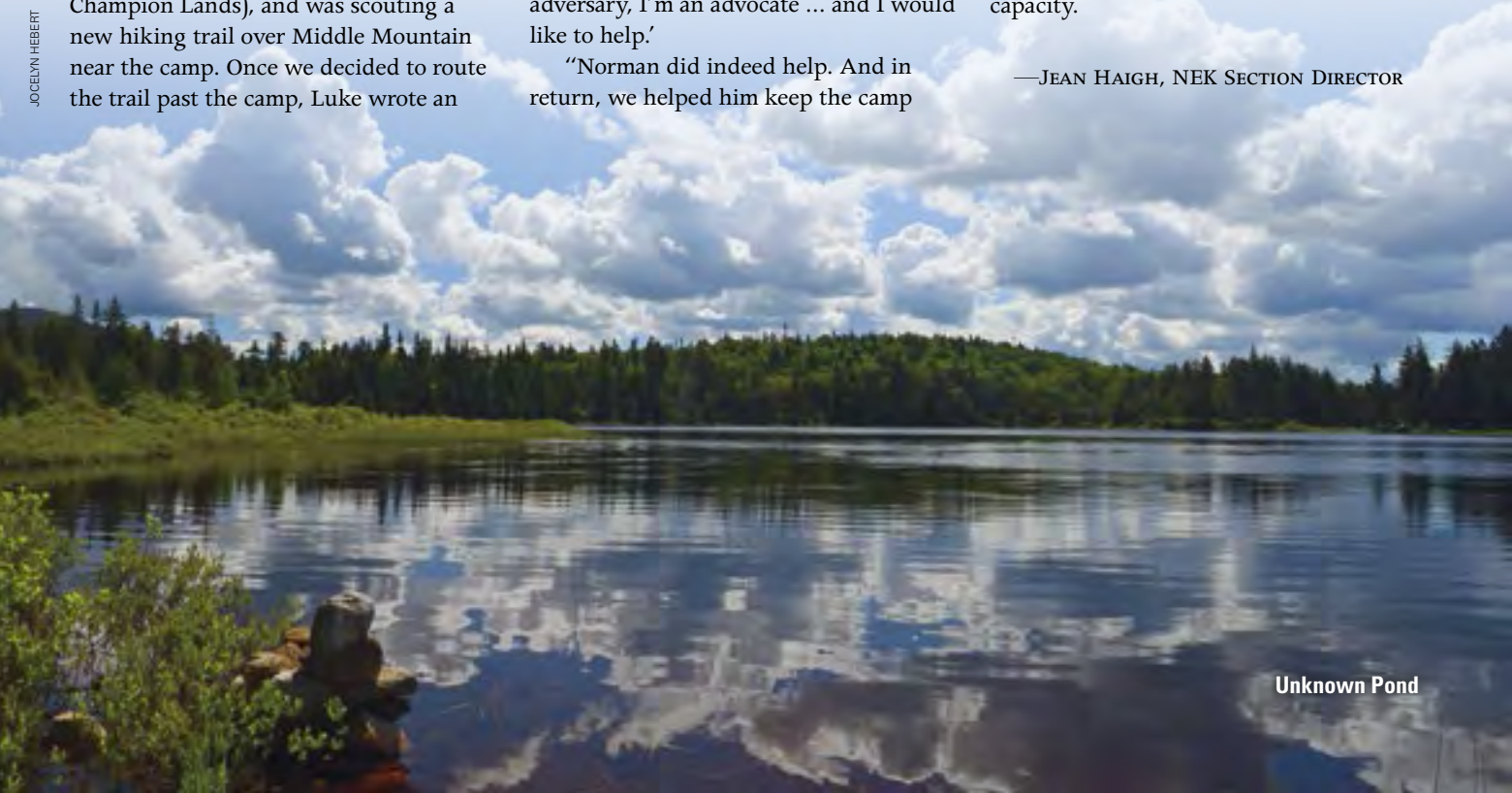
cleared of snow and in good order. He offered advice on our trail route and we—taking into consideration much of his advice and wisdom on the area around Middle Mountain and Unknown Pond—incorporated many of his hunting trails into our route."

Later Norm gave the GMC the opportunity to include the camp as well as the pond as integral components of the new trail system, by deciding to sell it to us. His decision did not come easily, for the camp exemplifies who he is. Norm partnered with the club because he wanted someone he

could count on to care for the camp with the same respect and love as he had for so many years. The sale closed on May 29, 2015, at GMC headquarters. The club will make improvement this year to prepare the camp for overnight use.

Headwaters Camp joins four other camps under GMC management: Bolton Lodge, Bryant Camp, and two cabins at Wheeler Pond. A GMC Camps Committee now works with staff to support our camps programs, and is working to establish systems for effective camp management, including management plans, budgets and volunteer leadership capacity.

—JEAN HAIGH, NEK SECTION DIRECTOR





Winooski River Footbridge Opening Celebration

BELOW: Eleven Green Mountain Club presidents and three executive directors posing for group photo at the Winooski River Footbridge opening celebration on June 12, 2015. L-R: Dennis Shaffer (ED), Joe Frank, Brian Fitzgerald, Kim Simpson, Paul Hannon, Rolf Anderson, Mike DeBonis (ED), Marty Lawthers, Andrew Nuquist, Richard Windish, Marge Fish, Jean Haigh, John Page, Ben Rose (ED)

Ollie





1930s GMC caretaker
Daan Zwick painting
blaze on bridge



Daan Zwick crossing the bridge



Senator Dick Mazza and President Jean Haigh cutting the ribbon



Former board member and project supporter Paul Kendall
crossing the bridge



Field staff on bridge

We Couldn't Have Done it Without You!

Securing a permanent Long Trail crossing of the Winooski River in Bolton has been a goal of the Green Mountain Club for more than one hundred years. Because of the support of our friends and partners, this goal has been accomplished!

Thank you to everyone who helped us succeed:

- Engineers Construction Inc. (ECI) who helped build the bridge
- Vanasse Hangen Brustlin Inc. (VHB), our bridge engineers
- Kleinhans Construction and Welding
- GMC's bridge crew: Matt Wels, Sam Parisi, Kurt Melin, and Pat O'Brien
- The State of Vermont
- The Town of Bolton
- Vermont's Congressional delegation
- Governor Howard Dean, Senator Dick Mazza, the late Senator Robert Gannett, and all of our friends in the Vermont Legislature
- Daan Zwick for his anchor gift, and our 1,400 other generous supporters for their gifts
- GMC's 9,500 members and fourteen sections
- GMC's staff: Ben Rose, Susan Shea, Bob Lincoln, Maisie Howard, Pete Antos-Ketcham, Dave Hardy and many others, past and present
- The GMC Board of Directors and other volunteers, including especially Kim Simpson, chair of the GMC Land Protection Committee, and its members
- All the other generous supporters and partners who made this project possible

End of an Era: Jill Haas Leaves GMC

Jill Haas walked through GMC's door as a volunteer in 2000. Shortly after, she accepted a part-time position as membership and fundraising clerk. We said goodbye to Jill in late July after fifteen years of unwavering dedication, when she left to pursue semi-retirement, travel and new opportunities.

GMC has been enriched by many people who distinguished themselves by leaving physical marks on our trails. Jill enriched us by making her mark within the organization. Eventually she became our full time database manager, supporting and guiding the club's ever-growing membership and development departments—arguably two of the most important areas in the organization.

Jill's attention to detail and high standards have made our database nearly



Jill Haas and Doris Washburn

flawless. If something in the system went amiss, she fixed it—immediately! An efficient organizer, she ensured that bulk mailings, the *Long Trail News*, section

reports and anything else that required a long, accurate list made it out the door on schedule. She was the timekeeper, the big picture person, the glue.

On Thursdays Jill would emerge from her office, leaving the spreadsheets and queries behind, and spend much of the day working with the regular office volunteers. There was a lot of storytelling and laughter, often led by Jill. We know she will miss them as much as they, and the rest of the staff, will miss her.

Jill, when you hear the phantom cow bell ring at noon on Thursdays, remember, not only is it lunchtime, but we will be thinking of you. Thank you and we wish you the best!

—THE ENTIRE GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB COMMUNITY



Family Time on the Trail

Alison and Derrick Whritenour, members of the Burlington Section, have been hiking on the Long Trail system with their daughter, Mabel, who is eighteen months old. They explained why they enjoy it and its value to their family.

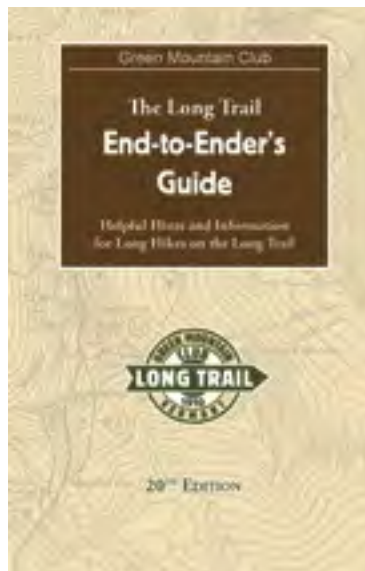
"We love to spend time together as a family, and enjoy fresh air on the Long Trail away from our day-to-day lives. We started taking Mabel when she was seven months old, and she loves it! We try our best to get out on the trails every weekend when the weather permits, but of course we are on toddler time, so we need to be flexible. We hope that by introducing our daughter to this at an early age she will develop an appreciation for nature and realize how fortunate she is to live in such a beautiful environment. This was a big reason for relocating our family from New Jersey to Vermont!

"Nebraska Notch is one of our favorite trails, because there are so many great views and different things to look at. Mabel *loves* spending time in Butler and Taylor Lodge—sweeping and opening the windows are great entertainment for her. We think she thinks it's a giant play house.

"Hiking with a toddler is definitely an adventure. You have to be prepared for the unexpected. There are days when we worry we are packing too much, but then it is 30 degrees at the top of the trail and we are happy we had that winter hat and fleece. For us, patience is key. Especially now that our daughter is becoming more independent, she wants to explore more on her own, which often means stopping to look at every single flower and rock along the way. It's so fun to watch her as she grows, and to see what she is interested in. While our pace may be slower now, we know she is getting more out of the experience."



Mabel



Top Ten Ways to Support GMC!

1. Join the Green Mountain Club; ask friends to join, too.
2. Volunteer on the trail, at events or at club headquarters in Waterbury Center.
3. Adopt a section of the Long Trail System, or a shelter or tent site.
4. Ask your employer to match your membership and annual contributions.
5. Shop at the GMC Visitor Center in Waterbury Center or on our web store.
6. Patronize GMC business members that support the work of the club.
7. Give the gift of membership for a special occasion.
8. Include a bequest to GMC in your will.
9. Memorialize a loved one or role model: celebrate their appreciation for Vermont's mountains with a gift in their name.
10. Donate stock, property, or other assets to the club as a tax-deductible gift.

Thank You Publications Committee Members

With new editions of *The Long Trail End-to-Ender's Guide* and *50 Hikes in Vermont* released this past spring, we would like to thank the volunteers that helped make the production of these books possible, especially Rebecca Harvey and Steve Airolidi for editing the *End-to-Ender's Guide* and Doug McKain for editing *50 Hikes in Vermont*. Both of these books are available on our online store, www.greenmountainclub.org, or at the visitor center store in Waterbury Center.

—MATT KREBS,
PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR



Petra Halsema and Ben Lange

Adopters of the Sterling Pond Trail



The Green Mountain Club is able to maintain the Long Trail thanks largely to the work of devoted volunteers. Motivated by love of mountains and trails, these are people who literally aren't afraid to get their hands dirty. They brave rain and blazing sun, mud and mosquitoes (as well as the completion of trail and shelter reports!), to keep the Long Trail and Appalachian Trail available to the public. Our volunteers are passionate people, typically moved to donate their time following a meaningful experience on the trail.

Petra Halsema and Ben Lange are two such volunteers. After living elsewhere for several years, they returned to Vermont seven years ago so Petra could attend Vermont Law School and Ben the UVM School of Medicine. Today they call central Vermont home, and belong to the GMC's Montpelier Section. After an end-to-end Long Trail hike they adopted the Sterling Pond Trail, a side trail leading from Route 108 to the Long Trail, through the club's Trail and Shelter Adopter Program. We asked Petra and Ben about their experience as trail

maintainers and what inspires them to volunteer.

How did you learn about the Green Mountain Club?

We first learned about the GMC while planning to hike the Long Trail. We used the GMC's *End-to-End*'s Guide and the Long Trail map, both of which were invaluable planning tools. We joined the GMC after we finished hiking the LT in 2008.

What was your first experience on the Long Trail and how did it inspire you?

Our first experience with the Long Trail was hiking it from end to end the summer before Petra entered law school. It was our longest backpacking trip (so far!) and one of the most challenging things either of us had ever done. It was a wonderful way to explore our new home state. We still have vivid memories of our days on the trail and the people we met along the way. We hope to hike it again one day.

What made you volunteer as adopters?

After hiking the LT, we became interested in trail work. It seemed like a fun way to give back and learn some new skills.

How did you learn to do trail work?

We didn't have any experience doing trail work prior to volunteering. The book provided by GMC got us started. GMC's trail adopter workshop brought the concepts to life.

When you're maintaining this trail, what do you spend most of your time doing?

We spend a lot of time clearing water bars and trying to reduce erosion. Sterling

Pond is one of the most popular trails in the area. People are often curious about what we're doing, so we try to do a little Leave No Trace education while we're out there, too.

What is the best part of being trail adopters?

Having an excuse to get out on the trail as much as possible!

Has the experience of adopting a section of trail changed how you view the trail?

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.

Apart from the section of trail you maintain, what other areas of Vermont and the Long Trail do you like to explore?

We love the mountains in the Worcester Range and the Northeast Kingdom. In winter, we enjoy skiing the Bolton backcountry, and have been exploring the Catamount Trail.

Would you recommend the volunteer experience to someone else?

Absolutely. The staff and volunteers at GMC are a wonderful group of people, and it's a great way to get outdoors!

Thanks, Petra and Ben, for your hard work!

—JENNY MONTAGNE, MEMBERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about the GMC's Trail and Shelter Adopter program, please contact Jenny Montagne, jmontagne@greenmountainclub.org.

VLTP Progress Report

The Volunteer Long Trail Patrol crushed rock and scooped pounds of mud for three weeks on the Long Trail/Appalachian Trail in Peru Peak Wilderness in the Green Mountain National Forest. From France to Russia to Tennessee we came in search of stewardship, adventure, learning and fun. We were blessed with clear skies most days, comfortable temperatures, and Griffith Lake just a half mile away.

Bagels, oatmeal, Nutella, coffee and hot chocolate began the day. Then it was up, up, up about eight hundred feet to an intoxicating evergreen-scented breeze at the 3,429-foot summit of Peru Peak, a commute that got our blood pumping and warmed us for the workday. As we approached our blue-tarp-burrito tool cache, we placed bets on how many slugs had made temporary homes in our GMC hard hats.

Tools in hand, we hiked a half mile along the Peru Peak-Styles Peak ridge to



Volunteer Long Trail Patrol

harden a fairly level treadway in use for almost a century! Step one was finding glacial remnants—reminiscent of blackboard slate—hiding in the woods. A double-jack sledge hammer, our new best friend, smashed each rock with one blow. We ran the crush station all day; crush was in high demand. Some of the crew quarried rocks in the spruce-fir forest,

while others demucked the trail and improved drainage.

Passing hikers enthusiastically thanked us, and commented on Vermont's beauty. At lunch we filled tortillas with personal concoctions of peanut butter, cheese, pepperoni, tuna, hummus, cucumber (obviously not all one tortilla!); posed riddles; and enjoyed the solitude and stillness of the wilderness. Afternoons were much like mornings. Each afternoon we sealed the project by filling holes, setting rocks and fluffing vegetation to

camouflage our quarry trails. We relaxed at evening in the bliss that follows hard work, with countless card games and swims in Griffith Lake.

We laid more than two hundred square feet of crush fill, set thirteen step stones, cleared many drains, built a two-step staircase, and generally maintained almost a mile of trail. The commitment, heart and passion of our volunteers was astounding and inspiring. I feel honored to have done such meaningful, lasting and honest work with these folks, and I thank them for the chance to experience their overwhelmingly giving nature. I'm also grateful for the beautiful weather, and for a firmer trail that will keep hikers' feet just a little drier!

Next stop for the VLTP is East Dorset, where we will build a new trail along Mad Tom Brook. With cascades, smooth beech trees and swimming holes galore, I am sure there will be many joyful, celebratory and enlightening moments ahead!

—MEGHAN PAUGH, VOLUNTEER LONG TRAIL PATROL CREW LEADER

VOLUNTEER PICNIC SAVE THE DATE!

Calling all Green Mountain Club volunteers for a day of food, entertainment by local bluegrass musicians Two Cents in the Till, and celebration. Whether you're a lifetime volunteer or just starting out with the club, you're invited to attend our annual volunteer appreciation picnic at the GMC Headquarters in Waterbury Center this fall. Come share a meal with other volunteers as we honor your accomplishments and give thanks for all of your hard work. We look forward to seeing you in September!

Please RSVP to jmontagne@greenmountainclub.org by Friday, September 18.

Who: GMC's amazing volunteers!

Where: GMC Headquarters, Waterbury Center

When: Saturday, September 26 at 1:30 p.m.

MEET THE STAFF



Pete Antos-Ketcham has more than twenty-two years of experience in backcountry facility and long-distance hiking trail management. His role at GMC has morphed from caretaker to field supervisor to education coordinator. Today he is director of land and facilities management, and oversees the management and protection of 35,000 acres of Long Trail and

Appalachian Trail lands in Vermont. Pete lives on a five-acre homestead in Starksboro with his wife Katie and their twins Bailey and Carter.



Maureen Davis is an information specialist in the visitor center. A native Rhode Islander, she grew up sailing and beachcombing. She has relocated often around the U.S., and has worked for several different nonprofit organizations. Maureen enjoys spending time outside and is a Certified Naturalist, avid gardener, hiker and walker of her two dogs. In the winter she snowshoes

or Nordic skis, then retreats indoors for a cup of tea and a good book, or to work on her fabric art creations. She has raised two daughters, and lives with her husband Mike in Morristown.



After three seasons caretaking and leading the GMC Volunteer Long Trail Patrol, **Emily Benning** is now the southern field assistant. She's in the woods every day, and only knows it's a day off if she makes it more than eight hours without shoveling out a composting privy. Emily has all of a plant science degree from Cornell University, and most of an illustration degree from Lyndon State College;

she hopes to finish her second degree someday, but secretly enjoys being both an Ivy League graduate and an art school dropout.



Mike DeBonis returned to his home state to join the GMC staff as executive director in 2014. Before that he was executive director of the Forest Guild, a national organization of professional foresters. In 1996 Mike completed a southbound AT thru-hike, and in 2004 he completed the Long Trail. Today he spends his spare time fixing things that rust and leak oil; current

projects include a 1958 VW single cab bus and a 1971 BSA motorcycle. Mike, his wife Jennifer and their two dogs live in Moretown.



Jason Buss held a variety of positions before becoming GMC's business manager. He was director of finance and technology at the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, harvest manager at Jericho Settlers Farm, an instructor with the UVM Farmer Training Program, and site manager at the School for Field Studies in the Turks and Caicos Islands. A gardener and former farmer, he maintains

two garden plots, and raises chickens in the city of Burlington, where he lives with his partner Carrie.



Alicia DiCocco joined the staff as director of development in 2014. She came to GMC from Spectrum Youth and Family Services, where she was database manager and development coordinator. She got her start in development at Boston University while volunteering with their community service center. Alicia moved to Vermont from Colorado with her husband Shay three years ago, and loves living in the Green

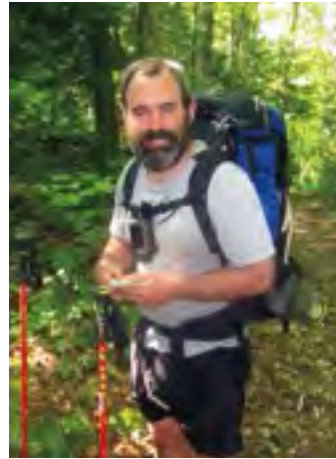
Mountains and spending time outdoors with her one-year-old daughter.

MEET THE STAFF



Jennifer Abolins Donley is manager of the visitor center, where she often greets guests with “Hello, Doll!” She grew up a military brat, primarily in Georgia, Texas, Pennsylvania and Germany, and graduated from the College of William and Mary. A passionate sports fan, she enjoys soccer, basketball, hiking and cycling. She is a fifteen-year season ticket holder of the Pittsburgh

Steelers. A second generation Latvian American, Jennifer also enjoys travel and spending time with her eight nieces and nephews. She lives in Stowe with her cat Pouncey and husband Ross.



Matt Krebs manages GMC’s operations and publications. He has worked at the club for more than six years as an information specialist, stewardship assistant and interim business manager as well as his current job. As a father of three he has a passion for getting kids out on the trail. He loves great adventures, and his have included thru-hiking both the Appalachian and Long Trails. These days he may

be found playing ultimate duck-duck-goose with his wife and three children at home in Craftsbury.



Dave Hardy has been maintaining trails since the 1970s, starting in New Hampshire’s White Mountains. He joined GMC as southern field assistant in 1992, and has been director of trail programs since 1999. A lifelong hiker, he thru-hiked the Long Trail in 1982, and has bagged countless peaks throughout the Northeast. He has been employed as an engineer, cook, baker and

trail program director. He also wins an occasional ribbon for his homebrewed beer. Dave lives at the foot of the Worcester Range with his wife Carol and a small herd of cats.



Caitlin Miller is a New Hampshire native who attended Bishop’s University in Sherbrooke, Quebec. She worked two field seasons as a GMC caretaker before becoming the club’s AmeriCorps-supported group outreach specialist. She works with groups planning to use the Long Trail, teaching them ways to minimize their impact, and heads the club’s education programs. Caitlin is an avid

hiker, backpacker, dog petter and creamee enthusiast. She is also a devotee of cajoling her boyfriend into marathon-watching television series with her.



Jocelyn Hebert became editor of the *Long Trail News* in 2013. After a Long Trail thru-hike in 2010 she decided to reinvent herself, and left a twenty-year career as a Vermont real estate appraiser behind. Now a two-time Long Trail end-to-end, she spends her free time hiking, photographing Vermont’s mountains, tending her perennial garden, working on her 1880s home, spending

time in Alaska with family, and seeking new adventures and challenges. Jocelyn is a Vermont native and lives in Calais.



Jenny Montagne is our membership and volunteer coordinator. She answers membership questions, plans outreach initiatives, supports GMC’s fourteen sections, and keeps track of the club’s extensive volunteer base. She enjoys meeting and working with such a fiercely dedicated group of outdoorspeople, and finding

creative ways to communicate the mission of the club to the people of Vermont and beyond. In her free time Jenny enjoys swimming in the Mad River, painting watercolor landscapes, and reading in the sun. She and her husband Ryan live in Moretown with their two feline friends Willy and Jane.

Kevin Hudnell See Journey’s End column on page 31.



Section Directory

Bennington

Maintenance: Harmon Hill to Glazenbury Mountain
President: Martha Stitelman, (802) 442-0864
E-mail: mstitel@sover.net
Website: www.bennington.com/outingclub

Brattleboro

Maintenance: Winhall River to Vt. 11/30
President: George Roy, (603) 381-7756
E-mail: neogeo03106@gmail.com
Website: www.brattleborogmc.com

Bread Loaf

Location: Middlebury area
Maintenance: Sucker Brook Shelter to Emily Proctor Shelter
President: Ruth Penfield, (802) 388-5407
E-mail: ruthpenfield@gmail.com
Website: www.gmcbreadloaf.org

Burlington

Maintenance: Jonesville to Smugglers' Notch
President: Ted Albers, (802) 557-7009
E-mail: ted@ted-albers.net
Website: www.gmcburlington.org

Connecticut

Location: Hartford, Connecticut
Maintenance: Glazenbury Mountain to Arlington-West Wardsboro Road
President: Jim Robertson, (860) 633-7279
E-mail: jrobert685@aol.com
Website: www.conngmc.com

Killington

Location: Rutland area
Maintenance: Vt. 140 to Tucker-Johnson Shelter site
President: Barry Griffith, (802) 492-3573
E-mail: Griff2Vt@vermontel.net
Website: www.gmckillington.org

Laraway

Location: St. Albans area
Maintenance: Vt. 15 to Vt. 118
President: Bruce Bushey, (802) 893-2146
E-mail: brbshey@comcast.net

Manchester

Maintenance: Vt. 11/30 to Griffith Lake
President: Marge Fish, (802) 824-3662
E-mail: marge.fish@gmail.com
Website: www.gmc-manchester.org

Montpelier

Maintenance: Bamforth to Jonesville and Smugglers' Notch to Chilcoat Pass
President: Reidun Nuquist, (802) 223-3550
E-mail: arnuquist@comcast.net
Website: www.gmcmontpelier.org

Northeast Kingdom

Location: Northeast Kingdom
Maintenance: Willoughby and Darling State Forests and the Kingdom Heritage Lands.
President: Luke O'Brien, (802) 467-3694
E-mail: luke@northwoodscenter.org
Website: www.nekgmc.org

Northern Frontier

Location: Montgomery
Maintenance: Hazen's Notch to Journey's End
President: Jane Williams, (802) 827-3879
E-mail: janiewilliams@surglobal.net

Ottawaquechee

Location: Upper Valley, and New Hampshire
Maintenance: Appalachian Trail from Maine Jctn. to the New Hampshire line
President: Inge Brown, (802) 296-5777
E-mail: inge.brown@dartmouth.edu
Website: http://gmc-o-section.org

Sterling

Location: Morrisville/Stowe/Johnson
Maintenance: Chilcoat Pass to Vt. 15
President: Greg Western, (802) 655-6051
E-mail: gw60031@hotmail.com
Website: www.gmcsterling.org

Worcester

Location: Worcester, Massachusetts
Maintenance: Arlington-West Wardsboro Rd. to Winhall River
President: Patricia Faron, (508) 892-9237
E-mail: Faron43@gmail.com

Montpelier Section

Montpelier Section Celebrates Sixty Years

To celebrate its sixtieth birthday, the Montpelier Section marched in the capital's popular Independence Day parade. It was a beautiful evening, and Main and State Streets were lined with spectators four and five deep who had descended on our small city for the annual festivity.

We were pleased to have President John Page and Executive Director Mike DeBonis walk in front with the GMC's eye-catching centennial banner. Then came former President Jean Haigh and the Montpelier Section banner. It took five stalwart members to handle the 27-foot Long Trail banner, mounted on tall, leafy saplings. Keeping it taut and upright in the light breeze took concentration and strength.

Spontaneous applause greeted the GMC and the Long Trail banner, which depicts the trail traversing major peaks of the Green Mountains as white boot prints on dark green background, as we walked down Main and State. I think we all felt proud to be connected with the trail that is such a cherished feature of the Vermont landscape.

After this shortest and easiest hike of the year, some of us lingered on the packed State House lawn for provisions from the food carts on State Street and for live music. Some stayed on for the dazzling fireworks display, best seen in the company of an enthusiastic, multi-generational crowd on the capitol steps.

The Long Trail banner, created by the Montpelier Section for its 50th anniversary, is available for loan to other sections.

—REIDUN NUQUIST,
MONTPELIER SECTION PRESIDENT





Bennington Section

Hiker Barbecue

The Bennington Section Hiker Barbecue held on Saturday, July 25 attracted more hikers than it did last year. So many in fact, we had to make a run to town to get more supplies!

Hikers began to arrive before the official 11:00 a.m. start but we managed to tide them over with brownies while the barbecue heated up. Bennington Section volunteers set up two 10 x10 shade structures with some dozen lawn chairs to provide a shady place to rest and eat.

The Section provided barbecue ingredients and individual members brought fresh veggies and the brownies. We also had donations of sodas, Cliff Bars, baked goods and tomatoes from people who found our event on Meetup and came to help. There were many well-fed, appreciative, and happy hikers!

It was another successful day of Bennington Section members and long distance hikers sharing hiking information and experiences on the trail.

—LORNA CHERITON,
BENNINGTON SECTION MEMBER



Burlington Section

Special Recognition Award: Dot Myer

GMC planned to present Dot Myer with the Special Recognition Award at last fall's volunteer appreciation picnic, however, she was unable to attend so received it at annual meeting on June 13.

Special Recognition Award: Dot Myer

Dot led hikes for the Burlington Section for fifty years! She began hiking with the University of Vermont Outing Club as a student. In 1956 she joined the GMC, and soon began leading hikes. Dot's hiking knowledge and experience are remarkable, and she has encouraged and inspired countless hikers over the years. While she has retired from being a hike leader, she does not plan to retire from hiking.

Northeast Kingdom Section

Phase I Complete

Congratulations to the Northwoods Stewardship Center and Green Mountain Club for completing Phase I of the Kingdom Heritage Lands Trail Network. The new trail leads from Vermont Route 114 (near the Hurricane Road) in Warren Gore east to Unknown Pond, and connects with the new Middle Mountain Trail leading over the summit ridge of Middle Mountain to the lower portion of the Gore Mountain Trail. When complete, the Kingdom Heritage Trail Network will provide more than eleven miles of hiking in the Northeast Kingdom.



Our education program offers a variety of courses and outings to help you have fun, be safe, and learn more about the outdoors. Register through our online GMC Store at www.greenmountainclub.org, or call (802) 244-7037.

FIRST AID

SOLO Wilderness First Aid

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17 AND 18,
9:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5 AND 6,
9:00 A.M.—5:00 P.M.

GMC VISITOR CENTER, WATERBURY CENTER

Sign up early—this course fills fast! This sixteen-hour, hands-on course will prepare you for backcountry medical emergencies. Its focus is on the prevention, recognition and treatment of injuries and illnesses. Wilderness First Aid (WFA) certification or Wilderness First Responder (WFR) recertification is provided upon completion. Instructors: Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities staff. Limit: 30. Fee: \$190. Please contact GMC if you need WFR recertification (additional fees apply). Register two weeks in advance.

Trail Maintenance Work Day and Picnic

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24
GIFFORD WOODS STATE PARK, KILLINGTON

Learn skills to maintain hiking trails by joining seasoned GMC field staff for this one-day workshop. We will work along the Appalachian Trail between Vermont Route 100 and Stony Brook Road. Participants will be trained to clean waterbars, clip brush, clear blowdowns, and paint blazes. Plan for a moderate day in the field followed by a cookout. No prior experience is necessary, and tools will be provided. Experienced and new volunteers are welcome to join. Instructors: GMC field staff. FREE. Register one week in advance. Meeting time will be provided at registration.

To register, please contact Director of Trail Programs Dave Hardy, dhardy@greenmountainclub.org or (802) 241-8320.



Autumn is Hunting Season

Hikers should be aware of hunters and wear blaze orange in the woods during the fall, especially during the busiest seasons. Blaze orange clothing should be visible from both the front and back. Avoid wearing brown or white, the colors of a deer. Dress your dog with bright bandanas or a blaze orange vest. Wave to make your presence known to hunters, but don't speak unless they speak first. If they are quietly hunting please do not disturb them. Hunting is allowed along the Long Trail and Appalachian Trail in Vermont. Be especially careful in valleys and near roads and trailheads.

The busiest hunting seasons are:

- Early Black Bear Season: September 1 – November 13
- 2014 Youth Rifle Deer Weekend: November 7-8
- Rifle Deer Season: November 14-29

For a complete list of Vermont hunting and trapping seasons from September through December, see www.vtfishandwildlife.com.



At the June 13 board meeting President Jean Haigh declared that the club had come a long way in the three years of her term. She expressed her appreciation to the board, the executive committee and the staff, and said so much could not have been accomplished without their support.

Treasurer Stephen Klein reported that the club had a great year from a financial perspective. Highlights included: timely completion of the outside audit; ending fiscal year 2015 with a small operating surplus; paying off the mortgage on the club's headquarters building; eliminating other long-term debt; and timely fiscal year 2016 budget approval by the board in March.

Executive Director Mike DeBonis announced that the Winooski River Footbridge and northern portion of the Long Trail relocation was officially opened on Friday, June 12, with well-deserved fanfare. Mike said that the ability to close the year with a surplus despite the additional burden of fundraising for the Win-

ooski Valley Long Trail Relocation was a tribute to the hard work and support of staff, volunteers, and members. He added that four vacant staff positions had been filled, and he thanked both staff and volunteers for their patience and faith in him over the past year.

The board took the following actions:

- Voted to approve the creation of a camps committee to provide strategic leadership, technical resources, and hands-on assistance with GMC camps management.
- Elected officers for the 2015-2016 year: president, John Page; vice president, Tom Candon; treasurer, Stephen Klein; secretary, Lee Allen.

Nominating Committee Chairman Richard Windish announced the election of Lars Botzjorns and Faith Brown to the board. He also noted that Sheri Larsen and Paul Houchens are beginning second terms and Dann Van Deer Vliet was appointed by President Jean Haigh to fill a vacant seat.

Jean passed the gavel to incoming President John Page. John accepted, and thanked Jean for her exceptional service to the club—in particular, for being a role model and mentor during his term as vice president. John said he felt it an incredible honor to be elected president, because the GMC and the Long Trail have been important presences in his life since the 1950s.

—TOM CANDON, SECRETARY

Call for New Board Members

The Green Mountain Club is seeking energetic, talented and dedicated volunteers to join its dynamic board of directors. Serving on the board is a great way to support the club and take a direct leadership role to secure its future.

Nominations (or inquiries) should be submitted to: Nominating Committee, c/o Executive Director, Green Mountain Club, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Center, Vermont 05677 (or e-mail mdebonis@greenmountainclub.org).

Nominations will be accepted until December 1, 2015, for consideration by the GMC Nominating Committee. An election ballot will be included in the spring 2016 *Long Trail News*.

—MIKE DEBONIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Your favorite trailhead for every adventure.

Visit the NEW CC Outdoor Store this Fall!

- Shop our bigger, better space
- Order from our new online store



Order online: www.ccoutdoorstore.com

Call: 802.244.4000 / US Toll-free 844.244.GEAR

Visit: 438 US Route 2, Waterbury, VT

Mon-Sat 9:30 – 5:30 pm, Sun: 11-4 pm

Ask for the GMC member discount on your next visit!

Outdoor Gear Exchange

NEW DISCOUNTED USED

Gear and Clothing for Every Season!

ROSSIGNOL

KELTY

THERMA-REST

Block Diamond

GREGORY

MOUNTAIN SMITH

37 Church Street Burlington (888) 547 4327

NIGHT EAGLE WILDERNESS ADVENTURES



A unique summer camp for boys,
ages 10-14, in the heart of
Vermont's Green Mountains



- ▲ tipi living ▲ nature crafts ▲
- canoeing ▲ archery
- wilderness skills ▲ bow drills
- backpacking ▲ atlantis
- tracking ▲ hawk throwing
- ▲ cooperative work and play ▲
- and much more!

ACA Accredited Camp

Call **802-446-6100**
for a full brochure

www.nighteaglewilderness.com

SLEEPY HOLLOW INN SKI & BIKE CENTER

- Winter and Summer
- Wedding packages in our
- Round Barn Event Center
- Mountain Biking and
- Nordic Skiing
- Eight Bedroom Bed &
- Breakfast

www.skisleepyhollow.com
email: info@skisleepyhollow.com
802-434-2283 or 1-866-254-1524
1805 Sherman Hollow Rd
Huntington, VT 05462

Vermont's Premier Craft Beer Shop

- Over 300 Beers
- Growler Fills
- Glasses & Meads
- Artisanal Cheeses
- Vermont Products

Meulemans' CRAFT DRAUGHTS



www.CraftDraughts.com

Junction VT Rt 30N & 100N - Rawsonville, VT - 802-297-9333
Just two miles East of the Station Access Road - GPS: 8314 Route 30, Jamaica, VT

Advertise in the
Long Trail News
call Jocelyn:
802-241-8215

Switzerland Hiking

Guided or Self-guided Tours

Bill Russell's Mountain Tours
www.russellstours.com
hiking@russellstours.com
800 669-4453

The Man in the Kilt

Field Supervisor Kevin Hudnell

In six field seasons Green Mountain Club staff members have come to expect a bearded, bespectacled gentleman in a waistcoat and rolled shirtsleeves strolling the lawn at staff parties, often with a croquet mallet in one hand and a glass of homebrewed stout in the other. His trademark kilt reveals Chacos and mismatched socks. If you dare ask why he's eating a block of dry ramen noodles, you will see the raised eyebrow and soul-withering stare so many of his crew have received. That gentleman is Field Supervisor Kevin Hudnell.

Most of Kevin's coworkers know he's been with the GMC since the summer he completed the Appalachian Trail in just under four months. They know he was caretaker at Taft Lodge and Stratton Pond, then lead caretaker on both Mount Mansfield and Camel's Hump. Most also know he studied Middle Eastern relations and political strategy at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Fewer know he speaks Arabic, studied abroad in Damascus, was once given a cookie by Paul Wolfowitz, and plays the concertina better than he cares to admit. Only a select few know how the Winston-Salem native wound up in his basement office at the Green Mountain Club.

Wearing his collection of earth-toned plaid shirts, he blends perfectly into the field staff (and into the field), but the man behind the beard hadn't always planned a career in trail manage-



ment. A proud Eagle Scout, Kevin was a guide at the Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. In a grim job market after college, he became a part-time crusader, alternating between paid field staff positions and unpaid internships in Washington, D.C., and Beirut, Lebanon. Initially bitter at finding only seasonal employment, he realized he actually enjoyed spending time in the wilderness in a state of loosely-controlled anarchy, and eventually became an enthusiast for the caretaking cause.

It occurred to Kevin that he was having more fun rambling out yonder in the field, getting his hands dirty in an environment that fit his discordian ideals, than he had behind a desk analyzing political strategies. (Plus, the trail gigs paid his bills.) He left his internship in Beirut

early to hike the Lebanon Mountain Trail, which by all accounts was a positive transition, since the Beirut office had one more intern than they had chairs.

To say Kevin hit the trail and never looked back would not be inaccurate. His diplomatic temperament, political pragmatism and secret love of well-organized paperwork equipped him well as a field supervisor, and only someone with a degree in Middle Eastern studies could negotiate the politics of the GMC field staff with his aplomb. I have had the privilege of working with (and regularly caricaturing, challenging, and generally exasperating) Kevin since I joined the GMC field staff in 2012, and I am always glad he chose this path instead of politics.

Kevin will give you the good pitchfork if one breaks during a composting run, and will extend an offer of a promotion in the form of quotes from your favorite cartoon. Character of that quality would be wasted behind a desk at the CIA.

Though there may be days when he ponders the possibility of life in a suit instead of mud-caked Carhartts, Kevin has no regrets. Not only does field staff life promise him the sweet victory of outliving the desk-bound men and women he once worked with, but we always manage to find a place for him to sit...even if it's an upturned five-gallon bucket.

—EMILY BENNING,
SOUTHERN FIELD ASSISTANT



GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB
4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road
Waterbury Center, VT 05677

Periodicals Postage
PAID
Waterbury Center
and Additional Offices



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



Soft Shell Vest

The ideal layer for fall hiking when temperatures are unpredictable. Embroidered GMC logo. Water resistant and breathable. Features front zippered pockets and microfleece lining. Women's: black, contoured silhouette cut, S-XL. Men's: black, S-XL.

List Price: \$44.95

Member Price: \$40.45



New! Mount Mansfield T-Shirt

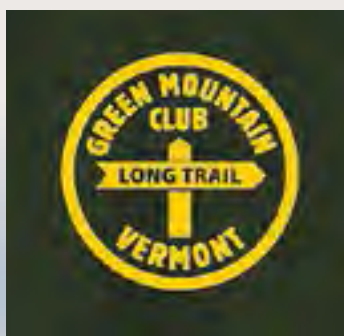
Features Vermont's highest peak. Women's: heather royal blue, S-XL. Men's: heather royal blue, S-XL.

List Price: \$19.95 Member Price: \$17.95

New! Hike Vermont T-Shirt

Features classic hiker in the woods design. Women's: heather brown, S-XL, slim cut. Men's: brown, S-XL.

List Price: \$19.95 Member Price: \$17.95



GMC Retro Logo T-Shirt

Plan ahead for the holidays and purchase this limited edition shirt for the hiker in your family. Forest green. Women's XS-XL. Men's S-XL.

List Price: \$17.95

Member Price: \$16.15

Purchase these items, GMC publications and memberships at our online store, www.greenmountainclub.org; at our Visitor Center store in Waterbury Center; or by calling (802) 244-7037.

