

Long Trail NEWS



Quarterly of the Green Mountain Club

SPRING 2017



Long Trail NEWS

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

Michael DeBonis, Executive Director
Jocelyn Hebert, *Long Trail News* Editor
Richard Andrews, Volunteer Copy Editor
Sly Dog Studio, 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.

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Cover photo: Long Trail north to Mount Abraham.
Photo by Jocelyn Hebert.



Kid Gore Shelter Privy

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Winter will be releasing its grip on the Green Mountains as you read this. Slowly the snow will melt and the ground will thaw, followed by the ephemeral Vermont spring and, finally, the return of glorious greenery and another busy hiking season.

As the seasons change, please remember that trails are extremely vulnerable to hiking boots during mud season. Until they are dry, please use good judgment when deciding where to hike.

Despite limited hiking opportunities, spring is an important time at the Green Mountain Club. Like the swallows of Capistrano, section trail crews return to their appointed stretches of Long Trail or Appalachian Trail armed with chain saws, brush clippers, hand saws, mattocks and other tools of their trade. They clear winter deadfalls, trim brush, repair shelters, and report major problems to GMC headquarters in Waterbury. In a few busy weekends the trail will be ready for another summer of hiking. Come October the process will repeat itself, and the trail put to bed for winter. It has been thus for more than a hundred years.

The importance of our volunteers has intensified since November's election. Many have asked whether I am concerned that the change in our federal government could endanger the Long Trail and Appalachian Trail. While I am concerned about how the recent changes in Washington may impact the environment and society, I remain confident that our volunteers and mix of public and private partners will continue to work together, as we have always done, to protect

and maintain our hiking trails.

First and foremost, let me say that the continued existence of the Long Trail is secure thanks to our land conservation efforts of the past thirty years. All but six miles of the trail is permanently protected either by public ownership or through deeded private easements. Even where the trail passes through federal land, its existence is protected by layers of federal law.

One vulnerability to the recent political change in Washington is the possible reduction in public funding from the U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service to maintain the Long Trail and Appalachian Trail on federal land. This funding helps pay for keeping caretakers at our most vulnerable campsites and for the Long Trail Patrol's skilled trail construction and tread hardening. Even if the current political environment results in a reduction of this funding, I'm confident that our dedicated base of members and donors will sustain our core trail management responsibilities.

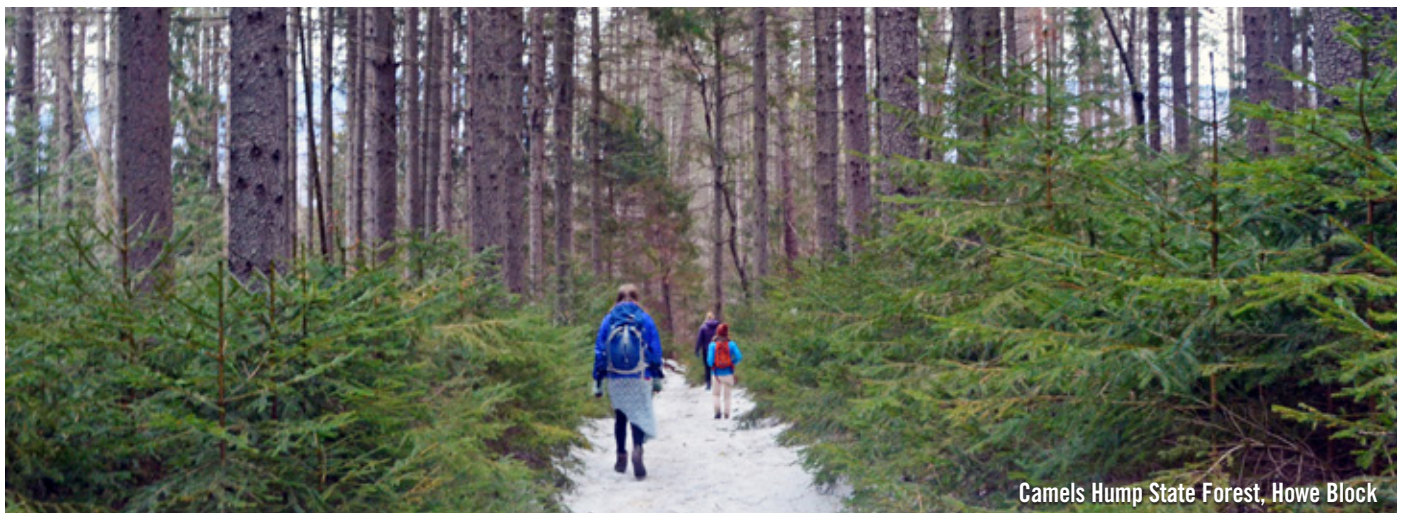
As we consider the current political situation, we should reflect on the power of a partnership in which all participants work toward a common goal. Depending on circumstances, sometimes one or another partner steps up to carry a heavier load. During the Long Trail Protection campaign, the State of Vermont invested millions of dollars to protect the Long Trail System. After Tropical Storm Irene, the federal government allocated money to rebuild and repair parts of Vermont impacted by the storm, including the Long Trail and the Appalachian Trail.

If a reduction in public funding to maintain trails is coming, it is more important than ever for an organization like the Green Mountain Club to step up and carry the load. The club remains committed to protecting and maintaining the Long Trail System and the Vermont Appalachian Trail, and is a stabilizing force in the partnership. If there are funding shortages in the short term, GMC will work to raise funds, engage volunteers, and focus staff to make sure that essential trail work gets done. In the long run the club is motivated to strengthen our partnerships, diversify our revenue base and continue reducing our reliance on public money to maintain our trails.

At its January meeting the GMC Board of Directors adopted several important changes to our governance structure and policies. This capped more than a year of hard work by many volunteers and staff who conducted an every-twenty-five-years-whether-we-need-it-or-not review of how the board and staff govern the club's affairs. The board approved several significant changes to the composition and functioning of the executive and nominating committees, and clarified the roles of the staff and the volunteer leadership to ensure that each gets the support it needs from the other.

I thank the many people who worked so hard on this important but largely thankless task, especially Executive Director Mike DeBonis, Vice President Tom Candon, Treasurer Stephen Klein, and the indispensable former President Jean Haigh, who as usual covered every base and then some.

—JOHN PAGE, PRESIDENT



Camels Hump State Forest, Howe Block



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GMC Staff Directory

Main Telephone: (802) 244-7037

Jason Buss, *Business Manager*
 E-mail: jbus@greenmountainclub.org
 Phone: (802) 241-8214

Lenny Crisostomo, *Database Manager*
 E-mail: lcristostomo@greenmountainclub.org
 Phone: (802) 241-8325

Michael DeBonis, *Executive Director*
 E-mail: mdebomis@greenmountainclub.org
 Phone: (802) 241-8212

Alicia DiCocco, *Director of Development*
 E-mail: adicocco@greenmountainclub.org
 Phone: (802) 241-8322

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

Mollie Flanigan, *Land Stewardship Coordinator*
 E-mail: mflanigan@greenmountainclub.org
 Phone: (802) 241-8217

Matt Krebs, *Operations/Publications Coordinator*
 E-mail: mkrebs@greenmountainclub.org
 Phone: (802) 241-8321

Kristin McLane, *Membership/Communications Coordinator*
 E-mail: kmclane@greenmountainclub.org
 Phone: (802) 241-8324

Amy Potter, *Visitor Center Manager*
 E-mail: apotter@greenmountainclub.org
 Phone: (802) 241-8210

Vacant, *Group Outreach Specialist*
 E-mail: groups@greenmountainclub.org
 Phone: (802) 241-8327



Mountain Views

Killian and Moose Spark Memory

I enjoyed Amy Potter's article in the *Long Trail News* on the removal of the Hell Hollow Bridge from Glastenbury Wilderness by actual horsepower. I have a special interest in that area because I was active in the campaign for wilderness designation there.

Removing remains of a dismantled bridge is just one example of the value of horses in designated wilderness, where vehicles are prohibited. Horses also hauled materials into Big Branch Wilderness to rebuild Lost Pond Shelter after a fire.

On an Ottawaquechee Section hike on unmaintained roads in Vershire a couple years ago, we came across a U-Haul truck and two guys from Louisiana who had followed their GPS onto an unplowed road, then got stuck at the bottom of a steep dip. They had no cell service, but one of our party had a phone that did (barely).

We called a wrecker for them, but warned them the operator might refuse to descend the steep hill. In fact, he did refuse. But by good luck a horse logger was working nearby, and a snowmobiler tracked him down. His two-horse team pulled the U-Haul up the hill. We got the story from the logger on our way back to our car. When I apologized for taking up his work day with talk, he laughed: "I made so much money on that, I don't have to work no more today."

—DICK ANDREWS
 OTTAUQUECHEE SECTION PRESIDENT

I Distinctly Recall a Neophyte Backpacker

I enjoyed reading the excerpts from Howard VanBenthuyssen's journal from 1972 when he was caretaker at Gorham Lodge (fall 2017 *Long Trail News*). I thru-hiked the LT that summer, north to south, as I figured that direction would be mostly downhill (ha!). I left Journey's End Shelter on July 6, had a rain day at Laura Woodward, spent a day Yogi-Bearing on top of Mansfield, and a zero day at Duck Brook as I resupplied in Jonesville and spent the day on the front porch of Quinn's Store gorging myself with all the food my body

was craving. That put me at Gorham Lodge on the evening of July 19, where I distinctly recall a neophyte backpacker trying to learn how to use the Svea stove they had borrowed, over-priming it with fuel, and then having it erupt in two- to three-foot-high flames as they lit it. And I recall the caretaker calmly grabbing a shovel and scooping it out the door, just as Howard states in his journal.

Was glad to see that end-to-end stories are housed with the Vermont Historical Society in Barre. Will have to go by someday to read what I wrote about that '72 trip.

—ROB BADGER
 GMC MEMBER SINCE 1979

AT Stretch Glorious

The following note was addressed to Jocelyn Hebert, whose account of her three-day backpack on the Vermont AT from Sherburne Pass to the Connecticut River appeared in the last issue of the Long Trail News.

Hi Jocelyn,

We crossed paths this past fall hiking the AT between Killington and Hanover. Want to recall it was near/before/after Thistle Hill Shelter. I introduced myself as More Knorr and my hiking buddy was Chili Dog.

Anyway, just wanted to give you a shout out for a well-written, spot on piece about a great stretch of trail and associated landscapes. I have read your two-page article several times and find that I can see the places and sense the ambiance even without closing my eyes. Nice job!

The photos of the stone wall on the King's Highway and the trail walker near the Cloudland area brought me back like it was yesterday. It certainly was a glorious few days walking, made indelibly memorable with OMG peak foliage.

Please extend my kudos to Matt Stevens and Preston Bristow for their complementary and informative pieces. See you on the trail.

—RICK HOPKINS
 EAST MONTPELIER

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 Road, Waterbury Center, VT 05677

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The Clara Bow Trail

Who was Clara Bow? And why is there a hiking trail named after her?

Clara Bow (1905-1965) was not a pioneer Green Mountain Club trail blazer, nor, as far as we know, did she donate money to secure the future of the Long Trail or the club. In fact, she probably didn't know the Long Trail existed.

Instead, she was an American actress who made her name as a young woman in the 1920s as a star in silent films, and successfully switched to talkies in 1927. Her childhood was difficult, but she was said to have a "genuine spark of divine fire," and she persevered.

Professor Roy O. Buchanan, the Green Mountain Club's first Long Trail Patrol leader, shed light on the odd connection between the silent film star and the hiking trail with her name. In his book, *Mansfield: The Story of Vermont's Loftiest Mountain*, Robert L. Hagerman quoted Buchanan when he was ninety-three: "No doubt this was before your time, but Clara Bow was a movie actress noted for being a sexpot. Probably she showed her knees in a picture, but that was in the innocent days. My hiking companion, Professor Louis Puffer, and I cut and blazed that trail and he observed that it, like Clara, was both 'Beautiful but Tough'

and so the trail was named. That phrase [actually] appeared on the [trail] sign at one time."

The Clara Bow Trail is one of more than fifty blue-blazed gems veering away from the Long Trail. Flagged by scouts and builders like Buchanan and Puffer, these side trails were planned to provide enjoyable hiking in their own right as well as plentiful access routes to the Long Trail. The Clara Bow Trail is a perfect example. It passes through nature's artful landscape, enhancing an extended adventure with a shorter one.

GMC guidebooks described the Clara Bow Trail as early as 1932, but it wasn't actually named until the 1956 edition. The older guidebooks tell us the 0.40-mile trail was originally blazed white and considered an alternate Long Trail route, although more challenging: "It is not as easy as the main route but much more interesting," the guides noted, "going as it does through the bottom of Nebraska Notch, a rugged and picturesque cleft in the mountain range partly filled with immense boulders. In one place the trail passes under a large rock where there is none too much leeway for big packs, and where a vertical drop is negotiated by a ladder." The ladder remains today.

To reach the Clara Bow Trail from Stowe, on the east side of the mountain, use



the 1.6-mile Lake Mansfield Trail. This trail is itself a gem, passing an impressive waterfall and beaver meadows with views of the north wall of Nebraska Notch on its way to Taylor Lodge.

From Underhill, on the west side, Nebraska Notch Trail is the shortest route. It's a gentle 1.5-mile climb to the Long Trail, and another 0.30 mile south on the LT to the north end of the Clara Bow Trail. Or you can continue on to Taylor Lodge, and loop back on the Clara Bow Trail.

Though Clara Bow probably never placed a foot on the Long Trail System, she clearly inspired those who did. If you get a chance, check out this beautiful but tough trail, and thank Roy Buchanan and Louis Puffer for blazing the way.

—JOCELYN HEBERT
LONG TRAIL NEWS EDITOR



Clara Bow Trail boulder scramble



Ladder passage through rocks



A MEMOIR FROM 1938 Taylor Lodge Caretaker Daan Zwick

In 1938 Taylor Lodge was a beautiful log cabin, snugly situated east of the Long Trail where it descended into Nebraska Notch. The Burlington Section built it in 1926 as a memorial to James P. Taylor, founder of the Green Mountain Club.

A century earlier the notch had been a route for wagon travel and other communication among the inhabitants of Mansfield, a township straddling the Green Mountain range. The traverse was not an easy journey, particularly in March, when farmers on the west side had to cross over to participate in the annual town meeting. This difficulty led to the demise of the Town of Mansfield, which voted to split and become Underhill on the west and Stowe on the east.

By 1938 that ancient route was barely recognizable as an old lumbering road, dropping to Lake Mansfield on the east and to the trailhead at Stevensville on the west. Vestiges of the more recent past were many cords of split chestnut neatly stacked along the trail, an effort by the Civilian Conservation Corps to salvage something from the devastation of the chestnut blight. So far as I know, this wood was never used. The stacks just rotted away.

The logs of Taylor Lodge also had trouble surviving, but they did not rot away. The original lodge lasted just a quarter of a century, burned down by careless campers in the winter of 1950. Its replacement, a similar log cabin built again by the Burlington Section, survived

another quarter century, burning in 1977. In 1978 the Burlington Section replaced it with a different, non-log structure, having an open front, and no stove inside. The only change I have observed since then is on paper—the 1996 guidebook now recognizes that its capacity is 15 campers, rather than the 20 advertised in previous guidebooks.

Caretakers were stationed at Taft Lodge, seven miles north on Mount Mansfield, since the 1920s. Butler Lodge, three-and-a-half miles closer and built in 1933, acquired its first caretaker in 1937. Usually teachers or college lads, these caretakers were hired and supervised by the Burlington Section. So I was surprised when Larry Dean asked me early in 1938 if I would like to take such a job at Taylor,

for I was only fifteen, just finishing my junior year at Burlington High School. Larry, in charge of the four cabins on the Burlington Section, was my Scoutmaster, so he knew of my love for the out-of-doors and the mountains. I was proud that he had that much confidence in me, so, with my parents' permission I quickly accepted the position of the first ever caretaker at Taylor Lodge.

As soon as school was out at the end of June I assembled my camping gear, bought a lot of food that would keep without refrigeration, and got a ride with my father to the trailhead at Stevensville. I used my Trapper Nelson pack frame (bought because that's what Larry always used) to carry in the big boxes of supplies, and my father helped me by taking in a load in his



Taylor Lodge, 1935

Bergen “Monsterbasket,” a rucksack he prized. I was pleased when he left it with me, for it was useful on hikes, particularly my weekly trips to a farm near the trailhead where I had arranged to get mail and fresh vegetables. (I soon learned that if I happened to come for my mail when there was a meal ready for the harvest hands, I would be welcome too.)

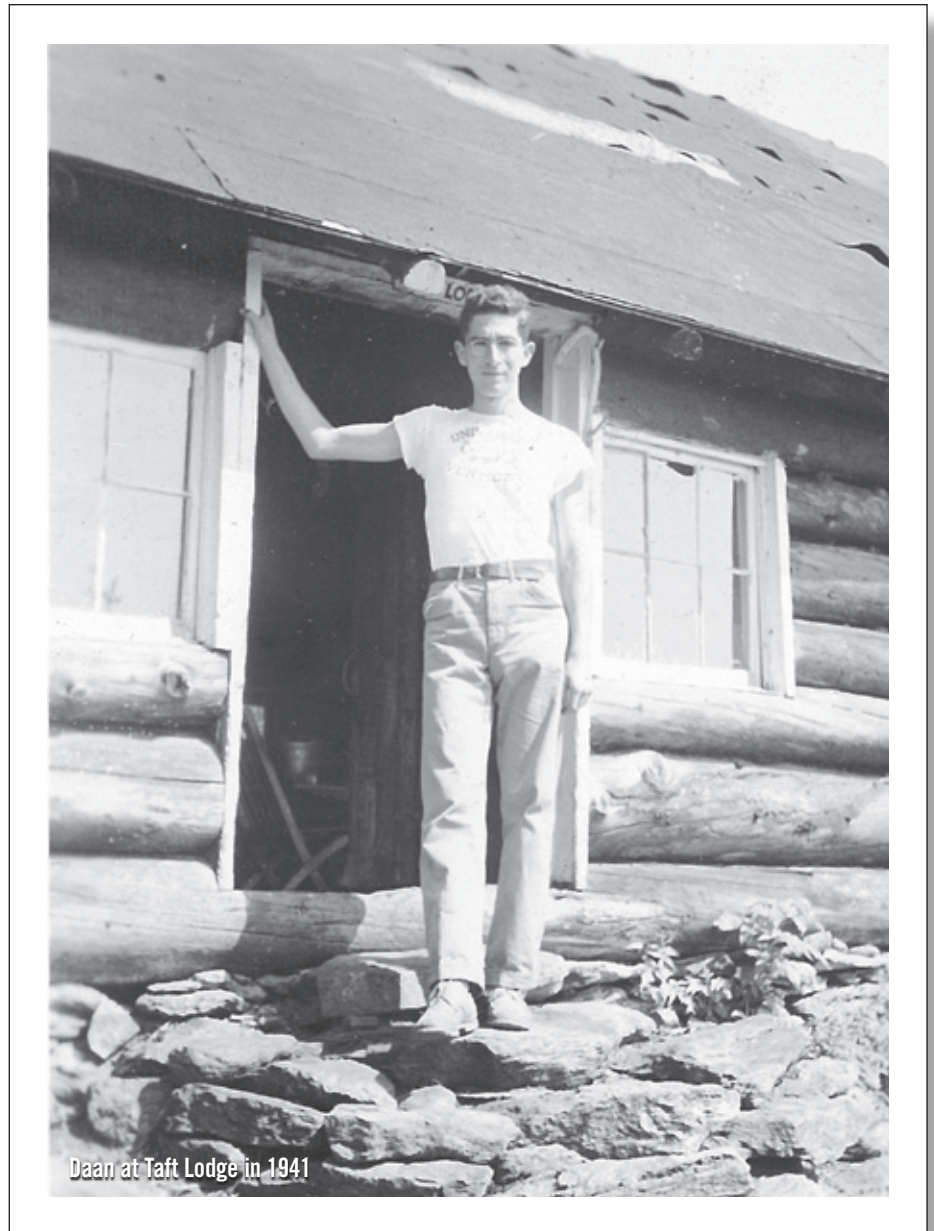
In those days, not much traffic passed Taylor Lodge. End-to-end hikers were rare; even some of the few hiking just from Bolton to Smugglers’ Notch might bypass the cabin, which was a tenth of a mile off the main trail. An occasional family might hike up, just for the day, from the Trout Club at Lake Mansfield. Weekends could bring a group of young people from nearby farms or a family from Burlington. Labor Day weekend was the only time the cabin

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reached its fourteen-lodger capacity. More often than not, I was the sole occupant of Taylor Lodge.

When I was there, Taylor Lodge was a long, low, dark brown (creosoted for preservation) cabin that saw neither sunrise nor sunset because of its location in the Notch. I do not remember it ever getting oppressively hot, despite its relatively low elevation, under 2,000 feet. My only view was from a small “back porch” a few yards behind the cabin, which afforded a vista down to Lake Mansfield. On one of his visits my father painted that view, and he gave the painting to Mr. Riley, the manager of the Mount Mansfield Hotel. The picture hung in the hotel lobby for many years but I do not know whether it survived the demolition in 1958.

About the floor space was occupied by bunks, with a good-sized table and benches



Daan at Taft Lodge in 1941

on the right side. In the rear center was a box-type wood stove with a useful oven built right into the stove pipe, heated by the hot smoke passing around it. I only remember one hiker who carried a stove, a shiny brass kerosene-burning Primus. (I soon bought one for myself, which still works.) The water supply was a small stream a few hundred feet down the Lake Mansfield Trail, just far enough to make my hands hurt if I carried two full pails back up.

Caretaking chores were not onerous. I kept the cabin clean and supplied with firewood and water. I made repairs,

replacing a broken window pane or applying a coat of creosote to the logs. I collected a fee of twenty-five cents from each overnight guest, which I turned over to the Burlington Section; my only salary was seventy-five dollars for the season. I cleared and maintained trails and signs. And sometimes I had to provide advice or assistance to people who knew less about being in the woods than I did. By the end of the summer I felt very proficient with my saw and ax—enough so that I was able to win the sawing and chopping competitions at a Boy Scout event that



fall, even beating farm kids who did chores year-round.

Early in the season there was a prolonged rainy spell that discouraged hikers. In thirteen days not a single person even passed by the cabin. I hiked down to the farm to mail a letter to my mother, asking her to send me “the book that will take me the longest to read.” On my next trip out I picked up a package containing *Shakespeare’s Complete Works*. I read every play and sonnet in the book, and even memorized a few soliloquies and sonnets. I had never seen a Shakespeare play, so I was able to let my imagination put them on for me.

One evening during that period of solitude I heard voices outside my cabin. I had finished supper and it was already dark out. As I listened, it sounded as if three or four women were discussing something in front of the cabin, perhaps whether they should enter or not. Taking my lantern, I opened the door, intending to make them welcome. In the lantern light I saw four porcupines ambling away from the fire ring. Lonely as I was, I did not invite them in.

Later that summer as I sat on the bench behind the cabin watching it get dark, I thought I heard a man’s voice calling. It seemed to come from the Long Trail south of the notch. I got my flashlight and headed that way. Sure enough, in about ten minutes I came upon a man sitting

on a log. A guest at the Mount Mansfield Hotel, he had started that morning for a day hike to Taylor Lodge, carrying nothing but a box lunch. Somehow he missed the turnoff to the lodge, and walked quite a distance on the Long Trail toward Bolton Mountain. Realizing something was wrong he turned back, but was overtaken by darkness, so he stopped hiking and started calling. He was not looking forward to a night out in the woods.

“In the lantern light
I saw four porcupines
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fire ring. Lonely as I was,
I did not invite them in.”

I led him back to my cabin, where I cooked him supper and made up a bunk with my extra blankets. In the morning we had breakfast, and I offered to guide him back to his hotel. He said he could find his way in daylight, so I just walked with him to the trail junction and pointed him north. I wondered how the mountain hotel dealt with missing guests, but I learned later that he had never been missed. I also learned that he was a candy salesman. About a week later my mail contained a huge sample box of assorted Welch candy bars.

I did a lot of hiking, some in connection with my chores and some just for fun. There was the weekly walk to Stevensville for mail and vegetables. Sometimes I went by way of Butler Lodge to visit with the Lennetts, a couple from Long Island who were caretaking there. They had hiked the entire Long Trail the previous summer, and had been so taken by Butler Lodge that they applied to be caretakers. My walks to Mount Mansfield were usually just for fun. Once I visited Mr. Murray, a school teacher from New Jersey who was caretaker at Taft Lodge. Later in the summer I sometimes took a pail and joined farm families picking the lush blueberry bushes on the Forehead. I liked bushwhacking up the mountains

nearer to Taylor, using my map and compass to see if I could go in a straight line to the summit.

When I couldn’t hike, and had no chores, I read. Besides Shakespeare, I read American history to get credits for the civics course required for graduation. My mother mailed me classics, including Mann’s *The Magic Mountain* and Buck’s *The Good Earth*. I kept an account book of my expenditures for food and postage, the lodge fees I collected, my income from the infrequent sale of meals, and an occasional tip. Canadian hikers were the most likely to leave a note of thanks with money pinned to it.

My season ended right after Labor Day, when I had to return to school. The cabin was full that holiday weekend with family groups, couples, and solo hikers. My sister Huddee and her girlfriend hiked in to spend a relaxing weekend with me. As we sat quietly on a bunk talking while waiting for the lunch crowd around the stove to thin out, there was a loud explosion, the oven blew apart, and Huddee started screaming. I ran for my shovel and water pail, for the fire in the stove was burning fiercely with no pipe to vent the smoke out of the cabin. I threw water on the fire, then started carrying glowing embers on the shovel to the fire ring outside. Huddee was still screaming.

Then I realized what had happened. One of the campers had put a can of beans in the stovepipe oven to heat, but she had not punctured the can first. The exploding can dislodged the stovepipe and sprayed boiling-hot beans onto Huddee. I flushed her with the other pail of water, and treated the small burns on her arm and leg. Then I aired the cabin, reassembled the stove, carried the still-burning coals back in, and finally cleaned up the mess, which included baked beans stuck to the walls. More excitement in that fifteen minutes than I had had all summer. I know Huddee didn’t appreciate it, but there was nothing like finishing up one’s first caretaking season with a bang.

—DAAN ZWICK



Daan (far right) and friends

Daan submitted his memoir to GMC in December, 1997. Today Daan remains an ardent supporter of the club.

Celebrating a MILESTONE

On October 14 my spouse, Tim Heath-Swanson, and I took the final steps of our Long Trail thru-hike. It took us twenty-four days, twenty-three nights, and more willpower than we ever thought we could muster. In the end, our journey was worth it, pain and all.

As we walked to the parking lot at Journey's End Road, the memories, challenges, pain, and joy washed over me, and tears began to flow. It was over, after climbing Burnt Rock Mountain, Camel's Hump, Whiteface, and Belvidere. It was over, after slogging through mud, after missing more scenic views than we enjoyed, and after having been challenged beyond belief. We made it. We each left twenty pounds of extra body weight on the trail. We could go home, see the dog, and sleep in our own bed. Someone pinch me!

Tim had announced in 2015 that he wanted to celebrate his fiftieth year by walking the Long Trail. We spent the next eighteen months planning our trip and training. Every day we talked about what we needed to buy, our hopes and dreams for the journey, food, clothing, and equipment. You name it, we talked about it. By the time we left, it felt as though we had come and gone already. But then we took our first step, and expectations became reality.

We encountered rain and sun, wet rocks and dry ground, beautiful leaves and views, and challenges we never thought we would encounter. As two middle aged overweight gay men, many people thought we were crazy to even try to achieve this goal. When fellow hikers asked where we were going and we replied "Canada," we saw skepticism in their eyes as they wished us luck. But we pushed on, mile after mile.



Rick and Tim

Day fifteen, from Birch Glen Camp over Burnt Rock Mountain to Montclair Glen Lodge, was the most painful. After six days without a ray of sun, slipping on every rock and root from Brandon Gap to Appalachian Gap, we were ready for sun, but not for Burnt Rock. It proved almost too much for us. Even the GMC warns hikers at Cowles Cove Shelter to use extreme caution and not attempt the next five miles late in the day or when wet. The sun was out, the rocks were drying, and it was 10:30 a.m., so we took off.

What we met on the path could not have been harder emotionally, let alone physically. Ladders, ropes, smooth rocks, and high cliffs took their toll on our insides as much as our outsides. It was our "meltdown" day. When we arrived at River Road in Duxbury the next day, friends met us, gave some much-needed TLC, and dropped us back on the trail the morning after. We did not walk the LT alone. Our friends and family came with us every step of the way.

In honor of Tim's birthday, and our walk, we established the Trailblazer Grant for graduates of Laraway Youth and Family Services (LYFS) in Johnson. We are honored and blessed by our friends, family, and community members who have supported us and LYFS students as they look from their time at Laraway into the future.

Our trek was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. We are still shocked that we made it, and thankful for a safe return. The lens of life has shifted for me. It may take years to figure out how, but for now I am just living with my new "pair of glasses." Twenty years down the road I hope I will wake up and start understanding the continuing power of the trail and the many ways it has affected my life.

—RICK SWANSON



Vista from Burnt Rock Mountain



Getting the Stink Out

Hiker funk—we all get it. I'm not one to slather on banana-coconut sunscreen to cover it up, and I can get myself clean with a hot shower at the end of a good day hike. But, the clothes—phew! Eliminating that smell seemed hopeless.

I started filling my hiking wardrobe with synthetics; they're less expensive, rugged, wick well, and I figured they would last me a good long time. They did last a long time. So did the smell.

My turning point came when I realized I was no longer comfortable wearing them at all. It was suggested I switch to wool. Pricey but worth the investment, because when you sweat you supposedly smell like a sheep, which would be a big improvement.

On a recent backpacking trip I wore a wool shirt—for seven days straight. When I couldn't stand the stink any longer I put it in a plastic bag, and shoved it to the bottom of my pack. I thought when I got home I'd just have to burn it. Something had to give. I couldn't be buying such expensive duds and then tossing them.

After the hike, I Googled "taking the stink out of hiking clothes." Like most subjects I Google, separating truth from fiction was the greatest challenge. A partial list of suggested cleaning agents included: BaseFresh, Atsko Sport Watch, Nature's Miracle, vinegar, salt, lemon juice, Windex, baking soda, chlorine bleach, ammonia, and my favorite, Bell's Hopslam, which it turns out is an ale brewed seasonally in Chicago.

I first tried Nature's Miracle, a concoction designed to remove odors when a pet throws up on the couch or does the unmentionable on the carpet. It purports to have enzymes that eat the



Laundry day on the trail

bacteria that cause the stink. It sounded like the strongest scent-free candidate, so I tried it on the pits of my worst smelling shirt and.... nothing happened.

I returned to the list, trying to decide what else I would be comfortable dumping

into my septic system or wearing against my skin. Okay, vinegar, but even the advice said it would basically just replace the current offensive odor. Would I rather smell like a pickle?

Salt? But would I want all that sodium chloride in the septic? Lemon juice? Okay, but would it linger like the vinegar and simply add a fruity note to what was already there?

I settled on baking soda. I remembered Mom always had a box in the back of the refrigerator to soak up odors. On the first try I soaked the shirt in a couple of liters of water with a quarter cup of soda for about an hour. Big improvement! The second time I let it go a

few hours—even better! Eventually I just let it soak overnight. It was like new! It didn't smell like fresh flowers, but basically it didn't smell at all. And it won't, at least not until the next hike is over.

—ALAN PASCHELL, MONTPELIER SECTION



Alan Paschell

How I Helped Name a Green Mountain

As many Vermont hikers know, the Long Trail has its own presidential range. It's less lofty than the famous one over in New Hampshire, but four peaks between Bread Loaf Mountain and Lincoln Gap bear the names Mount Wilson, Mount Roosevelt, Mount Cleveland, and Mount Grant.

Right in the middle, between Roosevelt and Cleveland, according to the *Long Trail Guide*, is a lesser summit called Little Hans Peak. Little Hans? What was he president of? How did that name come about?

I know how, because I was there.

In the summer of 1970 I was on a Green Mountain National Forest trail crew. Ray Secor, a Navy veteran who had belonged to the GMC for years and already had his end-to-end patch, led our crew of four college students.

We went out Monday mornings and returned late Friday, camping during the week in or near the shelters as we worked on the trail. The week we worked north of Bread Loaf we carried a bag of some food—I don't remember what, but it might have been chocolate bars—in which a little hand puppet was included, presumably for the entertainment of children like us.

The puppet—basically a plastic bag printed with a face and with hands sticking out—was named Little Hans. It said so on the package. We waved Little Hans around from time to time and made dumb jokes.

As the week progressed we repeatedly crossed an unnamed summit on our trek between our campsite and our work sites. A consensus emerged that the hump between Presidents Cleveland and Roosevelt was worthy of a name. One evening Ray carved a small sign. Next day, we attached the sign to a tree on the summit. It said: "Little Hans Peak."

I'm a lifelong hiker, but I haven't been back to Vermont much, and I haven't revisited that section of the trail. For forty-six years I had no reason to recall our little naming joke. Then I leafed through the September, 2016, issue of *Backpacker Magazine*, and saw a short article recommending a peak-bagging walk from Cooley Glen Shelter to Mount Wilson and back, crossing the summits of Cleveland and Roosevelt and, in between, Little Hans Peak. Whoa! Our silly name had stuck.

To confirm this astonishing discovery, I checked a *Long Trail Guide*, 2011 edition.

There it was, in boldface, on page 136—**Little Hans Peak**.

I've lost touch with my trail crew buddies. But Ray Secor, John Anlian, and Bob Llewellyn, if you happen to read this, take a bow.

— ROB WATERS

It is worth noting that while the name Little Hans Peak is commonly used today, the mountain remains officially unnamed according to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.



View looking south from Mount Abraham toward Little Hans Peak

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB'S 107th Annual Meeting

Friday, June 9–Sunday, June 11

Common Ground Center, Starksboro

The 107th Annual Meeting, hosted by the Bread Loaf Section, will take place at the Common Ground Center in Starksboro. With 700 acres nestled in the valley between Hogback Mountain and the main range of the Green Mountains, it is the perfect gathering and exploring place for nature and mountain lovers. The Common Ground Center provides a family camp experience “grounded on the principles of respect, inclusion and cooperation,” much like GMC.

We reserved the whole place, so there's plenty of space! The site is a former farm, with unique rustic cabins built by students

of the Yestermorrow School. You may reserve cabin space for Friday or Saturday night or both; or pitch your tent on one of nine tent platforms in a large meadow, or on the edge of the bordering forest.

Load the car with your boots, pack, tent, bike, kayak, camp chair and favorite campfire clothes (but dogs are not allowed on site so please leave them at home), and plan to spend a fun filled summer weekend with friends. It's a wonderful opportunity for GMC members to share stories and club news, and to celebrate our year's accomplishments.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, JUNE 9

10:00 a.m.

Work hike on the Battell Trail.

Meet at the trailhead on USFS Road 350, off Quaker Street and Lincoln Gap Road north of Lincoln, to do basic maintenance. Bring lunch, liquids, work gloves and bug repellent, and dress for the weather; tools will be provided. Contact gmc@greenmountainclub.org by June 7 to sign up.

5:30–8:00 p.m.

Registration and welcoming reception with brick oven pizza and salad catered by Woodbelly Pizza, refreshments, and live music.



SATURDAY, JUNE 10

6:15 – 7:30 a.m.

Birding walk.

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Yoga in the Hay Barn. Mats provided.

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Registration and complimentary breakfast in the Dining Hall.

Sign up for afternoon activities.

9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Kids' activities in Creekside Barn. Arts and crafts and games will be provided all day for children. There is also a playground. Supervision is not provided.

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Annual Meeting in the Dining Hall.

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Bagged lunch in the Dining Hall, provided by the Common Ground Center. By reservation only.

11:45 a.m.

Silent auction to benefit GMC begins.

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Board of Directors meeting in the Eco Lodge Common Room.

1:00 p.m.

Afternoon outings begin. (See list at right. Check greenmountainclub.org for full descriptions.)

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Yoga in the Hay Barn. Mats provided.

6:00 p.m.

Dinner in the Dining Hall, catered by Blossom of Winooski. Reservation only.

6:45 p.m.

Silent auction ends.

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Speaker, author, photographer and adventurer Peter Lourie: “From Polar Bears to Ancient Treasures.” In the Dining Hall.

9:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Bonfire and social. Play guitar, banjo, mandolin...the spoons? You never know when an impromptu jam session will start.

SUNDAY, JUNE 11



8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Trail Maintenance workshop.

We'll cover topics such as pruning and clipping, blazing, and erosion control. No prior experience is necessary. Tools provided. This is valuable for new trail adopters. Location TBD.

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Sign making workshop.

Create your own trail sign to take home. Taught by GMC Board Member and former Ranger Naturalist Howard VanBenthuyssen.



LODGING

On-site cabins, Tenting and RV space (Please use registration form on page 29 or register online.)

Cabins share a central bath-house with hot water, electricity, flush toilets, and indoor and outdoor showers. Cabins are all within a short walk of the bath-house, but there is a composting toilet for outlying cabins. Cabins sleep two to six people each, have no electricity and no bedding for bunkbeds but do include a mattress.

Limited space is available in Eco-Lodge rooms with bunkbeds (including mattress), private bathrooms, and electricity. Attendees will be placed in the Eco-Lodge based on need.

There are nine tent platforms, or you may tent in a large meadow. RVs may park in the parking lot, but there are no hookups.



OUTINGS OVERVIEW

(Distances are roundtrip. Visit greenmountainclub.org for full description of outings.)

Mount Abraham. Hike. Long Trail north. 5.2 miles. Difficult.

Sunset Ledge. Hike. Long Trail south. 1.8 miles. Easy to moderate.

Jerusalem Trail to Glen Ellen Lodge. Hike. 5.6 miles. Difficult.

Bristol Pond. Paddle. Bring canoe or kayak. PFD required.

Watershed Center. Hike. Conserved waterworks property in Bristol. 4.0 miles. Easy.

Bristol Ledges. Hike. Short but steep. 2.0 miles. Moderate.

Abbey Pond. Hike. U.S. Forest Service trail. 4.2 miles. Moderate.

Hogback Mtn. to Overlook. Hike. Common Ground Center trails. 4.0 miles. Moderate.

Buck Mountain. Hike. Views of Champlain Valley. 2.5 miles. Moderate.

Hires and Sensory Trails at Audubon Center. Walk. Family friendly. 1.2 miles. Easy.

Starksboro Town Forest. Hike. Historic abandoned Hillsboro section. 3.5 miles. Moderate.

Starksboro Creekside Trail. Walk. Along Lewis Creek. 1.5 miles. Easy.

Cycle from Starksboro to Huntington. Road bike. Destination with view of Camel's Hump. Bring bike. Helmet required. 22.8 miles. Moderate.

Young Adventurers Hike. Explore. Wildlife habitat with wetland. Kids. 1.2 miles. Easy to moderate.

SATURDAY NIGHT SPEAKER

From Polar Bears to Ancient Treasures

Whether chasing adventure, history or both, Peter Lourie has tales to tell. He has paddled the Hudson River from source to sea, traveled the Mississippi River by canoe, bicycle, car and foot, and has paddled 460 miles of the Yukon River, averaging 52 miles daily. He has immersed himself in the histories of the Puebloan peoples of New Mexico and the ancient Mayans of Mexico, searched for Inca treasure in Ecuador and pirate treasure on the Hudson River, worked with archaeologists at Aztec ruins and with scientists in Alaska, and has followed the trails of historic figures such as conquistador Cabeza de Vaca, Shoshone guide Sacagawea, and adventure novelist Jack London. Peter will share stories from these and other journeys during his career as an author, photographer, and teacher.



Peter Lourie

Peter Lourie was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan and now lives in Weybridge. He holds a B.A. in classics, an M.A. in English literature, and an M.F.A. in nonfiction creative writing. He has taught writing at Middlebury College, Columbia College, and the University of Vermont. Today he makes his living by writing about his travel adventures and sharing them with the public.

His new book about Jack London and the Klondike Gold Rush is slated for publication in March, 2017. Find him online at peterlourie.com.

For updated Annual Meeting information please visit www.greenmountainclub.org/meeting.



Butler Lodge

Giving the Gift of Volunteering

When my family goes hiking it is not uncommon for someone to say “Thank you” out loud to the people who build and maintain the trails, even though they’re not there. In a way, we hope our gratitude somehow travels through the mountain air to the folks who do the hard work.

This holiday season I wanted to do something different for my family and decided on a gift that would give back to the mountains and trails we love so much.

On the Green Mountain Club website I discovered that Butler Lodge Trail, very close to our home, needed an adopter, and my idea came to life. GMC Volunteer

Coordinator Theresa Fennell clearly explained the adoption process, and answered all my questions. By Christmas it was all set. On Christmas morning my husband and daughter opened the present, which revealed information about our newly adopted trail and included a small wall hanging. It says:

“Advice from a trail: Walk into beauty; Stay on your path; Find inspiration around every turn; Tread lightly; Pack life with good memories; Every day has its ups and downs; and Watch your step.”

The gift was a hit, and we couldn’t wait to walk the trail. On a magical snowy day not long after the holiday we hiked Butler Lodge Trail with Theresa, who taught us beginners the basics of trail maintenance. She happened to mention that Butler Lodge was also in need of adoption, and my husband jumped on the chance to adopt the shelter as well.

Now our family will be giving back to the trail system and lodges we love so much, and we hope folks who enjoy the Long Trail System on their adventures in the Green Mountains may say an occasional “Thank you,” too.

— PAM COTA

Volunteer Opportunity in the Notch



The Green Mountain Club will again join Smugglers’ Notch State Park, Stowe Mountain Resort, and the Lamoille County Planning Commission to staff the historic Barnes Camp Visitor Center at Smugglers’ Notch this summer and fall, so we need your help!

Barnes Camp, originally built by Willis Barnes in 1910 as a logging camp, has since been a Long Trail shelter, a ski dormitory, and off-day housing for Green Mountain Club caretakers. In 2014 the camp was renovated and opened to visitors recreat-

ing in Smugglers’ Notch. It is a treasured piece of Vermont’s tourism and recreation history.

If you love meeting people and would enjoy providing information about hiking and the natural and cultural significance of the Smugglers’ Notch area, consider volunteering for shifts Friday through Sunday this summer and fall.

Please contact Theresa Fennell at tfennell@greenmountainclub.org to learn more or sign up!

We are busy preparing for another field season, and although the post-election transitions have delayed some project planning and funding decisions, we have lined up some exciting cooperative projects with our state and federal partners. We are also very lucky to have a top-notch crew returning to lead our field staff.

ILANA COPEL will return for her sixth season this summer as **field supervisor**. After five seasons as a caretaker on Mount Mansfield and Camel's Hump, and last year as northern field assistant, she is very knowledgeable about GMC's field and stewardship programs, alpine areas, and backcountry sanitation methods. She will manage our field assistants, backcountry caretakers, Long Trail Patrol, Volunteer Long Trail Patrol, and our role in monitoring federal wilderness areas.

BEN COWAN will be the **southern field assistant**. Ben spent his first fall with GMC as the inaugural wilderness monitor at Bourn Pond, and his second season as Stratton Pond caretaker. He has extensive experience working on the Appalachian Trail and with the U.S. Forest Service.

JAKE CHINITZ will work his fourth GMC season as **northern field assistant**. He started as the Coolidge Range ridge runner and has since been a caretaker at Battell Shelter and lead caretaker on Camel's Hump. He also did a short stint on the GMC Construction Crew.

Ilana, Ben, and Jake will oversee a full crew of caretakers for ten critical over-

night sites and four ecologically important summits: Stratton Mountain, Mount Abraham, Camel's Hump, and Mount Mansfield. Caretakers help educate hikers about Leave No Trace principles to protect trails and fragile alpine summits and shorelines. They also manage nearly sixty backcountry campsites and privy systems, and help volunteers with the never-ending work of brushing trails and removing blowdowns.

The **Long Trail Patrol**, led again this season by **SEAN PEASE**, will install new, wider puncheon across a sedge meadow on Mount Mansfield. The patrol will also improve puncheon on Hell Brook Cutoff Trail, using lumber from last year's temporary Taft Lodge caretaker platforms. In addition, state recreation trails funding will help pay for installing log steps on the Frost Trail, using rot-resistant black locust lumber flown in during last year's airlift.

The **Volunteer Long Trail Patrol** will replace more Stamford Meadow puncheon just south of Congdon Camp in southern Vermont; begin work on the Branch Pond Trail relocation near Bourn Pond; and help with emergent privy repairs. Your reports of trail and shelter problems help us plan trail crew projects, so please keep sending them.

The **GMC Construction Crew** will again be in the capable hands of **KURT MELIN**. Kurt joined the Long Trail Patrol as an intern in 2008 and has returned every season since. He worked his way up to Long Trail

Patrol crew leader before joining Matt Wels, Sam Parisi and Pat O'Brien building the Winooski River Footbridge. Kurt has led the construction crew for the last two seasons, capping the 2016 season with repairs to historic Taft Lodge on Mount Mansfield and the renovation of Bryant Camp in the Mount Mansfield State Forest in Bolton.

This season Kurt and his crew will finish renovation at Bryant Camp, reconstruction of Bolton Lodge, and replacement of the roof, porch, and door threshold at Butler Lodge.

Bryant Camp was opened to the public in January, but a few small projects remain.

The Burlington Section built **Bolton Lodge** on the original Long Trail, which has since been relocated about a mile to the west. The crew will restore the roof and floor, repair the windows, install a wood stove, and build a privy system. Planning will soon begin on a side trail to connect the lodge to the Long Trail.

Butler Lodge was restored in 2000, but its roof didn't need work then. It is now time to replace the roof, attend to the rotted log under the front door, and restore the porch.

We also plan to complete the Long Trail relocation through Smugglers' Notch this season, which will require hiring a contractor to build an accessible boardwalk through the wetland up the notch from Barnes Camp Visitor Center.

—DAVE HARDY
DIRECTOR OF TRAIL PROGRAMS





Staff Transitions

It can be bittersweet to say goodbye to coworkers who chose to join you in a mission to make life better for those who live in or visit the Green Mountain State. They also value the natural environment, know the joy of mountains, and want to keep the Green Mountain Club vital. We would like to acknowledge a few such staff members who shared their passions and expertise but have moved on: Caitlin Miller, Matt Shea, Theresa Fennell, and Jenny Montagne.

Many of you have met or heard of **CAITLIN MILLER**. In the last several years, she has been a backcountry caretaker, AmeriCorps group outreach coordinator (sponsored by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board), southern field assistant, and most recently, administrative assistant and interim group outreach coordinator. Caitlin exudes positive energy, and her can-do outlook made her a pleasure to be around. Whether you encountered her in the backcountry or the office, you were all but guaranteed a smile. She is known for her quick wit and love of all things privy! She said that while it's hard to imagine not returning to GMC for another season, it's time to move on. She plans to hike the Pacific Crest Trail this year and attend law school in the near future. We thank Caitlin for many years of outstanding service to GMC, and wish her the very best.

We said goodbye to Field Supervisor **MATT SHEA** this winter. Matt spent three seasons with GMC, his final one coordinating the work of the Long Trail Patrol, Volunteer Long Trail Patrol, and backcountry caretakers. Matt displayed exceptional social

and team building skills and put people at ease. A field intern who worked with Matt said, "Hey, trail work isn't as intimidating as I thought." Matt promoted and performed high quality, safe work up and down the Long Trail while gently deflecting bad ideas and improving workable ideas from the program director. And, he generously stayed on last fall to manage the Bryant Camp restoration project. We were happy to get a chance to catch up with Matt again when he returned to present "Walking Te Araroa: A 3,000 kilometer Tramp through New Zealand" at this year's Taylor Series in January. We appreciate all of your hard work Matt!

THERESA FENNEL fell in love with the Green Mountain State after thru-hiking the Long Trail in 2014 and decided to join our field staff. She worked as a backcountry caretaker for two seasons before stepping into the interim volunteer and education coordinator position this winter. Theresa studied biological sciences at Wright State University, and says the only thing surpassing her interest in science is her passion for backpacking and travel. In March she will leave GMC and follow her curiosity, wherever that may lead her.

JENNY MONTAGNE worked as GMC's membership and volunteer coordinator for more than a year before enrolling in graduate school in Chicago to further enhance her communications and journalism skills. Jenny helped organize some of the club's larger events, including two annual meetings and volunteer appreciation picnics. She managed the club's almost 10,000 memberships and kept track of our extensive corps of volunteers. We miss Jenny's calm, professional demeanor, and her imaginative and artistic ideas and contributions, but know that they will serve her well in her new career.

WELCOME

Kristin McLane

In September, we welcomed **KRISTIN MCLANE** to be the club's new membership and communications coordinator.

Kristin is happy to be settled in Vermont after living most of her life in the Philadelphia area. She stepped onto the Long Trail for the first time during an Appalachian Trail thru-hike in 2013. She went on to hike the Pacific Crest Trail in 2015, and rafted the Grand Canyon in 2016. Kristin left a software career to focus on the trails she loves so much. She is on the go here at GMC, getting out to as many section hikes, annual meetings, and events as she can to meet our enthusiastic membership! If you have ideas or questions related to membership, feel free to contact her at kmclane@greenmountainclub.org, or (802) 241-8324.



The Reopening of Bryant Camp

A CELEBRATION



Historic 1930s-era Bryant Camp officially opened to the public on Friday, January 13, after months of planning, acquisition of permits, working with agency partners, and physical restoration. The festive celebration took place at the camp, one mile up the Bryant Trail portion of the Catamount Trail at Bolton Valley Ski Resort.

Getting to that day was not always easy. Weather repeatedly refused to cooperate, hampering the restoration crews with early snow and continued snowfalls, before warmer temperatures and rain left a path of open streams, mud, and ice. Volunteers joined the GMC Construction Crew and other staff members and all worked tirelessly to complete the project on time.

On the morning before opening day Land Stewardship Coordinator Mollie Flanigan and Database Manager Lenny Crisostomo met volunteers Nancy and Elliot McClellan, Skylar Lobdell and me to carry supplies into the camp. With Skylar on skis, Lenny on his split snowboard, and the rest of us hiking, we hauled sleds of firewood, tools, and supplies. It was a warm, in the 40s kind of day, with dense fog and soft snow that created a bit of a slog, and slow going. At the cabin we set about cleaning, removing old nails, and stocking firewood for the new wood stove (courtesy of the Burlington Section).

January 13 dawned with an azure sky, temperatures in the teens, and a strong wind. I joined Mollie, Burlington Section President Ted Albers, and section member Phil Hazen to load more wood and supplies onto sleds and hike into the camp. We stacked the wood, started fires inside and outside of the cabin, and made cocoa for the celebration. Meanwhile, Executive Director Mike DeBonis led guests from the resort up the trail; many guests volunteered to haul sleds of wood to stock the shed.

The crowd admired the restoration work and the fancy but essential new backcountry outhouse, specially designed for four season use. Orange ribbon draping the front of the cabin awaited the ceremonial ribbon cutting. GMC President John Page did

the honors, drawing cheers from the crowd. He followed with a few words acknowledging the importance of the historic cabin. Mike DeBonis also spoke, recognizing the contribution of many supporters, volunteers and, most of all, the construction crew. He singled out Director of Trail Programs Dave Hardy, noting that without Dave's persistence and commitment this project would never have been completed.

The afternoon closed in high spirits as everyone gathered the sleds and headed down the mountain.

—JEAN HAIGH, GMC CAMPS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

You can make reservations for Bryant Camp on our website, www.green-mountainclub.org or by calling the visitor center, (802) 244-7037.

THANK YOU!

Special thanks to GMC Project Foreman Kurt Melin and GMC Construction Crew members James Robertson, Justin Towers, Dylan Hancock, Isaac Alexandre-Leach, Mike Kearns, and Christian Webb; and to the project managers: Director of Trail Programs Dave Hardy, Field Supervisor Matt Shea, and Land Stewardship Coordinator Mollie Flanigan.

And finally, our sincere appreciation to the many GMC volunteers—from the Camps Committee to the firewood haulers—who together helped revive historic Bryant Camp!



LIFE MEMBER PROFILE

Ensuring the Future of the Long Trail

Caitlin Hollister and David Rye moved to Waterbury in 2014 with their two young children after many years in Boston. The combination of the Green Mountains, a welcoming community, and a slower pace made Vermont the perfect fit. Caitlin works in the Teacher Apprenticeship Program for Champlain College, and David recently opened the Vermont 100 Store in the Cabot Annex in Waterbury Center. (The Vermont 100 Store has pledged to donate 1% of all sales to the Green Mountain Club!) Caitlin and David recently became life members, and took time to answer our questions.

GMC: *You've been members of the Green Mountain Club since 2014. What prompted you to join the club?*

Caitlin & David: Our first membership was a surprise birthday gift from Caitlin to David, as we were taking our kids hiking every weekend and getting to know the local trails. It felt like the best way to support the spectacular trails we can access just minutes from our new home.

GMC: *Recently you became life members. Why did you make that leap?*

C&D: Committing to be life members was one of the ways we've rooted ourselves in Vermont. We want to make sure the GMC can continue to build trails, maintain shelters, promote responsible environmental policies, and introduce new people to these mountains. Looking at how often we hike these trails, we consider

the life membership a way to offset our impact and pay it forward for our kids.

GMC: *Do you and your family hike the Long Trail often?*

C&D: We have a three- and a five-year-old, and love getting them out as much as possible. The Long Trail can be tough for them in places, but they occasionally surprise us making some steep trails look easy. We can be found throwing rocks in a river, building a fort or hiking some tamer trails these days, though. One of our favorites is The Short Trail behind GMC headquarters.

GMC: *How do you stay connected with the Green Mountain Club?*

C&D: With two young kids and starting a new business, we stay connected by reading about the trails that others are maintaining and hiking. We hope to be more involved with trail maintenance or guiding hikes in the years to come. Oh, and we love the annual Mud Season Egg Hunt!

Life membership dues go directly to the club's endowment. Withdrawals from the endowment are used to help fund programs to maintain and protect the Long Trail System for future generations. To learn more about becoming a life member visit our website or contact Membership and Communications Coordinator Kristin McLane, kmclane@greenmountainclub.org

Notice of Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Pursuant to *Article VII* of the Green Mountain Club bylaws (*Amendments and Procedures*), the members of the corporation shall have the power to amend the bylaws by two-thirds vote at any meeting of the membership, if notice of the proposed action is given in the call for the meeting.

Upon recommendation of the GMC Board of Directors, club members are hereby notified that three bylaw amendments are proposed for consideration at the annual meeting on June 10, 2017:

1. In Article V. Committees, Section 3. Executive Committee, (a). Function, Add the following sentence: “Under exigent circumstances, in cases when it is not possible for a meeting of the full board to take place, the executive committee may act on behalf of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall be notified of any such action within forty-eight hours.”

Article V, Section 3. Executive Committee, (a). Function, now reads: “It [the executive committee] shall advise the president, monitor the vitality of the corporation and its sections, and carry out any duties specified by the Board of Directors. In cases when it is not possible for a meeting of the full Board to take place, the executive committee may act on behalf of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall be notified of any such action within forty-eight hours.”

JUSTIFICATION: This proposed amendment provides the executive committee the authority to make decisions on behalf of the board in extraordinary situations when a meeting of the full board is not possible.

2. In Article V. Committees, Section 3. Executive Committee, (b). Composition, strike the following language: “It shall consist of not more than nine voting members of the corporation, at least two-thirds of whom shall be present directors, and shall include the president, vice president, treasurer and secretary.” Replace the eliminated language with: “It shall consist of the immediate past president, the four current officers, and four members to be appointed by the president subject to approval by the Board. No more than two of the appointed members can be non-directors.”

JUSTIFICATION: This proposed amendment provides the president authority to appoint four members to the executive committee with board approval, and changes the composition of non-directors on the executive committee from two-thirds to two.

3. In Article V. Committees, Section 3. Executive Committee, (c). Term, insert the following sentence after “Membership shall be for the term of one year.”: “No member can serve more than five years, with time served as an officer not counting.”

JUSTIFICATION: This proposed amendment implements term limits for executive committee members, enabling more regular transition of the committee’s members, and more regular development of the club’s leadership.

For a copy of the bylaws, please visit: greenmountainclub.org/bylaws.

— MIKE DeBONIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MUD SEASON REMINDER

The Green Mountain Club reminds hikers and trip leaders that spring mud season runs from snowmelt until the trails are dry, generally around Memorial Day weekend.

Some trails are closed, and hikers are urged to stay off all wet trails during this time. This will allow the trails to dry and reduce erosion and maintenance. Please use your best judgment, and avoid high elevation spruce-fir forest trails.

Look for spring hikes at lower elevations on trails with southern exposure on forested hardwood slopes. Be aware that while these soils dry out fastest, they also have the highest fire danger.

Consider walking on mountain roads (for instance, Ascutney, Burke, Okemo, Smugglers’ Notch), closed to vehicles in spring, but mud free with nice views. For information on spring hiking alternatives, please visit www.greenmountainclub.org.

Thanks for helping protect Vermont’s hiking trails!



Mud Season Celebration and Egg Hunt with Laughing Moon Chocolates

Saturday, April 15, 10:00 a.m. – Noon

GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center

Children of all ages and their parents are invited to take a walk on The Short Trail during our seventh annual non-competitive Mud Season Celebration Egg Hunt. When the search is over, children can turn in the eggs for chocolate and other goodies from Laughing Moon Chocolates. Please come dressed for the outdoors and BYOB (bring your own basket)!

After the hunt, head to Laughing Moon Chocolates in Stowe to meet the Easter Bunny.

FREE and open to the public.
Registration not required.





Forestry and GMC

What comes to mind when you think of the Green Mountain Club? Rugged trails, satisfying outings, long-distance hiking? I picture all of these, but I also see GMC as a responsible steward of its many land holdings.

GMC has worked for more than a hundred years to offer unmatched hiking experiences to its members and the public. Our success in protecting the Long Trail means the club now owns a large variety of properties throughout Vermont. Managing for sustainable forestry has become an important part of caring for this natural resource.

You might ask, why should a hiking club be engaged in forestry? The primary purpose of GMC property ownership is to protect the Long Trail and other extraordinary hikes in Vermont. However, some of our properties extend well beyond hiking trails, so they have multiple management objectives. These include long term timber production, wildlife habitat protection and improvement, and supplying firewood for heat and hot water at GMC headquarters in Waterbury. In some cases appropriate harvesting helps pay for GMC's stewardship program, while benefiting the local economy.

About a dozen GMC properties have multiple resource management goals. Two are sizeable holdings: the 1,100-acre Atlas property in Jay, and the 1,870-acre Meltzer parcel in Lowell. The GMC also has several smaller but significant properties under forest management, including the 85-acre Bissell property in Johnson and 148 forested acres in Bolton. We even have thirty acres under management at GMC headquarters in Waterbury, certified as an American Tree Farm.

As a professional forester, I perform an inventory to assess natural resources and ecological features as the first step of managing each property. From this information I write a management plan to match GMC's goals with conditions on the tract. GMC's stewardship program implements the plan to meet the club's goals.

As the club's forester I have spent much of my time in the past twelve years managing the Meltzer property in Lowell. Hikers may have enjoyed this land from the Belvidere Mountain fire tower, Tillotson Camp, the Frank Post Trail or the aptly named Forester's Trail. These features, in addition to about

Skilled loggers using chainsaws, rather than heavy cutting equipment, remove each tree individually, taking care to maintain the ecological integrity of the site.

two and a half miles of the Long Trail, are on this 1,870-acre tract.

This property has a long history of timber harvesting. Much of it was aggressively cut in the 1960s and 1970s, and you can still trace the extensive network of historic logging roads. GMC started more carefully tending the property by developing a management plan in 1992, and by conducting thinnings, starting in 1994. Different sections of the property have been harvested in each of the past eight winters.

The Meltzer parcel presents special concerns, as most properties do. It has delicate

areas important to wildlife, such as the high elevation montane spruce-fir forest that provides habitat for Bicknell's thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*). Many areas have fragile wet and/or inundated soils, which logging equipment can damage. Many old skid roads were poorly maintained, and have become washed out over the decades. Much of the terrain is steep, and the areas to be cut are remote.

Planning an economically viable logging job that meets GMC's goals must consider these concerns. For example, all logging takes place in winter after the ground has firmly frozen, minimizing soil damage. Trees are carefully marked for removal, and access roads are thoughtfully planned. Skilled loggers using chainsaws, rather than heavy cutting equipment, remove each tree individually, taking care to maintain the ecological integrity of the site.

In this and in other ways forest management has become part of GMC's strategy to care for our woodlands away from the beaten path. Compatible forestry can augment the effort to provide the special hiking experience our members and the public have come to expect. As a land manager, GMC is well on its way to being a responsible steward for its next hundred years.

—HARRIS ROEN,

GMC CONSULTING FORESTER

LONG MEADOW RESOURCE MANAGEMENT LLC

Harris Roen is a Vermont Licensed Forester who manages properties for private landowners throughout northern Vermont. Harris started Long Meadow Resource Management more than twenty years ago for landowners who want to carefully and responsibly manage their properties.

A HIKER'S SCAVENGER HUNT

Natural Wonders to Look for on Your Next Hike: SKUNK CABBAGE



PHOTO BY DAVID CAPPAERT BUGWOOD.ORG

Eager hikers aren't the only forest lovers in the grips of a kind of "cabin fever" as daylight lengthens and hints of the growing season appear. Even as the ground remains frozen and snow begins to melt away, forest plants are waking up, and one has a cabin fever of its own.

Skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*) thrusts its flower from frozen ground in the early spring. One of few plants in the world able to generate heat through a process called thermogenesis, skunk cabbages can thaw surrounding frozen soil and snow to emerge and flower before the last gasp of winter leaves the landscape.

The skunk cabbage flower blooms and generates heat for twelve to fourteen days, remaining an average of 36 degrees Fahrenheit above the outside temperature day and night. This not only enables the plant to jump start its season, but immediately attracts pollinators. As its name suggests, a skunk cabbage's flower emits a putrid smell. The stench attracts flies and carrion beetles thinking the flower is food. Instead, they are tricked into pollinating the clever plant. After flowering, large green leaves emerge and feed the plant through July, after which they rapidly die and decay. The flower stalk develops into a round fruiting head of numerous berry-like seeds.

If cabin fever grips you this spring, get out in the woods, particularly around streams and wetlands, and look for this plant that has found a way to capitalize on this beautiful season.

—MOLLIE FLANIGAN, LAND STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR

Profile on a GMC Conserved Land

The Green Mountain Club manages more than eighty tracts of land totaling more than 25,000 acres. These lands protect not only a permanent route for the Long Trail, but also the natural and cultural resources that make the Long Trail a place worth exploring and a vibrant home for humans, animals and plants.

NAME: Manley Tract

LOCATION: Johnson, Vermont

OWNER: State of Vermont

EASEMENT HOLDER: Green Mountain Club

PROTECTED SINCE: 2001

SIZE: 98 acres

TRAIL: Long Trail

LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

- **Water:** Tributaries of Judevine Brook
- **Habitat:**
 - Northern hardwood forest; mast stands of American beech trees; habitat for black bear, moose, and song birds
 - Riparian (stream side) habitat, perfect growing sites for skunk cabbage!

LAND MANAGEMENT:

The Manley Tract is owned by the State of Vermont and protected under a Green Mountain Club conservation easement. A conservation easement is a legal document that permanently limits the uses of the land to protect selected conservation values. On the Manley Tract GMC's easement ensures that the Long Trail will have a permanent home on the property, and that the land will be managed for public recreation and wildlife habitat.

REFLECTIONS FROM MANLEY TRACT CORRIDOR MONITOR SARA BURCHARD:

"The Manley Tract is about four miles from Johnson State College, but once up the mile-long trail to the tract, you feel very isolated, and in a truly wild place. If you like bushwhacking, this is a perfect place. Walking along the boundary, it seems like it's four-fifths straight up steep terrain. Monitoring is best in the spring before underbrush gets growing, or after it has died back in the fall. I've seen rubs and other signs of moose, bear and deer, all while scrambling over logs and fallen trees on the boundary line. It is a delightful place!"





Board Report

Twenty-two members of the Green Mountain Club Board of Directors met Saturday, January 7, at club headquarters in Waterbury Center. Business included reports from officers and staff; a review of current fiscal year finances; a first look at the draft fiscal year 2018 budget; a report from the nominating committee; and discussion and approval of several recommendations from governance review committees.

Treasurer Stephen Klein reported that end-of-year contributions for fiscal year 2016, which ended April 30, 2016, were very strong, offsetting lower than budgeted revenue from memberships and grants. The draft budget for fiscal year 2018 represents a 2.4 percent increase in outlays over fiscal year 2017. Final review and approval of the budget is scheduled for the March board meeting.

Executive Director Mike DeBonis highlighted accomplishments by the staff, including initiatives to improve operational efficiency, strengthen financial management, and integrate and expand club communications.

The nominating committee, chaired by Secretary Lee Allen, is reviewing potential nominee qualifications for open general direc-

tor positions. (See page 23 for director nominee biographies.)

President John Page presented and facilitated a thorough discussion of club governance recommendations from the Board Structure and Function working group, chaired by Vice President Tom Candon. The board approved a comprehensive motion that puts into place several new policies: a uniform term starting date for general and section directors; an orientation program for new directors; establishment of a governance committee charged with regularly reviewing the governance of the club; and the composition and term lengths for members of the nominating and executive committees. The board unanimously agreed to ask club members to approve several bylaw changes implementing these recommendations at the annual meeting in June. (See the warning of proposed bylaw changes on page 19.)

As always, club members are welcome to attend board meetings. The board will next meet in Woodstock on March 18. Please contact Mike DeBonis at mdebonis@greenmountainclub.org or (802) 241-8212 for more information if you would like to attend.

—LEE ALLEN, SECRETARY



AT THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB'S 107TH ANNUAL MEETING ON SATURDAY, JUNE 10, four general seats will open on the board of directors. General directors represent the Green Mountain Club membership, and serve with directors elected by the sections. Directors are elected to three-year terms, with a two-term limit. The GMC Nominating Committee presents the following candidates for approval:

- Robynn Albert, first term
- Anne Janeway, second term
- Daan Van Der Vliet, second term
- John Zaber, second term

How to Vote:

Please vote for up to four directors. If you have a family membership, you may vote twice. All section and at-large members are eligible to vote.

E-mail your vote to gmc@greenmountainclub.org, with "Voting for General Directors" in the subject line. Please be sure to include your member number, located on your membership card. Ballots must be received by April 1.



ANNUAL ELECTION OF General Directors

Robynn Albert was born and raised in Elizabethtown, New York, and spent much of her childhood hiking in the Adirondack Mountains with her family. She earned an associate's degree in business from Champlain College and a bachelor's degree in communication arts and public relations from the State University of New York at Plattsburgh. Moving to Vermont in 1999 to work for Blodgett Oven Company in Burlington, Robynn began to explore the Green Mountains. A few years later, after attending a GMC Taylor Series event and joining a winter hike to Waterbury Reservoir, she joined the GMC Burlington Section, and soon became a trip leader. She led her first section outing on July 4, 2008, with sixteen hikers bound for Camel's Hump. She was hooked.



Robynn is the marketing and training manager at the Vermont Manufacturing Extension Center, working from her home office in Essex Junction.

Leading trips is one of her most rewarding volunteer opportunities, and Robynn has gained many life-long friends from her time on the trails and summits of the Greens and Adirondacks. She feels that there is nothing like being on trails with others who also love the outdoors.

Anne Janeway, a Norwich resident, spends her free time enjoying the Green Mountains and the Upper Connecticut River Valley on skis, snowshoes, foot, bike, and boat.

Anne has worked in nonprofit administration and development at educational institutions including Dartmouth and Middlebury Colleges, Vermont Law School, and Concord Community Music School. Most recently Anne worked to conserve land in the Upper Valley through her fundraising role at the Upper Valley Land Trust. She earned a bachelor of arts degree from Middlebury College and a master of education in college administration from Suffolk University.



Introduced to GMC more than thirty-five years ago when her family moved to Vermont, Anne loves the camaraderie, intergenerational relations, and constant natural and geographical discovery that make being active with the club so fulfilling. She is a frequent Ottauquechee Section outing participant and hike leader. Anne is inspired to continue sharing and promoting the GMC's activities and values with new Long Trail friends.

Dann Van Der Vliet, "Redtail", first learned of the Long Trail as a University of Vermont college student while doing high-elevation forest decline research on Camel's Hump. This ignited a goal to thru-hike the Long Trail, which he did in 2006. Since then he has completed the forty-six peaks in the Adirondacks and eighty-two of the Northeast's 111 four-thousand-foot peaks. He has also revisited numerous sections on the Long Trail with his two children, Katherine and Robert.



Dann lives in Huntington with his wife Susan and works for Cornell University of Ithaca, New York. He has served on the board of trustees of the Birds of Vermont Museum. He also is the co-founder of the Vermont Gear Swap and Clothing Sale, held each spring at the West Monitor Barn in Richmond, which has helped to raise funds for the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps and the Burlington Sunrise Rotary Club.

John Zaber is a graduate of Vermont private colleges, having earned an associate of arts degree in resource management from Sterling College, bachelor of arts degree in human services from Burlington College, and master of arts degree with emphasis in experiential education and implications for public school reform from Norwich University.



John's love for Vermont's trails began in earnest as a crew leader for the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps. He continues that passion today as a teacher at Sterling College and a GMC board member.

John greatly respects fellow board members for their collective years of adventure as well as for their commitment to the Long Trail. He is further inspired by the depth of talent in the GMC staff, and is humbled by the opportunity continue serving the Long Trail and the Green Mountain Club.

Section Directory

Bennington

Maintenance: Harmon Hill to Glazenbury Mountain
President: Lorna Cheriton, (802) 447-1383
E-mail: chertop@comcast.net
Website: meetup.com/gmcbennington

Brattleboro

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

Burlington

Maintenance: Winooski River Footbridge to Smugglers' Notch
President: Ted Albers, (802) 557-7009
E-mail: ted@ted-albers.net
Website: gmc Burlington.org

Connecticut

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

Killington

Location: Rutland area
Maintenance: Vt. 140 to Maine Junction
President: Barry Griffith, (802) 492-3573
E-mail: Griff2Vt@vermontel.net
Website: gmkillington.org

Laraway

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

Manchester

Maintenance: Vt. 11 and 30 to Mad Tom Notch
President: Marge Fish, (802) 824-3662
E-mail: marge.fish@gmail.com
Website: gmc-manchester.org

Montpelier

Maintenance: Camel's Hump to Winooski River Footbridge and Smugglers' Notch to Chilcote Pass
President: Steve Bailey, (609) 424-9238
E-mail: stevecbailey@gmail.com
Website: gmcmontpelier.org

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: nekgmc.org

Northern Frontier

Location: Montgomery
Maintenance: Hazen's Notch to Canada
President: Jane Williams, (802) 827-3879
E-mail: janiewilliams@surfglobal.net
Website: troutrivernetwork.org/gmc

Ottawaquechee

Location: Upper Valley, and New Hampshire
Maintenance: Appalachian Trail: Maine Junction to NH border
President: Dick Andrews, (802) 885-3201
E-mail: techcomm@vermontel.net
Website: gmc-o-section.org

Sterling

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

Worcester

Location: Worcester, Massachusetts
Maintenance: Stratton-Arlington Road to Winhall River
President: Ram Moenns, (603) 767-2962
E-mail: shivratri@gmail.com



Sections

Northeast Kingdom Section Member SUE JOHNSTON First to Complete Calendar Year Grid

Have you ever heard a hiker mention "the Grid," and wondered what they were talking about? The Grid includes the forty-eight peaks over 4,000 feet in elevation in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. But it's not just the forty-eight once. Oh, no. It's every peak, every month of the year. To help you with the math, $48 \times 12 = 576$ summits. It's called the Grid because a spreadsheet is needed to keep track of all those hikes. People working to complete the Grid are self-proclaimed "Gridiot."

Most people take years to finish the Grid. **SUE JOHNSTON**, a Northeast Kingdom Section member, was the third person and the first woman to complete the Grid, which she did in 2003 after about fifteen years of casual hiking. In 2016 she became the first person to complete a Calendar Year Grid. That's 576 summits in one year!

Sue is a very experienced hiker. She's completed four Long Trail end-to-end hikes (two section hikes in the '90s, a thru-hike in 2010 and again in 2015), the Appalachian Trail, the Colorado Trail, the John Muir Trail, the Ouachita Trail, the Tuscarora Trail, and the Cohos Trail. All that solo hiking makes her an endurance athlete, but it doesn't indicate the full extent of her abilities. She has also done a supported thru-ski of the Catamount Trail and lots of ultrarunning in the mid-1990s to early 2000s, including well-known 100-mile races like the Western States 100 and the Hardrock 100.

After seeing a discussion on a hiking message board debating the feasibility of a Calendar Year Grid, Sue kept it in the back of her mind. In 2016 she realized she was in an ideal position to try. She was retired and fit, and had a spouse willing to support her. Without announcing her intention she started hiking in January, posting each month's summit stats on her blog, runsuerun.blogspot.com. By April finishing began to appear possible, barring injury or sickness.

One of the things she loved most about her goal was its long-range nature, much like a thru-hike. Early in the year December seemed awfully far away, as Katahdin does to a starting northbound Appalachian Trail

hiker. But, Sue says, every day you pick away at it, and big goals become attainable. And unlike hiking the AT, she could sleep in her own bed every night.

In addition to completing the 576 White Mountain peaks, Sue was also aiming for another number: one million vertical feet climbed. Some extracurricular hiking trips to Maine and New Mexico helped, but when she finished the Grid, she was still three to four thousand feet short. There was nothing to do but continue hiking through the end of December.

You might expect someone to relax after such a year, but Sue has resumed running and yoga, and she hopes to do more skiing and cycling too. She looks forward to a much better rounded year in 2017.

Ever humble, Sue doesn't understand why people are so blown away by her accomplishments. She says she just loved every day of doing what she was passionate about.

The secret then to accomplishing such a big goal? Do something you love.

—KRISTIN McLANE,
MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR



Ottauquechee Section Member LARRY LITTEN: Changing the Word on the Trail

It's quite enough for trail adopters to get out on their segments three times a year with hoe, saw, loppers, and clippers to maintain the footpath in the wilderness. Having a vision for a complete hiking experience is not a requirement listed in the *Appalachian Trail Field Book*. But when an adopter does have a vision, puts it into motion, works to make it a reality, and motivates likeminded people, that deserves special recognition.

As an adopter **LARRY LITTEN** maintained a four-mile segment of Appalachian Trail in Vermont from the Connecticut River southbound to Happy Hill, including Happy Hill Shelter and its privy. He also took on the Tucker Hill spur trail from the AT to the end of Happy Hill Road in Norwich. Those trails get extensive local use, and of course the AT is traveled from May to early November by thru-hikers and section hikers.

For many years Dartmouth College has provided space for hikers to drop backpacks. There are also computers available and a bulletin board. Occasionally fraternities provided places to stay, but there was no organized effort to support hikers. In fact, the word on the trail about Norwich and Hanover became, "Get in and get out as fast as you can."

The word worked its way down to Larry, and he wasn't happy with it. He launched a campaign to improve relations with hikers that eventually gained support from the town managers of Norwich and Hanover as well as the chambers of commerce and libraries. White blazes were refreshed in both communities, and they led past businesses that give away sandwiches and pizza—others discounted food items. A community center opened its doors for showers, laundry, and a space to sleep.

As part of his effort to improve the images of both Hanover and Norwich, Larry invited a group of hikers to speak on a panel about their experiences on the AT. They told stories about the rain and the beauty and the people who had helped them along the way: "trail angels," they're called. One hiker had made a video of his hike.

There were about a hundred people in the audience, and Betsy Maisland of Norwich was one of them. Betsy's son had started hiking the AT in Georgia in 2010, but had had to leave the trail with an infected foot. A family



AT to Elm Street in Norwich

of trail angels had not only helped him off the trail, but took him to a hospital, and provided room and board for him and his friend for a week. Betsy was looking for ways to help hikers in the same spirit in which the trail angels had helped her son. She was inspired by the presentation, and when she talked with Larry she learned of the work he was doing in Hanover. They started working together, and in addition to gaining cooperation from local governments and merchants, they put together a network of trail angels who now provide hikers with meals, showers, places to sleep, and transportation.

Through their efforts, both Norwich and Hanover were designated by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy as official Trail Communi-

ties in 2011. Largely as a result of their hard work, trail angels hosted 845 hikers in 2016. Obviously, local attitudes have shifted from suspicion to acceptance and welcome. The word on the trail is now, "Get into Norwich and Hanover, and take your time getting out."

Larry Litten has been described as a humble man with broad shoulders, and his talents extend far beyond running a chain saw and refurbishing a shelter. Recently he had to give up his trail maintenance duties, but his passion for hiking and his vision to form a hiker friendly community inspired him to leave a legacy benefiting two towns and hundreds of hikers who pass through them.

—BOB HAGEN

OTTAUQUECHEE SECTION

Trail Magic: The Grandma Gatewood Story—Film and Discussion OTTAUQUECHEE SECTION

Friday, April 21, 6:30 p.m.
Montshire Museum of Science, Norwich

Many hikers know Emma "Grandma" Gatewood was the first woman to solo thru-hike the Appalachian Trail but there's much more to her story. Prior to a screening of the film, there will be a short panel discussion featuring a recent AT thru-hiker and touching on Appalachian Trail history in the Upper Valley, its maintenance, and the activities of the Upper Valley Trail Angels.

Green Mountain Club Outdoor Programs

At the Green Mountain Club we are always looking for ways to help you have fun, be safe, and learn more about the outdoors. Visit greenmountainclub.org to sign up for one of our workshops today.

SOLO Wilderness First Aid

Saturday and Sunday
April 22 and 23, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday
June 17 and 18, 9 a.m. – 5 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. It focuses 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 and/or CPR (additional fees apply).

Introduction to Backpacking

Friday, April 7, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center

Are you interested in backpacking, but not sure how to start? With so much information about gear, food, shelters, and more, it can be easy to feel lost before you ever step outside. Come learn how to hit the trail safely from the GMC's experienced education staff. This workshop is an introduction to the basics of backpacking—from gear selection and trip planning to first aid and nutrition. Please bring any equipment that you already own or anything you would like advice and guidance with.

Instructors: GMC Field Staff. *Limit:* 20. *Fee:* \$15.00. Rain or shine. Please register by Thursday, April 6.

Trail Maintenance 101

Saturday, April 29, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Inn at Long Trail, Killington

Learn how to care for a New England hiking trail by joining seasoned GMC field staff for a day-long introduction to trail maintenance. In this workshop we will

cover topics such as pruning and clipping, blazing, and erosion control. No prior experience is necessary, and tools will be provided. This workshop is especially valuable for new trail and shelter adopters, and it is a great way to meet other volunteers from around the state.

Instructors: GMC field staff. *Limit:* 30. *Fee:* FREE. Please register by Friday, April 28.

End-To-Ender Panel

Friday, May 5, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center,
and online through Orca Media

Planning to hike the Long Trail or another long-distance trail end-to-end this year? If you have questions for hikers who have completed the Long Trail or are looking for tips on equipment, food, and planning, join us for this informative evening with a panel of end-to-enders. Sign-up early for onsite spots—this is our most popular workshop!

Instructors: panel of end-to-enders. *Onsite limit:* 50. *Fee:* FREE.

Pastel Landscape Painting, "The Green Tunnel"

Saturday, May 6, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center

The dense foliage canopy of the Long Trail is often called "the green tunnel." Vermont artist and GMC member Cindy Griffith will facilitate an artistic exploration of the state using pastels,



Pastel Landscape Painting



with a supportive approach to developing skills. She will cover technique, the medium, and rules of composition (and how to break them!). Feel free to bring reference photos from the Long Trail or other landscapes that are meaningful to you. As Cindy says: "I'm very flexible with what people want to paint, because if they don't have a connection to it, it will never work."

Instructor: Cindy Griffith. *Limit:* 20. *Fee:* \$50.

Wild Edibles of the Northeast

Sunday, May 21, 2:00 – 4:30 p.m.
GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center

Are you intrigued by mushroom and plant foraging? Join Ari Rockland-Miller of The Mushroom Forager (themushroomforager.com) on a tour of spring's wild tastes and tonics. In May the woods burst with tender new greens and mushrooms. This workshop will introduce wildcrafting safety, strategy, and sustainability, followed by an exploration of the woods around the Green Mountain Club Visitor Center for the culinary and medicinal treasures of early spring.

Instructor: Ari Rockland-Miller. *Limit:* 20. *Fee:* \$30. Please register by Friday, May 12.

Join us for inspiring presentations that will transport you to mountains and waterways near and far as we celebrate twenty-five years of the Taylor Series—a great way to spend an evening!

Admission is \$5 for members and \$8 for nonmembers; kids under 12 are free. Tickets are available at the door only. Proceeds support local sections and the GMC Education Program. Please check greenmountainclub.org for full calendar, updates, and changes.

Hiking the Worcester Range

Steven and Heather Bailey

Thursday, March 9, 7:00 p.m.
GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center

The Worcester Range is often neglected in favor of the Green and White Mountains, but it contains wonderful trails and vistas. Mount Hunger, the star of the range, has spectacular views in almost every direction. Elmore has one of Vermont's few fire towers, and the Skyline Trail provides solitude unmatched on the Long Trail. Join Montpelier Section members Steve and Heather Bailey for a night of their photos and stories of their extensive travels on the range, with bits of its fascinating history.

The Physiology and Psychology of Wilderness Survival

Mark Kutolowski

Thursday, March 16, 7:00 p.m.
GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center

Mark Kutolowski, outdoor guide, naturalist and wilderness survival instructor at Dartmouth College, will go beyond dramatic survival tales to examine the physiological and psychological qualities that determine who lives and who dies. He will cover requirements for wilderness survival in the short term (four days), medium term (four to forty days), and long term.

History of the White Mountains

Elizabeth Kane

Thursday, March 23, 7:00 p.m.
GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center

The sublime landscapes of New Hampshire's White Mountains have inspired terror and awe for artists, homesteaders, trekkers, entrepreneurs and tourists, yet humanity has made its mark on the region too. Follow its history

from unbroken forest to farmland, grand hotels, and logging slash to today's recreational paradise. Learn about its most egregious characters, corporations and organizations as populations shifted, trees fell by the millions, towns disappeared, and new boundaries appeared over the past 350 years. Elizabeth Kane, an avid adventurer and historian, will examine whether the public's battle to reclaim devastated forests will ultimately save what had become a near wasteland.

Plane Crashes in Vermont

Brian Linder

Thursday, March 30, 7:00 p.m.
GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center

There is often more to the story behind a plane crash than is reported in the news. Unsung heroism, drama, suspense, and even humor surround many disasters. Brian Linder has researched and hunted plane wrecks for decades, logging thirty-one crashes in Vermont's woods and mountains, including one on Mount Abraham and a 1944 B-24

crash on Camel's Hump. Join him for a night of stories of survival—and arrogance—as he recounts some of the more fascinating crashes from Vermont's aviation history.

Day Hiking the Lofoten Islands of Norway

Ashley Spooner

GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center
Thursday, April 6, 7:00 p.m.

Outdoor adventurer Ashley Spooner recently spent eight days hiking in the Lofoten Islands north of the Arctic Circle in Norway. Midnight sun lighted the skies nearly all hours of the day, and the dramatic peaks of the archipelago melted into the turquoise Norwegian Sea. Ashley will share the magic of the islands, from open seas to the endless hiking trails.

Rock Climbing Abroad and At Home

Andrea Charest

Thursday, April 27, 7:00 p.m.
GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center

Climbing is Andrea Charest's way of life, woven into her job, her marriage, her free time, and even her dog's life. She and her husband Steve own Petra Cliffs Climbing Center in Burlington, where they have helped expand the climbing community. When not at the center or guiding, she's on rock or ice, sometimes backpacking skis, all over the world. She returns to Vermont with a new perspective on life from the side of a wall and an appreciation for New England's own impressive climbing routes, which she will share with us.

The Taylor Series is sponsored by GMC's fourteen sections, local businesses and other friends of the club.

\$1,000+ Business Contributors



\$500—\$999 Business Contributors

ArborTrek Canopy Adventures • Rock Art Brewery • Thread Rolling, Inc. • Woodchuck Hard Cider

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 ▲ atlatls
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2017 GMC Annual Meeting Reservation

Annual Meeting is Saturday, June 10. Please register no later than Friday, May 26.

Name: _____

Guest(s): _____

GMC Section: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Green Mountain Club

☐ Check ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover

Card number: _____

Exp. Date: _____ 3-digit security code: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

■ Mail payment and form by May 26 to: Green Mountain Club,
4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Center, VT 05677

■ To register by phone:

Call GMC's membership coordinator (802) 241-8324

■ To register online:

www.greenmountainclub.org/meeting

REGISTRATION (REQUIRED) _____ @ \$ 25.00

Includes Friday night reception, Saturday breakfast, and Sunday workshops

FRIDAY RECEPTION

☐ Yes, I/we will attend the Friday evening reception

SATURDAY MEALS

Bagged lunches prepared by Common Ground Center and dinner catered by Blossom of Winooski

Lunch: ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Meat _____ @ \$12.00

Dinner: ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Meat _____ @ \$25.00

Total: \$ _____

LODGING

On-site cabins, tenting or RV space (See pg 13 for descriptions)

Friday night cabin: _____ @ \$30.00/person

Friday night tenting or RV space: _____ @ \$10.00/person

Saturday night cabin: _____ @ \$30.00/person

Saturday night tenting or RV space: _____ @ \$10.00/person

Total: \$ _____

LODGING NEEDS

- ☐ I require wheelchair accessibility
☐ I require electricity for a medical device
☐ I cannot climb to a top bunkbed

Roommate Request: _____



Common Ground Center

The Backpacker's QUESTIONNAIRE



When the Long Trail oozes mud and black flies hatch, while other people plant Swiss chard or dream of opening day at Fenway, my thoughts turn to thru-hiking. To the sound of mice scurrying around the shelter. To the smell of a privy at dawn. To the feel of cold rain wicking down my socks. To the other-worldly flavor of dehydrated meals. To persistent body odor. To solitary miles and my need for human companionship. Which brings me to Stan.

I met Stan in the summer of 2015. After forty-five minutes of conversation and a winter of emails, we agreed to hike the Colorado Trail together. The following June we left Waterton Canyon, outside Denver, enroute to Durango, a plod of nearly five hundred miles.

The first few days went well enough, but by the time we reached Breckenridge after a week together, we were avoiding eye contact. Our differences were seemingly small: South America versus Western Europe. Meat loaf versus Chinese takeout. Mind altering drugs versus chocolate. The word “gal.”

What really rankled me though was his pedestrian preference in cheese, specifically the rubbery, bland, artificially-dyed-orange kind. He assured me that “all cheese tastes the same.” I live in Vermont. Need I say more? We parted “as friends,” but if you ask me, friends don’t let friends eat orange cheese.

Based on that experience and thousands of other trail miles, I have devised the following questionnaire for prospective hiking companions. I want to know with whom I am embarking into the wild, whether cretin or my new best friend forever. Please feel free to use all or any part of it, and to change or add questions that more accurately reflect your preferences.

1 When sleeping outdoors, I

- a. snore like a Harley.
- b. have night frights and wake up screaming.
- c. crinkle plastic bags at 4:00 a.m.
- d. have never seen 4:00 a.m.

2 While hiking, my conversational style can best be described as follows:

- a. I mumble a lot because I like it when people say “what?”
- b. I mostly talk about myself and my salacious exploits.
- c. I use big words like salacious.
- d. I don’t talk and you should be glad of it.

3 My ideal long distance hiking partner would

- a. pack out his/her gently used toilet paper in keeping with “Leave no Trace” principles.
- b. spend star-filled evenings serenading me on his/her ukulele.
- c. carry a portable espresso machine with beans and a grinder and know how to use them.
- d. all of the above.

4 When packing food for a long hike, I am most concerned with

- a. what wine pairs best with Ramen noodles.
- b. how to dehydrate organic baby kale.
- c. the weight-to-calorie ratio of Nutella.
- d. finding Dinty Moore Beef Stew in pop-top cans.



- 5 My favorite trail snack is**
- a. Oreos dipped in peanut butter.
 - b. vegan cupcakes.
 - c. whatever I can bum off day hikers.
 - d. ibuprofen.
- 6 If a bear wandered into camp, I would likely**
- a. run like hell.
 - b. wet my pants.
 - c. cower behind you.
 - d. any or all of the above.
- 7 In the backcountry, I am most afraid of**
- a. bears and mountain lions.
 - b. Lyme disease and hypothermia.
 - c. thunder and lightning.
 - d. other hikers.
- 8 My favorite piece of backpacking gear is**
- a. my \$300 ultralight tent.
 - b. my \$400 ultralight tent.
 - c. my \$500 ultralight tent.
 - d. whatever I can score off eBay.
- 9 On a long-distance hike, I usually average**
- a. 10-15 miles per day.
 - b. 15-20 miles per day.
 - c. 20-25 or more miles per day.
 - d. I'm beginning to dread long distance hiking.
- 10 For water purification, I use**
- a. a high-tech system too complicated to actually work.
 - b. a 25-year-old pump filter that clogs when I most need it.
 - c. a Sierra cup, bandanna, and drinking straw.
 - d. none of the above. I drink only craft beer.
- 11 When hitchhiking into town for re-supply, I**
- a. smile and someone stops to pick me up.
 - b. usually have to beg for a ride, sometimes offer money.
 - c. call AAA and pretend my car broke down.
 - d. Hitchhike? I don't think so.
- 12 Of the following I prefer**
- a. Cabot three-year-old cheddar.
 - b. Cheez Whiz.
 - c. I don't eat dairy.
 - d. eggs or gluten or meat or peanuts or shellfish or Nutella.
- 13 I want to do this thru-hike because**
- a. I saw the movie.
 - b. I just embezzled \$2.3 million.
 - c. I have a girlfriend in Argentina.
 - d. I can think of no better way to spend my time.

—SNOWBERRY
(AKA MARY LOU RECOR)



Long range view north from Camel's Hump summit



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