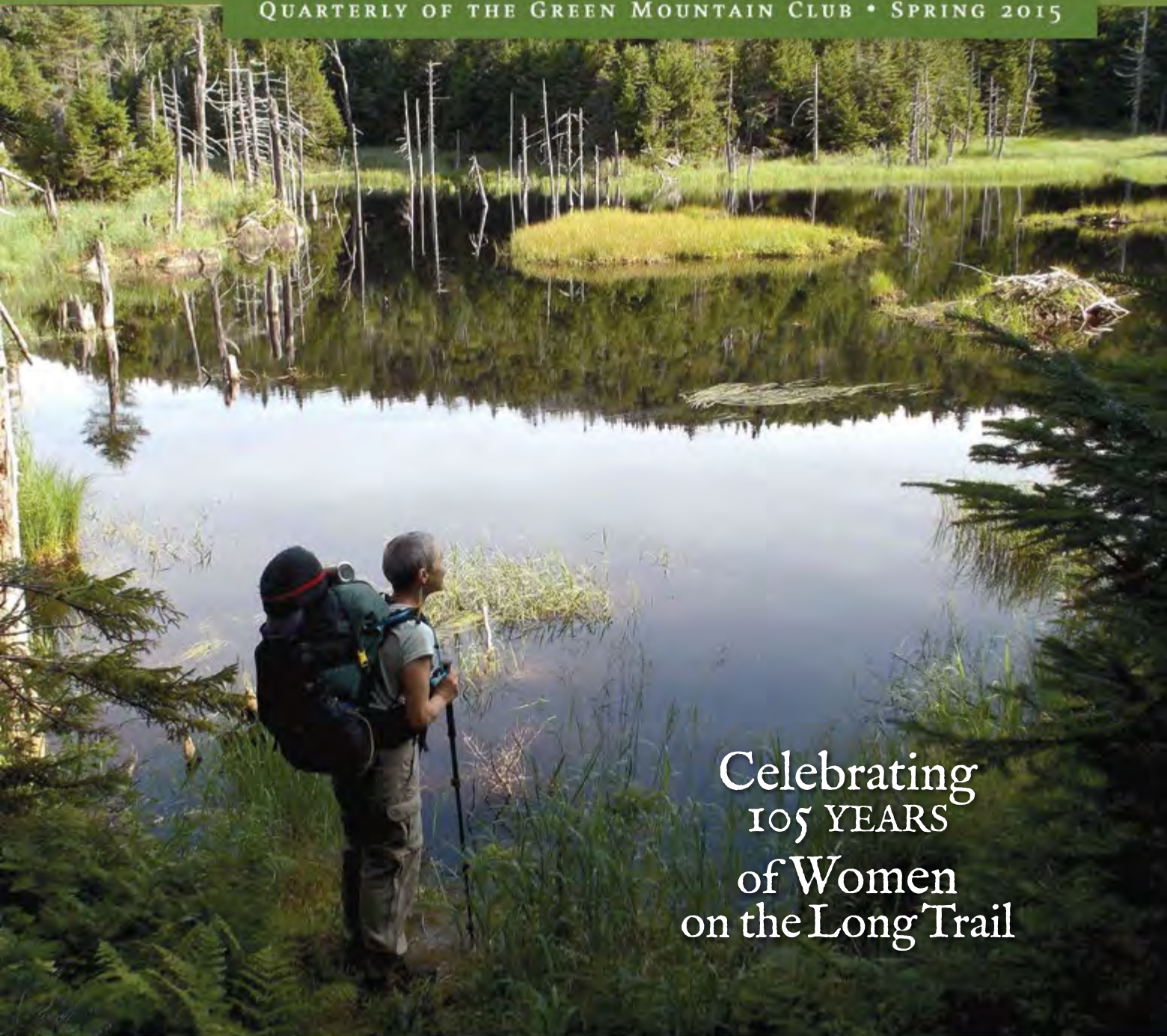


# Long Trail NEWS



QUARTERLY OF THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB • SPRING 2015



Celebrating  
105 YEARS  
of Women  
on the Long Trail

# 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

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Cover Photo: End-to-ender Morgan Irons taking a break at Lockwood Pond. Photo by Alan Paschell



ADAM DEAN HECKLE

Burlington Section member Catherine Hinojosa hiking through misty, moss-covered spruce

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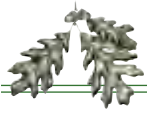
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Yes, spring is our fickle season. We find it difficult to relinquish winter hiking in the high mountains, yet look forward to warmer days, the smells of earth and flowers. Mindful of fragile muddy trails high up, we choose lower yet kinder paths.

Each spring I look forward to a Mother’s Day hike up Elmore Mountain with my daughter Jackie, a twenty-year family ritual. I probably hike Elmore five or six times a year, but I never tire of our Mother’s Day venture. We ooh and ah through our way from the trailhead to the foundation of the old stone cabin overlooking Lake Elmore, our goal to find as many spring flowers blooming along the trail as possible. Trilliums have nearly passed at lower elevations, but are just beginning to bloom at the top, sometimes with leftover snow in their shadows. It is akin to watching spring unfold into summer before our eyes.

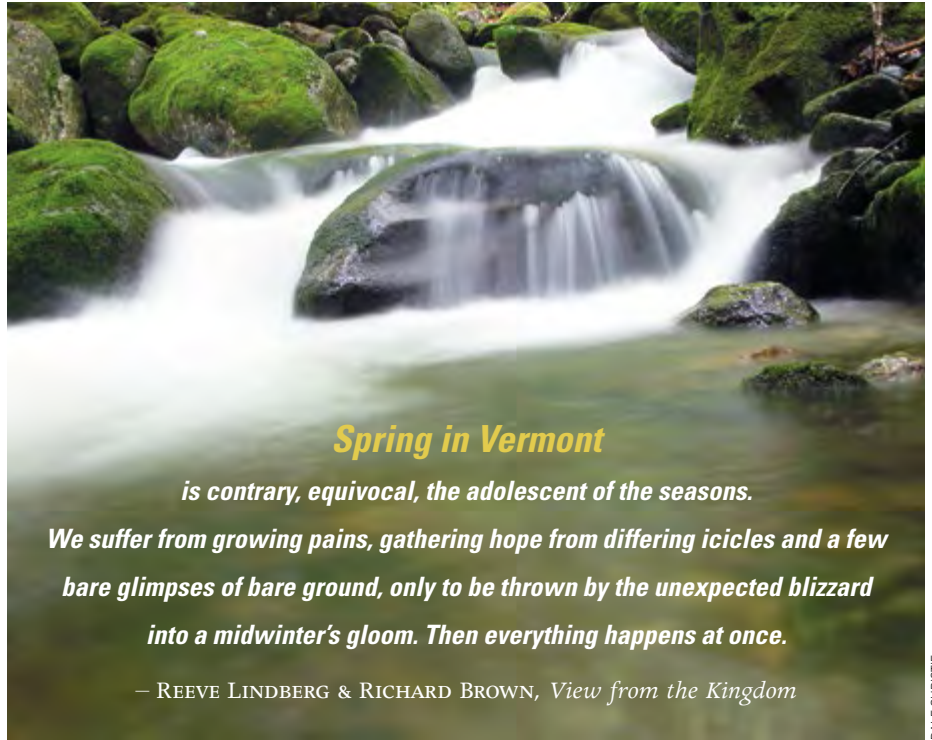
This spring the Green Mountain Club celebrates the first anniversary of the arrival of Mike DeBonis as executive director. Mike has shown a natural ability to manage, solve problems, and lead with confidence. His thoughtful quiet manner and his ability to quickly understand the challenges facing GMC continue to impress everyone. He climbed a steep learning curve pretty darn quickly.

Now that Mike and the staff are settled, my thoughts turn to other matters. It’s hard to realize that this is my next to last president’s message, but as I reflect on my tenure, I realize how much I have benefited from those who served before me.

### GMC Women Presidents

In this edition of the *Long Trail News* we celebrate women who have broken stereotypes and contributed to the protection and maintenance of the Long Trail since the club’s inception in 1910. I immediately think of three past presidents: Shirley J. Strong (1969-1971), Marty Lawthers (2000-2003) and Marge Fish (2009-2012).

I wasn’t fortunate enough to have met **Shirley Strong**, although we both lived in



### Spring in Vermont

*is contrary, equivocal, the adolescent of the seasons.*

*We suffer from growing pains, gathering hope from differing icicles and a few bare glimpses of bare ground, only to be thrown by the unexpected blizzard into a midwinter’s gloom. Then everything happens at once.*

— REEVE LINDBERG & RICHARD BROWN, *View from the Kingdom*

DALE CHRISTIE

Craftsbury. But her service to the club is legendary. She was a revered environmental activist and spirited fighter for Vermont’s ridgeline, as well as GMC’s first woman president. She was instrumental in establishing GMC’s ranger naturalist program, reviving the backcountry caretaker system, and starting a trail ethics education program. The epitaph on her gravestone in the Craftsbury Common Cemetery says it all: “*Lover of the Mountains and Their Trails.*”

When I joined the board as the Northeast Kingdom Section director in 2002, **Marty Lawthers** was president. I remember thinking, “Wow, this woman is one smart individual.” Marty led with grace, humor and enthusiasm. She facilitated board meetings in a collaborative style, yet ran a tight ship with high expectations for board participation. She helped begin the Second Century Capital Campaign, formed partly to raise funds to rebuild the visitor center after a fire in 2003. Marty frequently travelled from her home in New York to Vermont to attend GMC meetings. She was passionate about hiking, and is a Long Trail end-to-ender.

In 2011 **Marge Fish** became president. The ultimate volunteer, Marge can reliably

be found doing trail work on weekends. She was and still is a strong advocate for getting children out on the trail and teaching them the importance of trail maintenance skills and Leave No Trace ethics. Her daughter Kate began working on the trail at a very early age, and became southern field assistant for the GMC when she graduated from college. Marge is a tough lady! She once fell and broke her leg in umpteen places while hiking near Montclair Glen Lodge. A nurse and rescue squad member, she managed to stabilize herself and direct her own rescue. Four days later, with nineteen screws in her leg, she rolled into a club meeting in a wheelchair. Her presidency continued in that fashion. At last year’s annual meeting she was honored with a well-deserved GMC Life Membership.

I applaud not only my three predecessors but all women who have supported and encouraged the vision of building and maintaining a long-distance hiking trail in Vermont.

Ladies, and gentlemen, get ready to grab your tools and get out there to do some spring cleaning!

— JEAN HAIGH, PRESIDENT



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ED EPSTEIN

Tell us: which is your favorite shelter on the Long Trail?

It's so difficult to pick just one favorite. Governor Clement has the most atmosphere, Glen Ellen Lodge is new and lovely, Skyline Lodge has a pond on one side and a short walk to great sunset views.

My choice will be an odd one: Cowles Cove. This was the only shelter where I didn't have company. It was in the middle of a twenty-four-hour-plus period when I didn't see a single living soul. I loved the solitude. Not so keen on the privy with a view, but that's another subject.

The Long Trail is truly blessed to have so many wonderful shelters. Thank you to the GMC for all of their work building and maintaining all of these structures.

- LANCE CLARKE, TORONTO, ONTARIO

Long Trail News welcomes your comments.

Letters received may be edited for length and clarity. GMC reserves the right to decline to publish those considered inappropriate. Not all letters may be published.

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

I've hiked the Long Trail nearly twice, once as a thru-hike, and I'm nearly done a second pass as a section hiker. In the process I've stayed in thirty-one of the shelters. They are all very nice in their own right. They have offered warmth, comfort, and protection from the elements, interaction and friendship with a diverse group of hikers from around the globe, great views and entertainment from mice with world class athletic abilities...All priceless stuff! The GMC does a great job with all of the shelters. Thanks for the incredible work that you do.

- TERRY LOVELETTE, SAINT ALBANS

Staying Connected to GMC

My son gave me a Green Mountain Club membership when I first came to Wake Robin Life Care Community from Massachusetts. I have so enjoyed the publications and news, even though I can't participate in the outdoor activities.

I read the Long Trail News cover to cover (I can't say I do that for most mailings), and find it most interesting and well written. I enjoy the way the articles are placed, and the writing is exceptionally outstanding.

I feel close to the club through the Long Trail News. For those of us who aren't actually on the trail it keeps us engaged and interested.

Congratulations on a job well done. I appreciate the coverage of the club's comings and goings.

- NATALIE ALBERS, SHELBURNE

GMC would like to share the sad news of the passing of Northern Frontier Section member Don Hill...

Thank you for posting the two pictures of my father, Don Hill. When I was much younger we spent quite a bit of time on the trail. In fact, our first hike was the now infamous one to Tillotson Camp as chronicled in the video made about him a couple of years ago. He even corralled me into a few "work" hikes in my teenage years. Hiking with my father was always a unique experience. His attention to detail and his awareness of everything around him lent a perspective to the woods I may not have found with anyone else. He could also imitate the call of a white-throated sparrow like nobody's business. Like you, I will miss him very, very much.

- CHRISTOPHER HILL, SAINT ALBANS



Don Hill

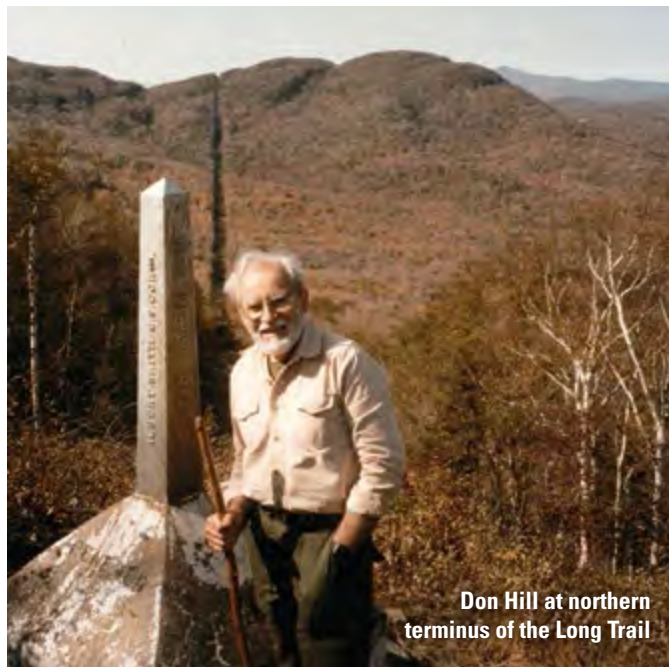


## Remembering Don Hill

**D**onald Hovey Hill of Swanton was a beloved friend to GMC. He was born in St. Albans in 1927 and passed away on January 1, 2015 at his home in Swanton. He was an outstanding GMC member and volunteer since 1965. Don's contributions to the club and Long Trail, especially throughout the northern section, will have a lasting impact. He built shelters, outhouses and hiker log registration boxes, routed wooden trail signs and maintained long portions of the trail. And, in the twenty-fourth (1996) edition of the Long Trail Guide he is credited for "painstakingly" updating the division maps and the state of Vermont map, originally drafted in 1977. In addition to Don's physical work on the trail system it is clear he inspired and deeply touched those around him. The following memories are from two of Don's countless admirers in the hiking community:

I met Don Hill about twelve years ago when I became involved with the Northern Frontier Section. Don became my trail guru and friend, teaching me everything I needed to know. I had the privilege of hearing Don tell many wonderful hiking stories, always with a smile and a twinkle in his eye.

Don first learned of the Long Trail when he was growing up in St. Albans from his letter carrier, Robert Domey, namesake of the mountain Domey's Dome in Westfield. But it wasn't until Don had his own children that he started hiking. In 1965 Don took his son Chris up the Frank Post Trail to Tillotson Camp for the night. The camp had recently been coated with creosote to preserve the wood, and it smelled terrible. It was a rainy night, so they couldn't camp outside. In spite of this experience, Don said he "got the bug" and joined the Green Mountain Club. He made regular trips to check on Tillotson Camp long before the club developed the shelter adopter program.



Don Hill at northern terminus of the Long Trail

I remember Don's animated account of Tillotson Camp's original toilet. A board was nailed across two trees at the edge of a precipice in front of the shelter. A piece of sheet metal roofing provided cover from rain. "You sat there and literally dumped off the cliff while you hung onto the trees on either side," Don said. Maybe this explains all the outhouses Don built, including those at Tillotson Camp, Jay Camp, Roundtop Shelter and Journey's End Camp. He built them at home, dismantled them, and rebuilt them on site.

It seems impossible for one person to have accomplished and given so much, but Don Hill did. He cherished his beautiful and loving wife Pixley, his family and his dear friends, who loved him back just as well.

— JANE WILLIAMS, NORTHERN FRONTIER SECTION PRESIDENT

I joined the St. Albans Section in 1978 but never met Don Hill, who usually did trail work by himself. Years later I read a notice in the winter 1987 issue of the *Long Trail News* that I will paraphrase: "A GMC member is looking for two people to help maintain the Long Trail from Hazen's Notch to Journey's End. If one person responds to this notice, the member will adopt the LT from Route

242 to Journey's End, if two respond he will adopt the whole stretch from Hazen's Notch to Journey's End. Contact the GMC if interested."

I said to myself, "I have to meet the person who only needs one other person to help him maintain over 18 miles of trail." I called the GMC. Soon I received a call back from Don Hill, and set a date to go out on the trail. We liked each other right away. Don and I spent many days working together on the Long Trail in the north. For ten years we enlisted help from many others as well, removing blow downs, cutting brush, repainting blazes and helping to maintain shelters.

Don helped build Corliss Camp and maintained the former Parker Camp. He also helped build Round Top Shelter and Spruce Ledge Camp, which was later dedicated to him. He helped improve access to water at Laura Woodward and Shooting Star shelters, and installed and maintained composting outhouses. And, he was famous for his handsome trail signs; eventually Don either made or reconditioned almost every sign from the Lamoille River Valley to Journey's End. He also painted most of the blazes on that same stretch—in both directions.

We organized the Northern Frontier Section in 2000. For the next eight years Don and I continued to work on the trail together. He was my favorite companion out there. I enjoyed his warmth, gentle humor, sincere interest in others, compassion, intellect, dedication and energy. I am very fortunate to have known Don. He was a great friend, and I shall miss him forever.

— ROLF ANDERSON,  
GMC PRESIDENT 1997–2000

*Jane Williams and Bobby Flack produced a short video about Don's contributions to the Long Trail and GMC titled "Don Hill on the Long Trail." It can be viewed on the GMC website, [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).*

1914 Emily Proctor contributes \$500  
(equivalent to \$10,000 today)  
to build Long Trail shelters

1910 GMC founded

1926 Edith Esterbrook  
& Mabel Brownell,  
first women on GMC  
Board of Trustees

1916 Joanna Croft elected president  
of Burlington Section

1920s Katherine Monroe, one  
of the earliest trail workers

## Suffragette, Pianist, Traveler: Some Remarkable Women in GMC History

If you are familiar with club history, you know that all twenty-three incorporators of the Green Mountain Club were men. In 1910, a woman's place was still in the home, where she was expected to find fulfillment in *Kinder, Küche, Kirche*; or, children, kitchen and church. She would not have the right to vote until 1920, when the U.S. Congress finally ratified the Nineteenth Amendment. Meanwhile, a Vermont woman who campaigned for woman suffrage became the GMC's first female section president.

### Joanna Croft Read

In 1916, when the Burlington Section was in need of restructuring, it elected Miss Joanna D. Croft as president. Established as the Mount Mansfield Section the year the GMC was founded, it had been floundering. (The online section history suggests members were too busy building the Long Trail to have time for section business.)

Not much is known about Miss Joanna Croft. She appears in *The Bulletin of the Vermont Free Public Library Commission*, where she is listed as head of teacher training and as speaker at a library meeting in Charlotte. She next turns up as Mrs. Joanna Croft Read, state secretary of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (later League of Women Voters) and an authority on municipal suffrage, granted by the Vermont Legislature in 1917. Two years later she testified in favor of universal women's suffrage at the Vermont State House.

We can be proud to have had a real suffragette in our midst.

### Laura Cowles

While Miss Croft was Burlington Section president, Mrs. Clarence P. Cowles was in charge of section entertainment. In 1918 she took the gavel, serving as president for two years. Of Laura Cowles, spouse of a GMC founder, we know much more, partly thanks to a 1987 oral history interview with John T. Cowles, one of her four offspring.

Laura Golden Cowles (1878–1958) was from Wisconsin, the daughter of a Canadian father and Vermont mother. She graduated with an English degree from the University of Minnesota in 1902—"unusual for a girl in those days," her proud husband later wrote. The couple married on Hosmer Pond in Craftsbury (he was from nearby Albany), and

in 1905 settled on Ledge Road in Burlington, then farmland.

We know Judge Cowles as the pre-eminent trail builder on Mount Mansfield; less known is the role his wife played in the GMC's early decades. Her husband named her "the pioneer in opening the Green Mountains of Vermont for the recreation, good health and pleasure of women as well as men, in winter as well as summer." A fit former basketball player and cyclist, she climbed the six highest peaks in the state. With a Miss Guthrie, she may have been one of the first women to ascend Mount Mansfield in winter. Her son John describes a photo of the two: "in their great wrap of long dresses, wool dresses, and the toke [sic] on the head and the big muffler and all, on snowshoes going up onto the forehead of Mansfield." More commonly, she hiked in knickers borrowed from her husband.

Laura Cowles was also a patron of music and a pianist; she gave concerts and lessons. James P. Taylor, whose home was a Burlington hotel room, was a frequent guest on Ledge Road, a favored 'uncle' to the Cowles children. John Cowles remembers going to sleep listening to his mother accompanying Taylor, an accomplished flute player, on the piano. Both favored German composers.

Laura Cowles is remembered with a trail on Mount Mansfield. Her husband was instrumental in naming the informally known 'Cowles Cut-Off,' his direct way up the western side of the mountain, the Laura Cowles Memorial Trail. Today the name has been shortened to the Laura Cowles Trail.

### Laura Woodward

If the Burlington Section occupies a special place in GMC history, so does the New York Section. Founded by Professor Will S. Monroe—he of the Monroe Skyline and the Monroe Trail—in 1916, it

1927 Hilda Kurth, Catherine Robbins  
and Kathleen Norris (The Three  
Musketeers), first women thru-hikers

1932 Mary Beardsley Fenn, youngest  
end-to-ender at age twelve

1926 Lula Tye, GMC corresponding  
secretary and treasurer

1933 Marion Urie and Lucile Pelsue  
hike end-to-end southbound

attracted some remarkable people, many of them women. In fact, New York Section membership was for a while evenly split between genders.

Laura E. Woodward (1874-1960), a friend and colleague of Monroe's from the New Jersey State Normal School in Montclair, was a charter member. She served her section in many capacities: as secretary, newsletter editor, outings chair and president. One year, according to Monroe, she helped organize ninety-five events, many of them centered around Camp Thendara in Harriman State Park. In addition to being a trip leader, Woodward was a bird watcher—she headed the annual bird census—and a botanist, collecting specimens on Jay Peak, among other places. Richard M. Abbott, a floriculturist, became her husband. I use her maiden name here: she is best remembered today for the Laura Woodward Shelter, north of Jay Peak.

Yet this energetic outdoors woman did not set foot in Vermont until 1927! She came north then to report at the GMC annual meeting, combining it with a visit to Professor Monroe at Couching Lion Farm. She clearly made up for her late arrival: upon her death, the *Long Trail News* ran her obituary on the front page:

*Her love of the Green Mountain Club, her enthusiasm for its aims and activities, her ebullient good spirits and her high Quaker ideals have been for long years an inspiration to us all ... Her enthusiasm for the out-of-doors, for conservation measures and all aspects of nature inspired all who knew her. She brought many members into the Club, both from her large circle of friends and from her students at Montclair Normal School.*

During the second year of Woodward's presidency, the New York Section had an impressive 362 members. Sadly, the section dissolved in 1999.

## Katherine Monroe

I have long had a soft spot for the professor's younger sister, who seldom gets a mention.

Katherine Monroe (1873-1934), born in Hunlock Creek, Pennsylvania, was the seventh of eight children. Like her brother Will, she was well educated, attending teacher's college in her home state and Barnard College. Also like her brother, she lived for several years in Europe, taking courses at three French universities.

According to the *Burlington Free Press*, Katherine was "keenly interested in outdoor activities and made arduous hikes in the French, Italian and Austrian Alps, and also worked several summers on the Long Trail in Vermont." She was thus one of our earliest trail workers of either sex. We find her in old photographs by Theron Dean and Herbert Wheaton Congdon, sometimes the only woman in the party.

When Professor Monroe retired to Vermont in 1925, Katherine soon followed. In the aftermath of the devastating 1927 Flood, she helped affected neighbors by making sheets and by gathering blankets from Long Trail lodges.

The two siblings, neither ever married, had much in common. But I have sometimes wondered what it was like for Katherine at remote Couching Lion Farm. Did she live in the shadow of her famous brother? Did she participate when he held forth on Walt Whitman, the Balkans or dog breeds? Did she have to entertain section members who appeared on weekends? Was she lonely when her brother was in Europe? We shall never know.

Katherine died after a brief illness. In the farm guestbook, Professor Monroe wrote: "Sister Katherine passed away at 3:15 this morning. Had she survived until tomorrow, she would have reached her 61st birthday." And two days later:

"The dear sister Katherine was buried at 3 this afternoon, beside the sainted Scottie [a favorite collie], in accordance with her wishes." Her gravestone stands below the Monroe Trailhead.

## Mabel Brownell

The *Long Trail News* for July, 1927, carried a notice in connection with the trustees meeting: "Misses Brownell and Estabrook [sic] drove to Brandon Sunday and did the DuVal trail, underestimating slightly the time it would take and missing the train, but well satisfied nevertheless." Was this a get-acquainted hike for the GMC's first two women trustees who had joined the board a year earlier?

Mabel Brownell (1879-1971) was the daughter of Chauncey W. Brownell, a founding member of the GMC and its first treasurer. A pillar of Burlington society, he was an attorney, a former secretary of state and state senator, who resided with his family on South Willard Street. From

*Continued next page*



*Mabel Brownell*

1940s First end-to-end reports arrive from solo women hikers

1951 to 1960 Mary Perkins, first female *Long Trail News* editor

1955 Lula Tye retires after 29 years

the published memoirs of Miss Brownell's nephew, Lincoln Chase Brownell, we know something about his "very bright" aunt.

She was selfless, religious, and active in local charitable organizations, as well as the Green Mountain Club. (She also appears in Congdon's and Dean's Long Trail photographs.) Frugal, she never spent money on herself, her only indulgence being a riding horse kept at the Brownell homestead in Williston.

Upon graduation from the University of Vermont in 1902, she was invited to spend a year in Greece with the family of a faculty member on sabbatical. This trip was a highlight of her life, writes her nephew. Back home, she went to work as YWCA secretary in Hartford, later transferring to Burlington to take care of her father, as she promised her mother before she died. Miss Brownell herself died at age ninety-two from Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's.

## Edith Esterbrook

Brownell's fellow trustee, Edith Esterbrook, has not received the recognition she deserves—beyond a *Long Trail News* article by Theresa Davis twenty years ago.

In the decade from 1913 to 1923, Edith M. Esterbrook wrote a series of excellent articles for *The Vermonter* magazine about her extensive hikes and other travels around Vermont. In 1912(!) she trekked from the Callahans', later Couching Lion Farm, to Moscow, and experienced the Long Trail before Professor Monroe moved it up on the ridges where it is today: "the fire warden's 15% grade is being carried over the range toward Killington ... On the trail, when completed, each fire warden is to patrol 20 miles a day." In the Camel's Hump clearing she slept in a tent provided by the Camel's Hump Club of Waterbury; club members also served supper and breakfast. At 3:30

a.m. she was up to see the sunrise. Upon crossing Bolton Mountain, she gave generous credit to Judge Cowles and James Taylor, who had blazed the trail just days before.

Esterbrook's articles are great reading: she was intelligent, observant, and knew her birds and flowers (she was active in the Vermont Botanical and Bird Club). Her writing must have inspired many women, including the Three Musketeers (three young women who thru-hiked the Long Trail in the face of mutterings of disapproval), as well as men, to try the young Long Trail.

The GMC was lucky to have this Boston-based Long Trail ambassador, with family ties to Brattleboro, as a trustee. Alas, many years went by before other women joined the board—that is, other than secretaries Lula Tye and Minerva Hinchey.

## Lula Tye and Minerva Hinchey



Lula Tye

nine years, writing letters, sending out dues notices, collecting money, keeping the books, and compiling scrapbooks. She had started as financial secretary to the Rutland Businessmen's Association, then became manager of the Rutland Chamber of Commerce from which she retired: she was the "thread that bound Rutland's business community together for nearly half a century."



Minerva Hinchey

Tye's successor, Honora Minerva Hinchey (1895–1979), was also from Rutland, where she lived with her widowed father; both parents were born in Ireland.

An insurance professional, she served as club secretary and business manager for twenty-two years, from 1955–1977. When she retired at age eighty-two, the GMC used the opportunity to move its headquarters to Montpelier to be closer to the seat of state government.

Between them these two loyal women kept the GMC humming for five decades. Lula Tye was honored with a shelter (since demolished) near Little Rock Pond, the Minerva Hinchey Shelter is still in use south of Clarendon Gorge.

\*\*\*\*\*

Women have been active members since the club's founding in 1910. They have hiked, snowshoed, camped, and done trail work alongside men. For many years, they were more likely to serve as section secretaries than as presidents, and it took six decades before the GMC board of directors elected its first woman president, Shirley Strong, in 1969. She was followed by Marty Lawthers, Marge Fish and Jean Haigh—in fact, three of the last five club presidents have been women.

It took some time for the board to reflect the club's overall gender makeup. The most recent membership survey (2012) shows that women make up 34 percent of the overall membership. (It might be higher within sections.) Today's board of directors reflects well the club's gender ratio.

— REIDUN NUQUIST

*Reidun Nuquist of the Montpelier Section is a librarian with a special interest in Vermont and Long Trail history.*



1955 Minerva Hinchey succeeds Lula Tye as corresponding secretary and treasurer

1964 Dot Myer volunteers to become Burlington Section hike leader

1969 Shirley J. Strong, first woman president

## Some Remarkable Girls and Women on the Long Trail Today



### Thank You GMC Donors!

This winter seven children from the Apple Tree School in Stowe stopped by the Visitor Center. They learned about the Long Trail and the wildlife that calls the Long Trail home. Each child painted their favorite woodland critter or mountain scene and created thank you notes to send to some of GMC's donors. The bunnies above were painted by a little girl in kindergarten.

### Work Day on the AT in Vermont

Clunk! the wooden board known as the stringer drops on the rectangular cube called the sill. I pick up the sledge hammer that weighs my arms down. I grip it tightly, grab a long spike from Dave Hardy, turn it over, and blunt the tip so it won't split the wood. As I hold the spike in place on the board, the metal's cold seeps through my Kinco gloves and chills my fingers.

I raise the sledge. Clank! It makes contact with the spike, embedding it in the wood. I strike it a second time. Clink! And a third. Once it is sturdy I let go. I feel the weight of the hammer and take a bigger swing. Again a metallic sound rings through the valley as the spike spears the board. I feel like one of the seven dwarves mining. I lift the sledge again and take another hard swing, but this time I miss my target and pound the wood instead. Then I try again and the same thing happens, except that the swing bends the spike slightly. I knock it back in place, and swing and swing until it is almost in.

Meanwhile I hear my classmates cheering me on. "Go! Just a few more hits!" "Almost in!"

Although I am tired from the heavy swinging, their encouraging words push me on. One, two, three, and the spike is in! I drop the sledge hammer like a soldier surrendering his weapon. "Woohoo, I did it!"

As I move on and help stabilize the next bog bridge I hear, "Who wants to spike next?" And of course the students reply: "Oh me, me!" "NO, me!" "You've already gone." "No I haven't."



Kelly Gebhardt

Then I hear once more the clink and the clank of the hammer and spike.

— KELLY GEBHARDT

Kelly is a sixth grader at The Pomfret School. She has two older siblings and many barn animals that her family keeps as pets. She loves to hang out with her friends, spend time outdoors and enjoys athletics, especially ski racing. Kelly was happy to lend a hand making bog bridges so hikers will have a better experience on the trail.

### Unexpected Trail Lessons

I honestly don't know what I expected when I signed up to hike the Long Trail through the Farm & Wilderness Questers Program. Fifteen had been an unmemorable age, carrying me through the end of the school year in the sluggish way life does when it must proceed with little excitement. Caught between freshman and sophomore year, I was ready for something to disrupt that dull academic rhythm and force me to react to new situations. I was glad when friends who had been through the program struggled to describe their experiences. I liked that there was no instruction manual, because it promised the unpredictable. No two journeys on trail will ever be the same.

So it is oddly appropriate that the most valuable thing I gained was not what I expected—it was the mistakes I made. I am proud of the way I handled some situations, but I handled some others in ways that make me cringe. Often the grittiest, messiest, grayest areas of life end up sticking around, and for that I am thankful, because each represents an opportunity to better myself. The Long Trail gave me laughter, sunshine, music, good food and priceless glimpses into the wonder of human nature. But I will always thank the

Continued next page

## Remarkable Girls and Women *Continued from previous page*

trail most for teaching me that I would be foolish to forget that rain, mud, frustration, mistakes and tears were also an important part of my experience. They hold their own, different kinds of beauty. You just have to learn how to see it.

—LUNA SKEET BROWNING



Sunset on the LT by Luna

Luna spent her first ten years in Spain before moving to the United States. She is currently a junior at The Sharon Academy. In the future Luna would like to find a way to balance her love of travel and new experiences with her passion for art.

## In the Backcountry with GMC Women

“You’re out here by yourself?”  
Yes! I’m a backcountry caretaker. “Aren’t you scared?”  
No more so than in a city. “Do you ever have bad interactions?” Sometimes folks don’t like shelter fees... “No, I mean—you know—as a woman alone.”

After three field seasons with the Green Mountain Club as a backcountry caretaker and a Long Trail thru-hike in 2011, I’ve had that conversation countless times. So has every one of my female coworkers. Part of our job is interpreting the backcountry lifestyle to folks unfamiliar with professionally managed areas. We realize people are just curious, but being considered an anomaly can get old.

So when you bring friends on that first summer hike, mention both kinds of summit stewards: “At the top, look for the woman or man in the GMC cap. That’s the caretaker.” This opens a conversation about protecting alpine areas and acknowledges women rangers.

Or mention the Long Trail Patrol: “This staircase was built by a GMC crew of only five men and women. How cool is that?” Being casual or preemptively positive about women in the woods helps normalize it for less experienced hikers.

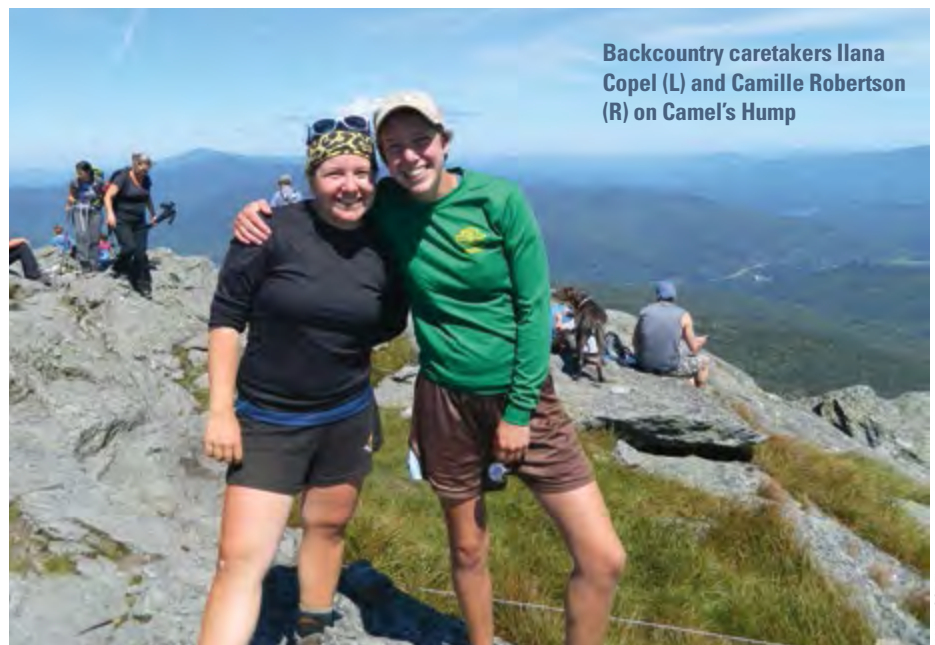
Because here’s the thing: we are no more or less remarkable than our male coworkers. Each year about half of the Green Mountain Club’s field (and office!) staffs are women, and women have been working in the Green Mountains since the club was founded. All employees on the trail are professionals who’ve gone through trail work and first aid training. Axes, saws and sledgehammers are tools. Asking whether we carry weapons for self-defense demeans not just our independence, but the trail community at large, by assuming a state of heightened

endangerment for women. Most of us have also hiked hundreds or thousands of miles with or without companions. True, women long-distance hikers are a minority (25 percent of Appalachian Trail thru-hikers, according to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy), but that’s not a recent development (shout out to the first female Long Trail end-to-enders in 1927, the Three Musketeers!).

If you see us in the field, a friendly “Thanks for the work!” makes our day, no added “sweetheart” required. And I encourage any would-be hiker or trail worker to resist thoughts of pepper spray or gender compensation. If you have trained sufficiently and are equipped properly, the trails are yours to explore. Go for it!

—ILANA COPEL, GMC  
BACKCOUNTRY CARETAKER

Ilana has been a GMC backcountry caretaker for two seasons on Mount Mansfield and one season on Camel’s Hump. She will return this season as a lead caretaker on Mount Mansfield.



Backcountry caretakers Ilana Copel (L) and Camille Robertson (R) on Camel’s Hump

LAURA COPEL

**1986 Sarah Alden Gannett** becomes honorary co-chair of the Long Trail Protection Campaign

**1990 Sue Lester**, first woman field supervisor

**1990 to 2013 Susan Shea**, first GMC director of conservation



Millie and Maxine

## *Early Bird and Pink Eagle*

**M**y daughter Maxine is five, and she's already traversed the Long Trail from Canada to Massachusetts. I carried her in my belly. But we all know that doesn't count. She knows this. She also knows her mom has hiked the Long Trail end-to-end nine times. Still, it was somewhat of a surprise when I asked her what she wanted to do one summer, and she answered, "I want to hike the Long Trail."

"Two hundred seventy-two miles?" I asked. "Yes," she replied with the surety of a five-year-old who believes anything is possible. "She has no idea what this means," I thought. "How do we begin?"

I pondered more. She was two the first time she hiked on the Long Trail. I was beginning a northbound end-to-end, and she and her dad met me at the County Road parking lot. Pink Eagle, as she named herself, walked the half mile

south from the parking lot to Seth Warner Shelter carrying her own little pack. She stayed the night and hiked out in the morning.

The following year we did a hike to Lake Pleiad, an overnight at Tillotson Camp, and day hikes in the Jay Peak area. At age four, she backpacked to Stratton Pond and also to Skyline Lodge on her own. So I supposed she knew something about the trail. We talked, and she set her goal: six days and five nights on the Long Trail. We had something to work on.

On Mother's Day and on my birthday it's my privilege to choose and plan our adventures. I decided on two three-day backpacking trips, one to Little Rock Pond and north over White Rocks Mountain, a second south from Little Rock Pond to Mad Tom Notch. Hiking one- to seven-mile days, Pink Eagle was an energetic, entertaining and strong little hiker. After a final practice trip in the White Mountains, we knew we were ready, and we headed south for a six-day trip on the Long Trail.

Our epic trek included just about everything a thru-hiker would encounter: a hike up Killington, a town day at the Inn at Long Trail, a rainy day, a hitch to the Whistle Stop for lunch and ice cream, swimming in Clarendon Gorge, encounters with deer, and porcupines and toads galore. It even included trail magic which, while walking a dirt road and drinking a serendipitous ginger ale, caused Pink Eagle to proclaim, "Ah, a cold drink. Just what every hiker wants."

— MILLIE MUGICA, GMC BOARD MEMBER

*Millie (aka 'Early Bird') is a nine-time end-to-ender who plans to finish her tenth Long Trail end-to-end at the same time her daughter completes her first.*

## *Tuesdays with the Women of UVM*

**T**here is a silent and effective organization out there. Well, silent until we get on the trail. Then we yak. If you see a group of women in rugged hiking gear hugging in a parking lot, it's probably the Women of UVM. Once upon a time membership required ties to the University of Vermont but now other women are welcome too. One of its many branches is for women who like to hike, snowshoe or cross-country ski.

Outings are on Tuesdays. Each week an email goes to women who have signed up and paid a nominal fee, stating the times, places, descriptions and levels of difficulty for a handful of adventures: you seek your own level, like water. We try to keep the groups small (dividing into smaller groups if there are too many

*Continued next page*



Women of UVM, Debbie Page (far right)

SHERI LARSEN

2000 Marty Lawthers, second woman president

2009 Marge Fish, third woman president

2012 to present Jean Haigh, fourth woman president

2014 Dot Myer leads last section hike (50 years!)



ILLUSTRATION BY THORIN MARKISON

## Remarkable Girls and Women *Continued from previous page*

people) so we don't damage trails, and we car pool like mad, reimbursing drivers. It's all very jolly. And there's no need to RSVP. Just show up or not.

We thank the Green Mountain Club by financial donations, and by doing trail work each year. UVM honors us by inviting us to a fancy tea each December.

The outings group is so wildly popular with the fifty- to eighty-plus crowd that we have developed a healthy network of hundreds of tomboys. We leave dogs and other responsibilities at home. We get exercise and time to chat about what's on our minds: how to deal with grumpy partners; what on earth to have for dinner; worries about parents and children near or far; the thrill of grandchildren.

Being in the woods among tall, protective trees with no ears or mouths creates a natural sense of ease and comfort, a safe place to share stories. Health care at its best. And talk about networking! Everywhere I go in Chittenden County I see someone I at least recognize from the group. It's a lovely feeling.

— DEBBIE WOLF PAGE

*Debbie Page is a retired Burlington Elementary School teacher. She loves to spend time outside and write about her adventures.*

## One Day at a Time

I hiked the Long Trail once in the late 90's doing sections consisting of three- and four-day outings. But it is a different story so many years later: I get tired and out of breath easier; I have two artificial knees; I cannot carry as much; I need longer intervals to recover. And yet, I really wanted to do the whole trail once more, before I turn eighty.

I wondered if it could be done in day trips with a light pack—no tent,

no sleeping bag, no cooking gear—just a map, food and water, some clothes. Would that work?

This is what I learned on my hikes over the last two summers:

- Setting an absolute limit of 15 miles per day still left me one stretch that required an overnight stay (Glastenbury Wilderness), and three sections where it seemed more convenient to camp.
- A hiking partner with a second car or somebody covering the other end of the trail is really needed.
- But even with that help, you will put many miles on your vehicle and many gallons in your gas tank.

- Trailheads at road crossings are often very poorly marked and hard to find when you arrive by car.
- Using blue-blazed side trails leading to the Long Trail adds to the miles and sometimes to the elevation gain, yet also allows you to see the Green Mountains from a different perspective.
- Although I tried to choose days when good weather was predicted I still had to use rain gear a number of times.
- Ultimately you hike every foot of the trail, but still don't develop the trail legs of a thru-hiker. The reward, however, is plenty of down time to recover and reflect on the green tunnel, the beaver ponds, the mud, or the wonderful views of the stretch just completed.

- After flip-flopping between sections and north-south directions, and after thirty individual hiking trips, my end-to-end map had no gaps left. It can be done!

— INGE TREBITZ,  
OTTAUQUECHEE SECTION

*Inge Trebitz was born and raised in Germany. She fell in love with hiking as a child during a trip with her mother to the Austrian Alps. From her student years in Austria, to meeting her future husband Heinz in the German Alpine Club, to moving to New Jersey and later to Vermont, hiking and mountaineering have always been a very important part of her life.*



Inge at Long Trail northern terminus

HEINZ TREBITZ



## VOLUNTEER PROFILE: Kathy Astrauckas

The Ottauquechee Section couldn't offer 175 outings a year without someone managing its schedule. And who better than a well-organized retired teacher?

Kathy Astrauckas, the O-Section's outings coordinator, was recruited nearly eleven years ago to succeed Trina Perkins, who couldn't be promoted to section president until her old job was filled. "That's how they conned her into being president," Kathy says, suggesting her own elevation to office was something of an afterthought.

Since then Kathy has presided over scheduling at the section's quarterly planning meetings, constructing schedules with Post-It notes on a large board as leaders propose outings (some by phone or email before the meeting) and negotiate dates. The method works, though it isn't electronic. Maybe because it isn't electronic.

After the meeting she sends open dates (most outings are on Saturday, Sunday or Tuesday) by email to leaders, hoping for more proposals. Then she emails the schedule to Inge Trebitz, editor of the section newsletter.

"I've had calls from other sections asking, 'How do you get so many people to lead things?'" Kathy says. "It's owing to other people who volunteer. It's not anything I do."

A year before the 2009 Appalachian Trail Conservancy biennial meeting in Castleton, Kathy found herself in a vastly expanded version of her section job: she and Trina volunteered to be hikes co-chair for the week-long meeting, which attracted 900 people. She and Trina organized a schedule of sixty-one hikes, each repeated several times.

"I volunteered stupidly," she remembers. "I was totally unqualified. I have no



idea why the people above me never figured that out. It was way more work than you could possibly imagine. It was [GMC Executive Director] Ben Rose, it was his charisma that did it. At a meeting Ben just said, 'We need this,' and he made it sound so great."

Qualified or not, Kathy and Trina pulled it off. Kathy worked out most of the hikes, and Trina signed up most of the leaders.

"The most popular things were Appalachian Trail sections, and they [attendees] wanted to bang out the miles," Kathy says. "Rating the hikes was very difficult. Terrain alone could make a hike hard for the kind of person who would sign up for it. But you couldn't insult people from the South by saying [in effect] 'Your AT is really easy,' but that's the fact. I started the AT in the South because it was so easy. We couldn't include Glastenbury; that's a 23-mile day hike.

"There was no time to think about things. It was full speed ahead, and keep on going. I had people writing driving directions, and I had to hand-check them all myself. Most of them were pretty good, but some weren't."

In another team effort, Kathy monitors a piece of the Appalachian Trail corridor

with fellow O-Section members Patty Spencer and Marcia Dunning on the section's 44.6-mile stretch from the Long Trail to New Hampshire.

They first had a piece of the corridor that crosses U.S. Route 4 north of Killington Peak.

The crew has recently switched areas, to a less rugged one closer to New Hampshire. "The first one we had was suicidal," Kathy explains, noting that she is the youngest of the three, and none are getting any younger. "I found one really steep section I got up by clawing

on trees. I called back and said, 'Don't go here!'"

The GMC isn't the only beneficiary of Kathy's energy. With her husband Bob Hagen she has adopted two miles of the Cross-Rivendell Trail, which traverses the four townships (Fairlee, Vershire, West Fairlee and Orford, N.H.) of the Rivendell Interstate School District. "It's closest to where we live, and it's the prettiest section," she says. "You can see the Franconia Ridge on a good day."

But it's still work. "We don't do chain-sawing. We clean water bars, clip brush, clear blowdowns. The hard part of trail work these days is that you have to clean water bars during hunting season. The leaves don't fall as early as they used to."

Like most volunteers, Kathy volunteers because "I want to contribute to maintenance, keep the thing going. Being outings coordinator provides an opportunity for people to hike. It fills a need. It can't be all done by paid employees."

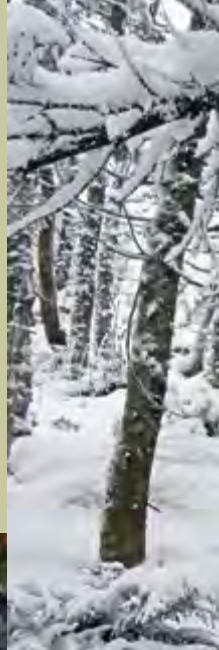
— DICK ANDREWS

*Dick Andrews is a member of the Ottauquechee Section and of the GMC Executive Committee, and is the volunteer copy editor of the Long Trail News and the adopter of Peru Peak Shelter. He lives in Springfield.*

*Tarwabodi-e-wadso...*  
*Le Lion Couchant...*  
*Camel's Hump...*

**Backdrop from Vermont's Iconic Peak**

Photographs by Sheri Larsen



MAR



APR



JUL



AUG



SEP



OCT



JAN



FEB



MAY



JUN



NOV



DEC

Sheri climbed Camel's Hump, Vermont's third highest peak (4,083 ft), every month in 2014.



# Search & Rescue in the Green Mountains

## Tragedy on Burnt Rock

On the morning of May 6, 2014 a twenty-two-year old man was dropped off at the Hedgehog Brook Trail in Fayston to start a multi-day hike on the Long Trail. While conditions were mild at the trailhead, several feet of snow covered the spine of the Green Mountains. That afternoon he called his family and said he was wet and cold. He was advised to leave the trail. When he did not return home by dark a family member and a local resident went to search for him at his last known location, near the junction of the Long Trail and the Hedgehog Brook Trail. They were unsuccessful. The next morning authorities were notified, and a large-scale search began. In the early afternoon of May 7 the Vermont National Guard spotted the man's body from a helicopter. He was near a brook, about a quarter of a mile off of the trail, and had succumbed to hypothermia.

**Analysis** Spring and fall are arguably the most dangerous seasons for hikers in Vermont. A sunny, 50- to 60-degree day with green grass in the valley can give hikers a false sense of security. Many set out unprepared for what can quickly become midwinter conditions at higher elevations. Snow is slow to melt in the mountains, and travelling through several feet of soft snow can quickly lead to becoming wet and exhausted. Especially with cotton clothing this can be deadly. Hypothermia is insidious. It impairs thinking, so it can be hard to self-diagnose. If it's not recognized and treated immediately, a downward spiral, difficult to reverse, may begin.

Since this hiker had a tent and sleeping bag but did not use them, the search and rescue team believed he had become hypothermic.

**Lessons** Hiking with a partner or in a group is always safer; it provides a larger margin for error than hiking alone. Once cotton clothing becomes wet it is virtually impossible to dry, and loses any value as insulation. In fact, its evaporative qualities actually accelerate chilling. Always wear layers of wool or synthetics, which keep some insulation value when wet. And keep them dry if you can. Learn how to recognize the early stages of hypothermia and how to treat it.

## Unprepared for Conditions on Hunger Mountain

In mid-May Vermont State Police received a call for help at 8:00 P.M. from two women in their twenties on Hunger Mountain who had lost the trail and become wet and cold. Although they were unable to describe their location, their cell phone signal was strong enough to enable the 911 operator to determine that they were somewhere just below the summit. The Waterbury Backcountry Rescue Team found the women about 1:00 A.M., and escorted them off the mountain.

**Analysis** These hikers were woefully underequipped, wearing only t-shirts, shorts and sneakers. By the time the sun went down the temperature was in the 30s with a stiff breeze. They found themselves in several feet of wet snow that caused them to lose the trail. Fortunately they had a cell phone with enough battery life to call for help, and had cell service. But a cell phone should NEVER be one's sole emergency backup. Without cell coverage (still very common in the Vermont backcountry) this incident would likely have had a different outcome. As it turned out, the women were well off the trail on the opposite side of the mountain where they had planned to

hike, and where it would have been very hard for searchers to find them.

**Lessons** Think ahead and be prepared for the worst weather conditions you may encounter given the season, not just what it's like at the trailhead. Carry at least a map, compass, food, water, an extra layer of clothing and a headlamp. If you find unexpected conditions, turn around and try again another day! The mountain isn't going anywhere.

## Emergency Beacon Activations

On June 1 near Kid Gore Shelter, and again on September 15 at Cooley Glen Shelter, hikers activated emergency distress beacons, resulting in long emergency response efforts. In both cases the cause of distress was minor injuries and illnesses, and the hikers could walk out on their own with some assistance.

**Analysis** Emergency distress beacons are hand-held satellite devices that are becoming more common in the backcountry, especially among long-distance hikers. Since they connect with satellites they have much better coverage in remote areas than cell phones. However, most do not provide details of the situation, and are unable to cancel a call or tell responders if a situation changes.

**Lessons** Used responsibly, an emergency distress beacon can be a valuable lifesaving tool. Used irresponsibly, it can impose unnecessary burdens on emergency responders.

— NEIL VAN DYKE

*Neil Van Dyke is the search and rescue coordinator for the Vermont Department of Public Safety. He was a founding member of Stowe Mountain Rescue and has served as president of the National Rescue Association.*





The 2014 field season has ended, but we have been monitoring trail conditions for storm damage, and preparing for the 2015 field season. Heavy snow in December damaged trailside trees between Killington Peak and Camel's Hump. Thank you, section volunteers and trail adopters, for your work. Please let us know if you need help clearing the trail this spring.

Winter has given us time to document last season and plan for the season ahead when we will:

► **Offer a Trail Maintenance Work Day Workshop and Picnic.** Join us Saturday, April 25, at the GMC Visitor Center in Waterbury Center to learn trail safety and liability, and best practices for brushing, blazing and blowdown removal. Field work will probably take place on the new rerouted section of the Long Trail in Bolton. We'll finish the day with a cookout at the Visitor Center. We hope you can join us. (Registration details on page 27.)

► **Continue work with Stratton Mountain Resort** to designate a hiking trail that will extend from the base of the ski area to the summit of North Stratton Mountain. This will become an official Long Trail side trail, providing an alternate route to the historic Stratton Mountain fire tower. And hikers will get great views northward when they take a break from the climb.

► **Begin work on the East Dorset Trail,** connecting U.S. Route 7 in the Battenkill Valley to Mad Tom Notch. The trail will reach the gravel forest road that crosses the Long Trail at the notch, thus providing access to Bromley Mountain and Styles Peak from the west. (This highlights the answer to a certain Long Trail trivia question: What is the highest public road crossing of the Long Trail?) The Volunteer Long Trail Patrol will start work in late July.

► **Relocate another mile of Long Trail** away from Duxbury Road in Bolton. The reroute will begin at the fishing access parking lot east of the trailhead at Honey

Hollow, and follow the forest edge along the Winooski River just east of the new Winooski River Footbridge.

► **Scout a trail** between Gleason Brook and the parking lot east of Honey Hollow Road to reduce the Duxbury Road walk still further, and to complete the new Long Trail route across the Winooski River Valley.

► **Celebrate the opening of the Winooski River Valley Long Trail Relocation** between the Winooski River and Stimson Mountain on Friday, June 12 (see pages 20–21). The old Long Trail route beginning at Stage Road in Jonesville, passing Duck Brook Shelter, crossing Bolton Notch Road, and climbing to Oxbow Ridge will become a blue-blazed side trail.

► **Begin renovations to Bolton Lodge and Bryant Camp** in the new Bolton Nordic block of the Mount Mansfield State Forest. We will also scout hiking routes from each shelter to the Long Trail. We look

forward to a variety of hiking opportunities in Bolton.

► **Open the Long Trail relocation** and new parking lot on Route 108 in Smugglers' Notch. The reroute will pass historic Barnes Camp, now the Barnes Camp Visitor Center. There will be a short road walk to the visitor center until a boardwalk across Notch Brook is built. The existing roadside parking and trailhead will be closed, and a new side trail will link the picnic area on the north side of Route 108 to the Long Trail.

Mud season is around the corner, so please limit hiking to lower elevations and drier trails whenever possible. Also, please note that sunny dry conditions can vanish at higher elevations. Hope for sunshine and a dry footpath, but be prepared for ice and cold rain in spring on the Long Trail.

— DAVE HARDY,  
DIRECTOR OF TRAIL PROGRAMS



### Mud Season Reminder

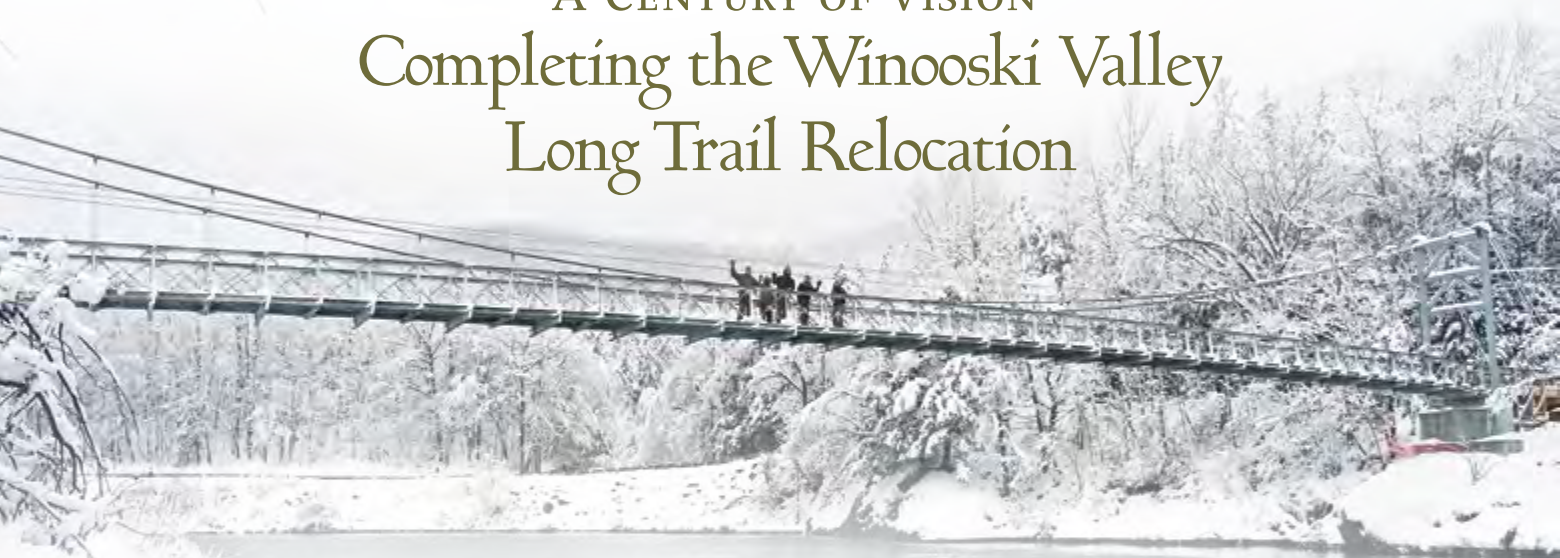
The Green Mountain Club reminds hikers and trip leaders that spring mud season begins April 15 and runs until Memorial Day weekend. Some trails are closed, and hikers are urged to stay off all wet trails during this time. This will allow the trails to dry and reduce erosion and maintenance. Please use your best judgment, and avoid high elevation spruce-fir forest trails.

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

Cycling, paddling, and road walking are a few other activities that will get you outdoors. Consider 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](http://www.greenmountainclub.org). Thanks for helping protect Vermont's hiking trails.



# — A CENTURY OF VISION — Completing the Winooski Valley Long Trail Relocation



Bridge crew on new footbridge

**J**une 12 will mark a historic day for the Green Mountain Club with the official opening of the Winooski Valley Long Trail Relocation and its 224-foot suspension footbridge spanning the Winooski River.

Since the Long Trail was conceived in 1910 by club founder James P. Taylor, geographical and logistical challenges have slowed, and at times stalled, progress to build a suitable path connecting the Long Trail from Camel’s Hump to Mount Mansfield. It took decades to find and acquire land and easements for the new trail and bridge.

With the extended passage of time, modern day challenges surfaced, and the club had to plan and secure rights to cross a railroad, a state highway, and an interstate highway. It’s no wonder the project took over a century. It’s the biggest undertaking since building the Long Trail itself.

We wouldn’t be in a position to celebrate this historic event without the consistent vision of club leadership through the years, from GMC’s first President James P. Taylor (1910-1916) to current President Jean Haigh (2012 to now). But it took more than vision. It took hundreds of supportive and gener-

ous donors and the perseverance of GMC staff and volunteers.

We like to call the Long Trail the people’s trail—a very special gift to Vermont citizens and visitors. Please join us on June 12 when we will celebrate this gift and reaffirm the Green Mountain Club’s commitment to protect the Long Trail System and ensure that Vermont’s mountains continue to play a role in the lives of the people (see pages 20–21).

It took us a century, but we are almost there. Congratulations GMC!

— MICHAEL DEBONIS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SHERI LARSEN



## Mud Season Celebration and Egg Hunt with Laughing Moon Chocolates

Saturday, April 4, 10:00 a.m.  
GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center

Children of all ages and their parents are invited to take a walk on the Short Trail during our fifth 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)! Head to Laughing Moon Chocolates in Stowe between 11:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. to meet the Easter bunny. The hunt starts at 10:00 a.m. sharp and lasts until all the eggs are found. FREE. Open to the public.



## Alicia DiCocco and Jason Buss Join the Staff

The Green Mountain Club is pleased to welcome two new members to its staff. Alicia DiCocco became director of development in July, and Jason Buss joined us as business manager in October.

Alicia comes to GMC from Spectrum Family Services in Burlington with a strong background in development and communications. She hit the ground running, immediately organizing the club's year-end appeal and its Win-ooski Valley Long Trail Relocation fundraising initiative. Alicia's love for the outdoors, bright personality and positive attitude make her a great addition to the GMC team. She lives in Burlington with her husband Shay and new baby daughter Lane. If you have questions for Alicia, or would just like to say hello and welcome her, she can be reached by phone at (802) 241-8322 or by e-mail at [adicocco@greenmountainclub.org](mailto:adicocco@greenmountainclub.org).

As business manager, Jason works with the board and staff to make sure the club's financial house is in order and the organization is run effectively and efficiently. While this is a big job, Jason is up to the task. He has years of experience in financial management from working at the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps and Burlington College. When asked why he chose to work at GMC, Jason replied that he wanted to be part of something that made Vermont the place where he wanted to live. We are certainly glad Jason made the choice to join the GMC team! Jason can be reached at (802) 241-8214 or [jbuss@greenmountainclub.org](mailto:jbuss@greenmountainclub.org).

— MICHAEL DEBONIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Join the Volunteer Long Trail Patrol

The Green Mountain Club is looking for Volunteer Long Trail Patrol members! You'll spend one to two weeks working with other volunteers and experienced GMC staff to fix trails and build new ones. We'll provide food, group camping gear, tools, training and good times. The summer session runs Friday through Tuesday. The fall session runs Monday through Friday. Apply online at [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org). Planned projects:

### Tread Hardening in the Peru Peak Wilderness

Our work continues on a wet and muddy section of the Long Trail/Appalachian Trail between Peru Peak and Styles Peak. Crews will install stepping stones and crushed rock fill, so expect sledgehammers, rock bars and pick-mattocks. Note: The spike (base camp) site is 2.5 miles from the trailhead, and the work site is another 2.5 miles from the spike, so the daily commute is a 5.0-mile round-trip hike.

### Re-opening the East Dorset Trail

Crews will be reclaiming an old woods-road-and-trail route from East Dorset up to the Long Trail at Mad Tom Notch. Work will consist of vegetation removal and tread cutting. Note: The spike (base camp) site will be located along the new trail close to the roadside. Hikes from the trailhead to the spike site and from the spike site to the work will be short.

### Volunteer Opportunities

- ▶ Trail and Shelter Adopters
- ▶ Corridor Monitors
- ▶ Bark Mulch Packers
- ▶ Shuttle Drivers
- ▶ Outreach Ambassadors
- ▶ Thursday Office Volunteers

Full list of volunteer opportunities on the GMC website: [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org)



# 105th Annual Meeting

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB VISITOR CENTER • WATERBURY CENTER, VERMONT

The Green Mountain Club's 105th Annual Meeting, co-hosted by the Burlington Section and GMC staff, will be a lively weekend for hikers, paddlers, families and friends. The weekend will include the long awaited opening celebration of the Winooski Valley Long Trail Relocation and its centerpiece, our new 224-foot hiker footbridge!

After more than 100 years of resolve, a road walk north of Camel's Hump has been replaced by a handsome suspension bridge across the Winooski River in Bolton and a new trail north of the river over Stimson Mountain. Please help us celebrate this historic event. Join us Friday, June 12, for a ceremonial Long Trail blazing and ribbon cutting. We'll reconvene later at the GMC Visitor Center for refreshments and evening entertainment with music by Full Circle Recorders, featuring the Burlington Section's own Maevé Kim, and a photo slide show

showing trail images from our southern sections.

Saturday, June 13, we'll host a continental breakfast and get you registered for the day's outings before the business meeting gets under way. Please join us to catch up on club events and honor recipients of the President's Award and honorary life memberships.

This year you can also congratulate and thank President Jean Haigh for her herculean efforts guiding the club before she passes the gavel and completes her three-year term.

There will be a silent auction fundraiser running throughout the day. If you have lightly used outdoor gear or clothing, drop it off at the visitor center between 8:00 and 11:30 a.m. to be entered in the auction. Of course donations of new gear or clothing are also welcome.

Lunch will follow the board meeting. Then come hikes, paddles or bike rides

with GMC friends. Or feel free to explore the eclectic recreational and cultural attractions of Waterbury, Stowe and surrounding areas on your own.

Reassemble at headquarters to freshen up and enjoy a 5:00 p.m. reception with refreshments, followed by a catered dinner at 6:00 p.m. We will conclude the weekend with author and story teller Willem Lang sharing tales of the Vermont backcountry and the Long Trail. You may know Willem as the author of his column, *A Yankee Notebook*, and of numerous books including *Tales from the Edge of the Woods*; his commentaries on Vermont Public Radio; and his New Hampshire Public Television show, "Windows to the Wild."

For directions to the Green Mountain Club Visitor Center and camping and lodging options, please visit [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).



Vista from Mount Hunger

• Friday, June 12 •

- 9:00 a.m. **Work hike.** Meet at the Bolton Town Clerk office on Route 2 at 9:00 a.m. Work will end around 2:00 p.m., in time to attend the Winooski Valley Relocation opening celebration. Tools provided.
- 2:30 p.m. **Carpool to the Winooski River Footbridge** from the Visitor Center.
- 3:00 p.m. **Winooski Valley Long Trail Relocation Celebration at the site.** (Easy, level walk is approx. 0.5 mile roundtrip.)
- 7:00 p.m. **Evening entertainment** with music by Full Circle Recorders, Maeve Kim. Beer, juice and light snacks.
- 7:00 p.m. **Silent photo slide show** featuring Long Trail images from southern Vermont.

• Saturday, June 13 •

- 7:00—8:00 a.m. **Birding with Maeve Kim**, location to be determined. Easy.
- 8:00—9:00 a.m. **Registration** and continental breakfast. Sign up for afternoon activities.
- 8:00—11:30 a.m. **Donate** used (or new!) gear at the table for the silent auction.
- 9:00—11:30 a.m. **Annual meeting.** Outside under a tent.
- 11:45—1:00 p.m. **Board of Directors meeting.**
- 11:30—1:00 p.m. **Lunch.** Prepared by Edelweiss Mountain Deli in Stowe. By reservation only.
- 12:30 p.m. **Information table** with a description of activities and local hikes.
- 1:00 p.m. **Afternoon outings.** Meet in the parking lot outside the GMC Visitor Center. Leaders will identify trips and set up carpools. Bring water and appropriate gear. Distances below are round trip.

- ▶ **Sterling Falls Gorge.** Hike to beautiful falls in a lush setting. Easy, 3.1 miles, 700 ft. elevation gain.
- ▶ **Sterling Pond.** Hike from Route 108 in Smugglers' Notch to a serene pond nestled among evergreens. Some steep sections. Moderate, 2.8 miles, 900 ft. elevation gain.
- ▶ **Waterbury Reservoir.** Paddle your own canoe or kayak. Easy. Length and route to be determined by the leader.
- ▶ **Stowe Recreation Bike Path.** Cycle a paved path winding through woods and meadows, crossing the West Branch of the Little River. Easy, 11 miles. Cyclist to determine distance.
- ▶ **Moss Glen Falls Trail.** A short but scenic hike to a spectacular waterfall. Easy, 1 mile, minimal elevation gain.
- ▶ **Lake Mansfield Trail.** Hike to the Long Trail and Taylor Lodge, with excellent views of Nebraska Notch and Vermont's only glacial cirque. Moderate, 3.2 miles, 710 ft. elevation gain.
- ▶ **Stowe Pinnacle Trail.** A moderate, steady climb to a bald summit with exceptional views of Camel's Hump and Mount Mansfield. Moderate, 3.6 miles, 1,520 ft. elevation gain.
- ▶ **Mount Hunger.** A long steep climb to an open summit with views stretching from Camel's Hump and Mount Mansfield to the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Difficult, 4.4 miles, 2,290 ft. elevation gain.
- ▶ **Long Trail to Taft Lodge.** A steep climb to the largest and oldest shelter on the Long Trail, with an option to continue and climb to the Chin (the summit of Mount Mansfield) if time allows. Difficult, 3.4 miles, 2,050 ft. elevation gain.
- ▶ **Stimson Mountain Long Trail Relocation.** Hike the newest section of the Long Trail, north over Stimson Mountain from the new Winooski River Footbridge in Bolton. Moderate, 4.5 miles, 1,600 ft. elevation gain.

- 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. **Reception.** Light refreshments and beverages.
- 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. **Dinner.** Catered by Cider House Barbecue and Pub. By reservation only.
- 6:45 p.m. **Silent auction ends.** Highest bidders collect their items.
- 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. **Speaker: Author and storyteller Willem Lang:** "Tales from the Long Trail and the Green Mountains."



Moss Glen Falls



# Annual Election of General Directors

## 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](mailto:gmc@greenmountainclub.org), with "Voting for General Directors" in the subject line. Please be sure to include your member number. Ballots must be received by April 1.

**A**t GMC's annual meeting on June 13, four general seats will open on the club's board of directors. General directors represent the Green Mountain Club membership as a whole, and serve with directors elected by the sections. Each year, the nominating committee recruits and recommends candidates in the spring *Long Trail News*.

Directors are elected to three-year terms, with a two-term limit. This year Paul Houchens and Sheri Larsen will complete their first terms; both have been nominated for second terms. Faith Brown and Lars Botzjoorns have been nominated for first terms.

The GMC Nominating Committee presents the following candidates for approval:

- Faith Brown
- Paul Houchens
- Sheri Larsen
- Lars Botzjoorns



**Faith Brown** has spent much of her life in the woods. From her teen years hiking the Long Trail with Sky Acres Girl Scout Camp to her end-to-end section hike on the Long Trail in 2010, she is happiest outdoors with a backpack and miles to go before she sleeps!

When not on the trail Faith can be found at the Vermont Agency of Transportation, where she works as the director of finance and administration, or at her home in Montpelier. She is a long-time GMC member, a Second Century Campaign donor, and an ardent believer that access to the woods is one of the most important essentials to save our minds, our souls and our planet.

Faith's experience in nonprofit governance and finance and her passion for the Long Trail make her an excellent candidate.





## Lars Botzjorns

grew up in Massachusetts, but came to know the Green Mountains in his youth as he pursued the New England 4,000-footers. After working in the Appalachian Mountain Club hut system in the White Mountains of New Hampshire in the 1980s he moved to Vermont with his wife.

Lars has a master's degree in natural resources planning. In 1992 he joined the GMC staff as director of field programs and became intimately familiar with the Long Trail System and the Appalachian Trail in Vermont. During his tenure with GMC he worked closely with the club's sections and management partners.

Lars was GMC's interim executive director for six months. He left the club's staff in 1999 to work as executive director of Keeping Track, a regional organization devoted to wildlife conservation planning and education. In 2004 his passion for education took hold, and he became a fourth grade teacher.

Lars is chair of the Bolton Conservation Commission and over the past ten years has led efforts to protect and manage the town's 400-acre Preston Pond Conservation Area, which includes a trail system contiguous with the current Long Trail.

## Paul Houchens

was introduced to hiking as a Boy Scout in the flatlands of Ohio, but his passion really began during a college summer working in Glacier National Park in Montana. He moved to Vermont in 1992 with his wife Cheryl to attend graduate school at UVM, and never left.

His hiking adventures have included a thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail, a section-hike of the Long Trail, and numerous other treks and climbs throughout the U.S., Canada and Mexico. He has climbed all the northeastern 4,000-footers and almost all fifty state high points. He also enjoys cross-country and telemark skiing, canoeing, cycling and geocaching.

Paul has been active in the Green Mountain Club since 1996, and has been a trip leader and the outings chair for the Burlington Section most of that time. He is just finishing his first term on the GMC Board, during which he also served on the History and Archives Committee.

Though his degree from Bucknell University is in business administration, he has worked as an elementary school educator in Burlington for the past fifteen years.

Paul lives in South Burlington with his wife and two children.

## Sheri Larsen

was appointed to the GMC Board in 2013 to fill a vacancy. Since then she has also served on the Trail Management and Stewardship Committees, and has helped the club on legislative issues. She is a longtime GMC member, and Burlington Section hike leader. She and her husband Richard have maintained the Long Trail from Lincoln Gap to Battell Shelter for many years.

Sheri is a Long Trail end-to-ender, and has climbed the hundred highest peaks of New England and the forty-six Adirondack 4,000-footers. In 2014 she hiked to the top of Camel's Hump each month of the year.

Now retired, Sheri worked as director of government relations for the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce. Before that she worked in the utility and banking fields and in local government in Vermont. Sheri has a bachelor's degree in political science and master's degrees in public administration and business administration. She is a member of the Vermont Land Trust Board. She has been chair of the State of Vermont Community Development Board and the Catamount Trail Association.

Sheri enjoys traveling with her husband Richard, skiing, kayaking and photography.



JOCELYN HEBERT



## SECTIONS

### Section Directory

#### Bennington

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

#### Brattleboro

Maintenance: Winhall River to Vt. 11/30  
President: George Roy, (603) 381-7756  
E-mail: negeo03106@gmail.com  
Website: www.brattleborogmc.com

#### Bread Loaf

Location: Middlebury area  
Maintenance: Sucker Brook Shelter to Emily Proctor Shelter  
Board Representative: Doug McKain  
E-mail: dougmckain@aol.com  
Website: www.gmcbreadloaf.org

#### Burlington

Maintenance: Jonesville to Smugglers' Notch  
President: Ted Albers, (802) 985-9064  
E-mail: ted@ted-albers.net  
Website: www.gmcburlington.org

#### Connecticut

Location: Hartford, Connecticut  
Maintenance: Glazenbury Mountain to  
Arlington-West Wardsboro Road  
President: Carol A. Langley, (860) 877-4449  
E-mail: cosmic14@yahoo.com  
Website: www.conngmc.com

#### Killington

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

#### Laraway

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

#### Manchester

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

#### Montpelier

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

#### Northeast Kingdom

Location: Northeast Kingdom  
President: Chris Rice, (802) 748-0460  
E-mail: ricec@fiu.edu  
Website: www.nekgmc.org

#### Northern Frontier

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

#### Ottawaquechee

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

#### Sterling

Location: Morrisville/Stowe/Johnson  
Maintenance: Chilooc Pass to Vt. 15  
President: Greg Western  
E-mail: gw60031@hotmail.com  
Website: www.gmsterling.org

#### Worcester

Location: Worcester, Massachusetts  
Maintenance: Arlington-West Wardsboro Rd.  
to Winhall River  
President: Jennifer Solin  
E-mail: jenniferleesolin@yahoo.com

**Bread Loaf ladies on section outing hiking  
Jerusalem Trail to Glen Ellen Lodge.  
Photo, John Predom**

**Barb Hines, well known for investigating  
spring flowers. Photo, Lorna Cherington**



**Burlington  
Mary Lou Recor (front) and Burlington  
Section members on winter solstice hike  
to Butler Lodge. Photo, Mary Keenan**



**Long-time Montpelier Section member  
Pricilla Page reads poetry aloud to group at  
Duck Brook Shelter. Photo, Reidun Nuquist**







**Brattleboro**

Bonnie Haug-Cramp (l) and friend hanging out over Big Branch River. Photo, Mark Brown



**Killington**

▲ Angela Jones building bog bridge on Long Trail near Route 4. Photo, David Coppock



**Connecticut**

Mandy Brink preparing for a night of camping on the trail. Photo, Dick Hart



**Manchester**

▲ Group outing on Moose Mountain in the Northeast Kingdom. Photo, Marge Fish



**Ottawaquechee**

Cathy Newbury on Mount Mansfield summit ridge during group hike. Photo, Dick Andrews



**Sterling**

◀ Dorcus Jones (l) and the gang at Sterling Section May walk through. Photo, Greg Western

◀ (l-r) Angela Marquis, GMC President Jean Haigh and Ami English having fun at GMC's Wheeler Pond Camps in Barton. Photo, Rich Windish

Our education program offers a wide variety of courses and outings to help you have fun, be safe, and learn more about the outdoors.

**Experienced instructors teach** hiking and backpacking; wilderness first aid and medicine; conservation and stewardship skills; navigation by map, compass and GPS; outdoor leadership; and much more.



## OUTDOOR SKILLS

### *Introduction to Backpacking*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 6:30-8:30 P.M.  
GMC VISITOR CENTER, WATERBURY CENTER

Do you want to try backpacking but don't know where to start? Our instructors will guide you through the maze of gear options for your first overnight trip. Other topics are nutrition, mileage and route planning, and what to expect on the trail. Instructors: Caitlin Miller, GMC Education Staff. Limit: 20. Fee: \$20. Register at least two weeks in advance.

### *Hiking and Backpacking with Kids*

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 6:30-8:30 P.M.  
GMC VISITOR CENTER, WATERBURY CENTER

We want kids to love the Long Trail like we do. This workshop will cover gear, appropriate mileage and level of difficulty for young legs; how to encourage a tired little hiker; and how to help him or her (and you) enjoy the outing. Instructors: Matt Krebs, GMC staff. Limit: 20. Fee: \$20. Register at least two weeks in advance.

### *End-to-Ender's Workshop*

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 6:30—8:30 P.M.  
GMC VISITOR CENTER, WATERBURY CENTER  
*or join us from home via a live webcast!*

Are you 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 planning, equipment or food, join us for this informative evening with a panel of end-to-enders. Panelists will answer your questions, describe their experiences, and demonstrate their gear. Instructors: Volunteer panel, Caitlin Miller,

GMC Education Staff. Admission: FREE. Register at least one week in advance for both on- and off-site attendance.



### *The Perfect Shot: Hiking and Photography Workshop*

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1:00 P.M.  
TO SUNDAY, MAY 17, NOON  
GMC'S WHEELER POND CABINS, BARTON

Chris Diegel, professional landscape photographer, will cover camera settings, lenses, lighting and other means to perfect shots of memorable moments outdoors. This exciting weekend of hiking and photography will take place at Wheeler Pond in the Northeast Kingdom. This two-day workshop includes one night at GMC's rustic Wheeler Pond Camps, with dinner Saturday evening and breakfast Sunday.

Instructors: Chris Diegel, GMC staff. Limit: 6. Minimum: 3. Fee: \$85. Register at least three weeks in advance. A gear list and directions to Wheeler Pond will be sent two weeks in advance. A carpool meeting place will be based on the locations of participants (Wheeler Pond parking is limited).



## Ultralight Backpacking

TUESDAY, MAY 19,

6:30—8:30 P.M.

GMC VISITOR CENTER, WATERBURY CENTER

Enjoy your next hike with a lighter pack! Learn to reduce weight, minimize strain, reduce environmental impact and save money with techniques and gear that maximize usefulness and versatility. Instructors: Caitlin Miller, GMC Education Staff. Limit: 20. Fee: \$20. Register at least two weeks in advance.

ALAN PASCHELL



## Women's Introduction to Backpacking Overnight Trip

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 10:00 A.M.,

TO SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 12:30 P.M.

GMC VISITOR CENTER, Waterbury Center,

DESTINATION: LONG TRAIL NORTH TO

STERLING POND

Want to backpack but don't know where to start, don't want to go alone, or just want to learn more? This overnight course will provide a solid foundation: gear, efficiently loading a pack, map reading, route selection, outdoor cooking and Leave No Trace practices, while having a great time and enjoying the company of adventurous women. Saturday we will hike approximately 4 miles on the Long Trail to Sterling Pond, returning the same route on Sunday.

Instructors will provide a suggested gear list two weeks in advance. Using your gear is best, but GMC may be able to lend things you don't have. Pack your own snacks, lunch and dinner for Saturday. A group breakfast will be provided Sunday. Transportation to and from trailhead will be provided. Instructors: GMC backcountry caretakers Caitlin Miller, Emily Benning. Limit: 8. Minimum: 4. Fee: \$65, student rate \$45. Register at least three weeks in advance.

## Plant Identification Workshop and Hike

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 11:00 A.M. -3:00 P.M.

GMC VISITOR CENTER, WATERBURY CENTER

Hiking is a great way to explore and learn about Vermont's fascinating plant communities. After an hour at the visitor center discussing plant identification and vertical succession we'll have lunch and carpool to the Pinnacle Meadows Trail in Stowe. On the hike we will identify plants, learn how they change with elevation, and have an identification scavenger hunt! Moderate, 3.0 miles round trip. Instructors: Joe Bahr, Caitlin Miller. Limit: 12. Fee: \$20. Register at least two weeks in advance.

## FIRST AID

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### SOLO Wilderness First Aid (WFA)

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY,

MAY 9 AND 10, 9 A.M.—5 P.M.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY,

JUNE 20 AND 21, 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. Its focus is on the prevention, recognition, and treatment of injuries and illnesses. Wilderness First Aid (WFA) certification or Wilderness First Responder (WFR) recertification is provided upon completion. Instructors: Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities staff. Limit: 30. Fee: \$190. Please contact GMC if you need WFR recertification (additional fees apply). Register at least two weeks in advance.

## NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION SKILLS

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### Trail Maintenance 101 Work Day and Picnic

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 10:00 A.M.—4:00 P.M.

GMC VISITOR CENTER, WATERBURY CENTER

Learn skills to maintain hiking trails by joining seasoned GMC field staff for this one-day workshop. Topics include pruning, clipping, blazing, maintaining drainage, and removing blowdowns. After the workday, we'll return to the GMC Visitor Center for a light picnic and refreshments. No prior experience is necessary, and tools will be provided. Instructors: GMC Field Staff. Limit 20. FREE. Register at least two weeks in advance.

## GMC Education Program Sponsors

GMC's Education Workshops are made possible in part by the support of the business community and other friends of the club. To find out how you can support GMC's Education Program, please call (802) 241-8327 or e-mail [groups@greenmountainclub.org](mailto:groups@greenmountainclub.org).

## REGISTRATION

Contact our office to register. Full payment by Visa, MasterCard, Discover, check, or cash is required before attending workshops.

Phone: (802) 244-7037

E-mail: [gmc@greenmountainclub.org](mailto:gmc@greenmountainclub.org)

Mail: 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Center VT 05677

Register online at [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

## FEES

GMC members—ask about your member discount. Not a member? Join and save.

## CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

Refunds (minus a \$10 processing fee) will be provided if cancellations are made before the registration deadline. Cancellations after the deadline will be refunded 50 percent of the workshop fee only if the space is subsequently filled. No refunds will be made for reservations cancelled less than three days before the workshop. GMC reserves the right to cancel a program at any time, in which case the club will notify registrants and make full refunds.

**Note:** Workshop dates and venues may change due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances. Please call or e-mail GMC before any workshop for the latest updates. Updates, additional workshops and more information can be found online at [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).

## AGE REQUIREMENT

The minimum age to participate in a workshop is sixteen, unless otherwise noted.

For more than 100 years, the Long Trail has inspired Vermonters to seek adventure in the Green Mountains and beyond. The James P. Taylor Outdoor Adventure Series, named after the man who first envisioned the Long Trail, brings such adventures to you through stories, photographs and videos. Join us for inspiring presentations that will transport you to mountains and waterways near and far as we celebrate twenty-three years of the Taylor Series—a great way to spend an evening!

Admission to most presentations is \$5 for members or \$8 for nonmembers; kids under 12 are free. Tickets are available at the door only. All proceeds support GMC's local sections and the Education Program.



Tales from the Trail

## ***Mountains at 15 Knots: Norway from the Deck of Hurtigruten***

REIDUN AND ANDREW NUQUIST

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 7 P.M.

GMC VISITOR CENTER, WATERBURY CENTER

Every day since 1893, a *Hurtigruten* (coastal express) ship has left Bergen on Norway's west coast for the country's far north. On its way, it sails past the Seven Sisters peaks, ties up at the medieval pilgrim site of Nidaros (today's Trondheim), crosses the Arctic Circle, wends its way through the Lofoten archipelago, and rounds the North Cape at 71° N—before docking in Kirkenes, near the Russian border. From there it returns to Bergen, a spectacular round-trip voyage of twelve days.

The ships berth at thirty-four ports, large and small. The length of stay varies from fifteen minutes to six hours. Passengers eager to sightsee – and keep in shape – stand ready to walk, as far and as fast as they can, returning before the ship's horn blasts for departure. (*Hurtigruten* adage: "There is no such thing as a late ship, only late passengers.")

In years gone by, *Hurtigruten* was the lifeline that tied isolated northern communities together. Today's modern fleet of twelve ships are working vessels that carry cargo and cars, but increasingly they have become popular with tourists, who want to experience "The World's Most Beautiful Sea Voyage."

Montpelier Section members Reidun and Andrew Nuquist have taken three round trips onboard *Hurtigruten*. Join them for an evening of dramatic scenery and Norwegian history.

## ***Tales from the Trail: A Mom's Quest for Closure through Five Hundred Miles of Forced Family Fun***

JENNIFER BORCH AND HER CHILDREN  
FOSTER (16), BRIANNA (15) AND NOLAN (10)

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 7 P.M.

GMC VISITOR CENTER, WATERBURY CENTER

Active parents dream of the day that their children will, at last, stop whining and embrace the great outdoors. *El Camino de Santiago*, The Way of St. James, is touted as the most popular Christian pilgrim route in the world. However, surviving this 500-

mile trek across northern Spain with three children in tow promised to be less about spiritual enlightenment than day-to-day survival. Mystical mothering moments encountered along the way were a bonus. Join Jennifer and her children for an evening of photographs, story telling and lessons learned along The Way.

## ***Road Trip to Gaspe Peninsula***

SHERI AND RICH LARSEN

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 7 P.M.

RICHMOND FREE LIBRARY, RICHMOND

Gaspe Peninsula in Quebec Province has a lot of attractions—beautiful scenery, great hikes, wildlife and more. Sheri and Rich Larsen decided to road trip there last summer with stops in Quebec City and along the north shore of the St. Lawrence River. On the return they hiked the high points of New Brunswick and Maine. Their slideshow presentation will feature photos of the places they visited, the wildlife they saw (including whales, caribou and a colony of Northern Gannet birds) as well as their hikes in Gaspe Peninsula, New Brunswick and Maine.

The Taylor Series is sponsored by GMC's fourteen sections, local businesses, and other friends of the club. To find out how you can support this important community outreach, please call (802) 241-8327 or e-mail [groups@greenmountainclub.org](mailto:groups@greenmountainclub.org).

This is a partial list of business contributors to GMC's Annual Fund. A complete list and information on how businesses can support GMC are posted at [convio.greenmountain.org/business](http://convio.greenmountain.org/business).

### **\$1,000+ Business Contributors**

The Waterwheel Foundation (Phish, Inc.)  
Stowflake Mountain Resort and Spa  
Trapp Family Lodge  
Vermont Smoke and Cure  
Long Trail Brewing Company

### **\$500—\$999 Business Contributors**

CCOutdoorStore.com  
Northfield Savings Bank  
Rock Art Brewery  
Thread Rolling, Inc.  
Woodchuck Hard Cider  
The Alchemist Brewery  
ArborTrek Canopy Adventures





Key vacant slots in the Green Mountain Club staff have been filled, Executive Director Mike DeBonis said at the board's winter meeting January 31. Mike introduced Jason Buss, the club's new business manager, and announced that Jenny Montagne has been hired as the new membership coordinator.

Mike also said that the opening celebration of the Winooski Valley Long Trail Relocation on June 12 will be part of the 105th GMC Annual Meeting weekend. He said he was pleased to have attended recent events held by the Burlington, Montpelier, Northeast Kingdom, Manchester, and Ottawquechee sections.

Treasurer Stephen Klein reported that the fiscal year 2014 audit had been completed on schedule in October with no adverse findings. Bret Hodgdon, a principal of the accounting firm of Davis & Hodgdon, presented highlights of the audit.

Stephen said this year's financial results so far are close to budgeted projec-

tions. He summarized the fiscal year 2016 draft budget, which had been unanimously endorsed by the GMC Budget and Finance and Executive Committees, and Mike explained the budget development process. Mike predicted that recent staff turnover, combined with operational adjustments associated with completion of the Winooski Valley Long Trail relocation, would make it a challenge to meet balanced budgets through fiscal year 2016. However, operations should become more stable and predictable after that.

At its spring meeting the board will approve a final budget, which will be presented to the membership at the club's annual meeting.

President Jean Haigh introduced the club's newest board member, Dann Van Der Vliet, who was appointed to fill the seat recently vacated by James Mitchell. She expressed her gratitude to members of the board and the staff for their personal financial contributions to the Winooski Valley Long Trail Relocation project.

Dave Hardy, director of trail programs, reported on a trailhead parking lot proposed in Bennington for the Bald Mountain Trail. Dave also noted that, as part of the Winooski Valley Long Trail Relocation, the existing Long Trail across the valley (including Duck Brook Shelter) will become a blue-blazed side trail. He said the new Long Trail route north of the river should be completed by the June 12 opening celebration.

The board voted to place two recent unrestricted bequests in a dedicated account to be used at the discretion of the executive director to minimize long term debt.

Matt Krebs, publications coordinator, said a new edition of *50 Hikes in Vermont* is in the final stages. Work will begin this year on the 100th edition of the *Long Trail Guide*, planned for publication in 2017.

The board recognized the passing of Don Hill, a wonderful friend and dedicated member of the Northern Frontier Section.

- TOM CANDON, SECRETARY



2015 GMC Annual Meeting Reservation

Annual Meeting is Saturday, June 13. Please register no later than June 1.

Name: .....
Guest(s): .....
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Registration (Required) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 14.00 .....
Includes continental breakfast

Saturday Meals: Lunch prepared by Edelweiss Mountain Deli and dinner catered by Cider House Barbecue and Pub

Lunch: [ ] Vegetarian [ ] Meat \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10.00 .....

Dinner: [ ] Vegetarian [ ] Meat \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20.00 .....

Total: \$.....

Payment

Make checks payable to: Green Mountain Club

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Mail payment and form by June 1 to: Green Mountain Club, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Center, VT 05677

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

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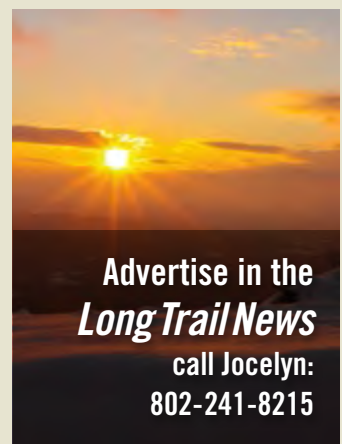
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## Fifty Years Leading GMC Hikes

**D**ot Myer, Burlington Section historian and membership coordinator, and a longtime GMC hike leader, announced last season that after fifty years of leading outings she was ready to step back: "I'm retiring from hike leading, but I hope I'll never have to retire from hiking."

Dot started her hiking career when she was a student in the outing club at the University of Vermont. She graduated in 1955, and joined the Green Mountain Club in 1956. Shortly thereafter she became a volunteer GMC hike leader.

Her hiking resume is impressive: the Long Trail, the Appalachian Trail, and the Northeast 111 4,000-Footers twice—once as the sixth person and first woman to complete the peaks in winter. One can only imagine how many additional miles she's covered in Vermont.

Dot has made many observations about the changes she's seen in GMC hikes. Among the most striking has been a decrease in the frequency of sharing a sociable meal, a tradition that used to go hand in hand with group outings. Many excursions were combined with "hot dog roasts and corn roasts, spaghetti suppers, chili suppers and even a breakfast or two." Burlington Section work hikes almost always included a meal on the trail at the end of the day, prepared by a cook, usually someone who couldn't or didn't want to do trail work but still wanted to help.

She calls the annual oyster stews held at Taylor Lodge from 1952 to 1977 (except for one year) "the granddaddy of all food hikes."

"They were always held in winter; one year it was fourteen below zero," she remembers. "People carried up pies



and all sorts of other foods in addition to the makings of oyster stew, usually on snowshoes." The outings were so popular there were sometimes wall-to-wall people in Taylor Lodge. One year hikers packed in "eleven pies, two pounds of butter, two gallons of oysters, seventeen quarts of milk, three pounds of cheese, two jars of pickles, four boxes of oyster crackers, two pints of coffee cream, celery, radishes and sugar."

Parties celebrated the end of winter. "We had sugar parties every spring, usually a hike followed by a visit to a sugar-house," she remembers. "One year Shirley Strong brought boiled syrup, and poured it out on the snow during the hike for us to scrape up and eat."

Dot led GMC group outings outside Vermont, often to cabins in the Adirondacks in winter. Not surprisingly, a meal and a festive atmosphere were planned: "We carried food up on snowshoes, some years using toboggans. We usually had chicken or some other big main meal. Sometimes we decorated the cabin and sang songs. The hike usually included bagging a peak or two. One year we had nineteen people on a bushwhack, and

had to count off occasionally to make sure we didn't lose anybody."

*The Green Mountain Club is sorry to be losing Dot as a Burlington Section group leader, but would like to thank her for fifty years of volunteering and for sharing her sense of adventure with new members who were just finding their way in the Green Mountains. We wish her many more miles of pleasurable hikes and maybe even a corn roast or spaghetti supper with friends.*

*(Long Trail News Editor Jocelyn Hebert adapted the foregoing from an article by*

*Dot Myer in the Fall 2014 edition of Ridge Lines, the newsletter of the Burlington Section.)*





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Gorham Lodge, a popular shelter on Camel's Hump, was removed from the Long Trail System in 2001. If it's time to update your maps or *Long Trail Guide* visit the GMC Visitor Center gift store in Waterbury Center or purchase online at [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org).



ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY BENNING

