

Long Trail NEWS



QUARTERLY OF THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB • WINTER 2015



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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The *Long Trail News* is published by The Green Mountain Club, Inc., a nonprofit organization founded in 1910. In a 1971 Joint Resolution, the Vermont Legislature designated the Green Mountain Club the "founder, sponsor, defender and protector of the Long Trail System..."

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

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

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

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

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Cover: Snowshoeing through winter forest to
Butler Lodge. Photo by Jocelyn Hebert



Cheryl Byrne and
Carrie Johnson at
Stowe Pinnacle vista

JOCELYN HEBERT

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Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation: Filing date, October 28, 2015.

Long Trail News. Publication No. 318-840, published four times per year. Office of publication, editorial and general business office located at 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Center, Vermont 05677. Editor: Jocelyn Hebert. Owner: The Green Mountain Club, Inc. Average number of copies each issue during preceding twelve months: Total number of copies printed, 7,700. Total paid distribution, 6,555. Total free distribution, 1,004. Total distribution, 7,559. Office use and otherwise not distributed, 141. Total, 7,700. Percent paid distribution, 86.72%. Number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: Total number of copies printed, 7,200. Total paid distribution, 6,505. Total free distribution, 695. Total distribution, 7,200. Office use and otherwise not distributed, 0. Total, 7,200. Percent paid distribution, 90.35%. – Jocelyn Hebert, Editor



On a gray Friday afternoon in late October I enjoyed bushwhacking around the woods near Sherburne Pass with about twenty-five members of the Green Mountain Club Ridgeline Society. Our quarry was the ruins of the former Long Trail Lodge, a rustic but elegant inn built for GMC in 1928 as a gift from Mortimer Proctor (an early club president and future Vermont governor), and his mother.

As we poked around the foundation stones of the main lodge and examined several collapsed outbuildings, I felt a powerful connection between the Proctors, who were important early benefactors of the club, and my present companions.

Each of the ninety members of the Ridgeline Society contributes at least \$1,000 annually to GMC's coffers, totaling about sixty percent of overall unrestricted giving. Many also donate generously to special projects such as land acquisitions, shelter renovations and, most recently, bridge building. Together with the sections, board members and staff, our donors are the fourth leg of the GMC stool. We could not do what we do without them.

As a twelve-year-old I visited the Long Trail Lodge after a hike over Killington and Pico during the club's annual intersectional week in the mid-1960s. The dining room's interior was finished with large boulders, birch bark furniture and light fixtures, and a giant stone fireplace. It was sort of like being outdoors when you were indoors, which no doubt was the architect's intent. Northbound, the Long Trail actually entered the back door, and left through the front door! A few years after that visit, the Long Trail Lodge burned to the ground.

Although the buildings are gone, the Proctors' tradition of financial support lives on in the Ridgeline Society. As it was in the beginning, generous people stand behind every project, new trail and new shelter—in fact, the entire mission of the Green Mountain Club. The earliest records of building the Long Trail in the 1910s routinely identified both the vol-



THELON S. DEAN, COURTESY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

*As it was in the beginning,
generous people stand
behind every project, new
trail and new shelter...*

unteers who cut the trail and the donors who financed their work. The donors of that era were appreciated as much as we value ours today.

Today thousands of people give something of themselves to the club every year. Many do trail work with their sections or as adopters. Others work on the board or its many committees. And many contribute financially, as their means allow. It's all important, but the financial support is essential. So when someone from the club asks you to consider making a donation, remember that for more than a century the Green Mountain Club has depended on people like you to fund its work.

GMC Camps Update

Many of you know that GMC has acquired or assumed the management of three new camps and may be wondering when they will be open. The new camps are Bolton Lodge and Bryant Camp in Bolton Valley, and Headwaters Camp on Unknown Pond, reached by a side trail from the new Middle Mountain Trail in

Avery's Gore in the Northeast Kingdom. We plan to manage these camps for year-round use by reservation only, as we have operated the popular Wheeler Pond camps in Barton for more than a decade.

Although our experience at Wheeler Pond gives us confidence that we can manage these new camps successfully, they represent a departure from the long-standing model of Long Trail shelters used primarily in summer and open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis, free of charge unless there is a caretaker. We are therefore planning slowly to make sure that we have the right management model.

For example, effective disposal of human waste during heavy winter use requires a different system than the ones we've created for our shelters used mainly in summer. All three new structures need remodeling to absorb wear and tear from constant use, and we need to ensure that the wood stoves are safe and easy to operate. Finally, we need a business plan that will make them financially sustainable.

All of this is under review by our talented staff and our new Camps Committee (ably chaired by former President Jean Haigh), but time and patience will be needed. We hope Bolton Lodge and Bryant Camp will be ready to open next year, and Headwaters Camp will come on line the following year.

—JOHN PAGE, PRESIDENT



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Vital Education

Thank you for the timely article on Leave No Trace best practices in the fall issue. This past hiking season saw a large increase in the number of thru-hikers with a corresponding larger impact on the Long Trail and shelters. Leave No Trace education is vital to the continued health of our trails and facilities.

—BOB WHITNEY,
 GMC MANCHESTER SECTION
 AND TRAIL ADOPTER

Mountain Ethics

What a great job Caitlin [Miller] and the other field staff members did with the Leave No Trace story in the fall issue.

What struck me was the frequent use of the word “ethics.” As a word, “ethics” packs a lot of weight as it suggests a moral code of right behavior toward, in this case, mountain environment and those who use it.

Guy and I wrote two books that carry “ethics” in their titles. One of them, *Wilderness Ethics*, was reissued in 2015 with a new foreword by Ben Lawhon of the National Outdoor Leadership School for Outdoor Ethics. *Backwoods Ethics* is to be re-issued next summer—Bill McKibben is writing the foreword—but with a different title: *The Green Guide to Low Impact Hiking and Camping*. Why this change?

Because “ethics” can come across as daunting, stern, or restrictive. But “ethics” can be used in an uplifting way, too: a word that embodies a code of, as your headline put it, “best practices.” Your article guides us in how to carry out these ethical best practices for the benefit of the mountain world and the hikers who love that world.

Thanks to all of you at the Green Mountain Club for your thoughtful and caring work.

—LAURA WATERMAN

Natural Educator

A good friend and I hiked to the top of Mount Mansfield this week after spending a night at Taft Lodge. This hike was an absolutely fantastic experience and I would like to thank the Green Mountain Club for creating and preserving an environment that allowed us to enjoy nature in such an uninterrupted way. The advice that we received at the trailhead (Underhill Campground) to take the Profanity Trail given the weather conditions was absolutely critical. We would also like to thank and commend Adam Joseph, who we met at Taft Lodge. His fine company and excellent stewardship of the lodge really made the trip an educational experience that we will remember for years to come. His dedication to the mis-

sion of the GMC and its ideals were obvious from the moment that we met him coming in from the cold rain. Additionally, the discussion we had about trail maintenance and stewardship was extremely interesting. It was obvious how much Adam not only cared about the trails and the environment but also educating those who stayed at the lodge.

This was an experience of a lifetime and we would thank you for your stewardship of this beautiful environment.

—DAVID GROSSMAN

Visitor Center a Valuable Resource

Thanks to Jen [Donley] for advice before our hike from Lincoln Gap to Duxbury Road along the LT. She wasn't kidding; it was a rugged section, but I had a blast. I've hiked long sections of primitive trails in the Grand Canyon, Glacier, and Yosemite, and I've never had to work as hard as I did on the LT. It was a bear. Unfortunately, on our last day it was raining cats and dogs, so we opted not to try to summit Camel's Hump. We'll just have to try again.

And thanks for such prompt and informative responses to my questions. I'll be a Long Trail advocate for life!

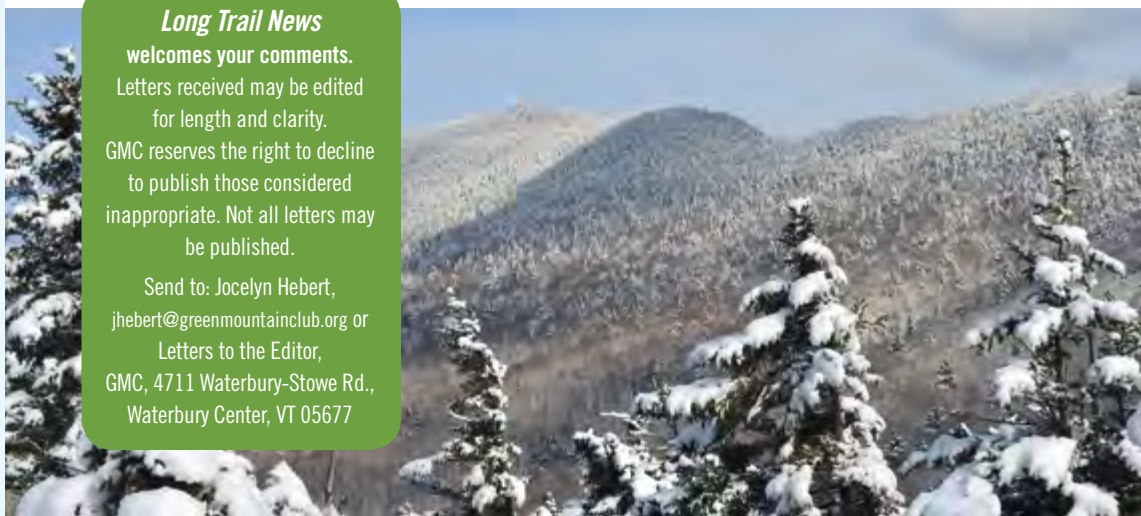
—MIKE QUILLIN,
 WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

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,
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 Letters to the Editor,
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Sandy Stare: Builder of the Original Lost Pond Shelter

Volunteer Louis “Sandy” J. Stare Jr. of Craftsbury received special recognition for building the original Lost Pond Shelter on the Long Trail at the annual volunteer appreciation picnic in September. The club recognized Sandy fifty years later because his determination, ingenuity, and passion for the Long Trail represent the characteristics of so many GMC volunteers.

In 1963 Sandy saw the new U.S. Forest Service shelters at Little Rock Pond, and was inspired to build one. Using a Forest Service blueprint, he constructed the shelter at his Cape Cod home in winter of 1965. He had to modify the design so it could be disassembled, transported to Vermont, and reassembled in the woods. When spring arrived he and a band of volunteers formed a convoy, and traveled 250 miles to Vermont.

According to a 1965 *Long Trail News* article, “Mr. Stare and his father; his truck containing assorted shelter hardware and tools; a big truck from Cape Cod piled high with the shelter sections; a huge Timberjack tractor and heavy-duty wagon from Manchester; and about 20 GMC and non-GMC volunteers from four states” arrived at USFS Route 10 in early May.

Unfortunately, the original shelter built by Sandy burned in 2001. The club built a new shelter in 2006, but it also burned. GMC did not give up, and built a third shelter in 2009. It stands firmly today in Big Branch Wilderness, and reminds us, once again, how devoted our staff and volunteers are to keeping the Long Trail experience special.



Executive Director Mike DeBonis and Sandy

The work is done. Now we shall reap the benefits. As hikers prepare their meals at the shelter, breathe the pure Vermont air, enjoy the wilderness setting...gaze at the stars and the endless depths of the heavens above, watch the dying embers of the evening campfire, and restore their strength with refreshing slumber, we know that Mr. Stare’s wishes will have been fulfilled.

—BEN ROLSTON

GMC members applauded Sandy, and expressed their deepest gratitude for his work. He was presented with a framed collection of images of the three Lost Pond Shelters—GMC’s way of declaring that appreciation for the value of his hard work and contributions to the Long Trail has not diminished.

Volunteers, like Sandy, were and still are, critical to the health and success of the Long Trail System. As Executive Director Mike DeBonis says, “We need more folks like Sandy Stare.”

—JOCELYN HEBERT,
Long Trail News EDITOR



Changes in the Vermont Forest



Pasture and Mount Mansfield,
Early Vermont Landscape

BY CAITLIN CUSACK

It is agreed by doctors that hiking is the superior exercise and a good tonic, for all but most of us walk too little. On the trail there is nature and relaxation where the tired brain may rest...

These words appeared in a Vermont newspaper on March 11, 1935, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Green Mountain Club. True then, they are even more so today, with our long commutes and desk jobs. Yet the experience of hiking the Long Trail has changed dramatically, particularly the landscape we walk through and see from scenic overlooks. The changes to come may be hard for us even to imagine.

Verde Mont, a Biological Wasteland

In 1909 James P. Taylor, often called the father of the Long Trail, first envisioned a hiking trail the length of Vermont while gazing at Stratton Mountain. Taylor saw not virgin woods but second or perhaps even third growth—forest that had returned despite a century-long binge of land clearing.

By 1830, seventy-five percent of New England had been denuded of trees from logging operations and to make way for sheep and dairy farming. In fact, an estimated 1.5 million sheep, more than ten times the Vermont population then, covered the hillsides of the Green Mountain state.

It's hard to fathom that early conservationist George Perkins Marsh described the hills of his native state in 1847 as a place very different from the verdant Green Mountains (Verde Mont) we know today: "They remain therefore barren and unsightly blots, producing neither grain nor grass, and yielding no crop but a harvest of noxious weeds, to infest with their scattered seeds the richer arable grounds below."

Most mountain land was too steep and rocky to be developed, so it often passed from one timber company to the next. The use and abuse of mountainsides likely resembled the logging history of much

of the Northeast and Midwest. Logging operations initially focused on harvesting the best quality white pine. But according to author Gordon G. Whitney, by the early 1900s lumbering was "a desultory mop-up operation of the few, small, remaining old-growth stands and a culling of the second- and third-growth areas for their more valuable products."

Massive soil erosion followed deforestation and the mountains were considered a biological wasteland. Entire hillsides washed onto muddy fields and into streams and rivers. Habitat loss, the fur trade, unregulated hunting, bounties



Vermont sheep farm

on predators, and other factors diminished the number of wolves, deer, moose, beavers, martens, otters, fishers, bears and other wildlife.

As forest cover increased, wildlife returned. Today it would be hard to walk through the woods without finding some sign of deer droppings or hoof prints. In fact, in some parts of the state intense deer browsing of seedlings makes it difficult to establish the next generation of trees. Severe browsing, combined with competition from nonnative invasive plants and climate-induced or -accelerated changes, may prevent the survival of some desirable tree species. A far cry from the situation 150 years ago.

Protecting the Next Generation of Forests

Social and political events of the mid-1800s led farmers, *en masse*, to abandon their hardscrabble farms for the fertile, flat and stone-free soils of the Midwest. In the wake of this mass exodus, white pines easily sprouted in the depleted soils of Vermont's fields, and forests rebounded.

By 1910 the white pine, also known as old-field pine, had grown to merchantable size. They were not as tall, straight, and branch-free as the legendary king's arrow pines reserved and cut for British navy masts before the Revolutionary War. Still, they were extensively harvested to meet growing commercial and residential needs. When they met their fate with the ax and two-man crosscut, hardwood saplings growing beneath were released from shade to begin the next generation of forest.

However, logging slash (branches and waste wood) left from the extensive pine harvest through the early 1900s, coupled with drought, caused large tracts to burn. More than 5,000 acres burned in 1903, and 16,000 acres in 1908. While ashes still smoldered, Vermont established the Division of Forestry to coordinate a network of forest fire watchmen.

The division and the newly formed Green Mountain Club (established in 1910) built a trail to the summit of Stratton Mountain to serve as a fire patrol and recreational trail. Several timber companies, who also had a vested interest

in fire protection, donated funds to erect the state's first steel fire tower on Stratton in 1914. Fire spotting by aircraft replaced towers in the late 1980s, but Long Trail hikers seeking views can still climb fire towers on Belvidere, Stratton and Glastenbury Mountains.

When the Long Trail was completed in the early 1930s the applied science of forestry in the United States was in its infancy. One writer explained that foresters have to "think about how forests grow. They have to understand how best to manipulate and at times preserve these landscapes."

...the denuded hillsides of the 1800s are memorialized by the stone walls and foundations of abandoned farms scattered through the woods.

This shift in thinking mirrored a national effort—launched with the creation of the U.S. Forest Service—to manage rather than simply exploit land. The object became to maintain soil productivity, enhance timber quality and protect water resources. The Green Mountain National Forest was established in 1932 to manage land for multiple benefits, including timber, fuelwood, scenic views and soil

conservation. This coincided with the beginning of a decades-long mission to protect the Long Trail from development.

Along with the increase in forest came the porcupine (perhaps Mother Nature's revenge on humans for the abuse of the past decades). The damage to the regrowing forests caused by them was so extensive that in 1958 the Vermont Division of Forestry reintroduced their main predator, the fisher.

Up until then, Long Trail diaries detail one misadventure after another and many sleepless nights due to the overpopulation of porkies. As one hiker described in Arthur R. Koerber's *Footpath in the Wilderness*: "With sardonic humor or scientific curiosity, he (the porcupine) chews away at almost anything." Porcupine numbers were in check by the 1970s, and the deliberate introduction of the fisher was considered a success.

Vermont Forests Today

In areas where much of the forest canopy was left and only large, quality trees were removed, shade-tolerant sugar maples and balsam fir held on. As forests matured, land managers protected seedlings and saplings, invested in the establishment of desirable species, and let trees grow larger. Vermont today is dominated by sugar maple, yellow birch and beech, largely as a result of these

Continued next page



The landscape today

JOCelyn HEBERT



Gathering sap in a maple sugaring camp, 1906

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intentional choices. The ratio of forest cover to cleared land is once again three-to-one, and the denuded hillsides of the 1800s are memorialized by the stone walls and foundations of abandoned farms scattered through the woods.

While the risk of landslides and catastrophic wildfires has abated, the risk of severe storms has increased. Forest land has been disturbed before; the hurricane of 1938 left much of New England's forests flattened. Wind uprooted large conifers and hardwoods from saturated soils, leaving pits where roots once anchored trunks, and mounds where roots decayed. "Lots of the country through which the footpath winds was badly damaged by the hurricane of 1938," a Long Trail chronicler wrote in 1941. "When a forest decides to get mixed up, the going is really difficult."

Although it is unlikely that region-wide storms like the 1938 hurricane will become the norm, they will probably increase in frequency. Over the past twenty years at least two derechos, or large-scale severe windstorm events, have leveled thousands of acres of trees in New York and Maine.

In the last fifty years there has been a fifteen- to twenty-percent increase in precipitation in Vermont and a sixty-seven percent increase in gully-washing thun-

derstorms. The magnitude and frequency of these local storms will only increase.

Changes to Come

If a crystal ball could show us the next fifty years, it would probably predict a four- to six-week increase in the growing season, more hot days (greater than 90 degrees F.) and greater temperature variability. Sandy Wilmont, the climate change program manager in the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, summarizes the prospect: "A longer growing season will be great for hikers. Hotter summers may not be so great, especially when vernal streams dry up. The increased frequency of storms has already shown to be problematic for trails. Fixing remote access roads, trails, bridges and culverts tends to be a lower priority and to take longer than major infrastructure. And there's nothing quite

like mountain streams for velocity and ferociousness."

Changes in the weather are not the only factors that will impact hikers' experience. The Green Mountain Club has already faced threats to the Long Trail: changes in land ownership, a skyline highway proposed in 1933, and chairlifts and associated ski area infrastructure. In the future the club will have to contend with wind energy development on ridges, expanded backcountry ski trails, motorized recreation, mountain development, drones and impacts of changing markets for wood and wood-based products such as maple sugar and biomass.

The maple sugaring industry is a prime example of a forest practice that can impact the trail and the hiker experience. The days of collecting sap from buckets using a team of horses has been replaced by maple monocultures, miles of plastic tubing, networks of high-standard roads and the hum of vacuum pumps. Such changes assault many peoples' senses, and hiking in some places is like weaving through a jungle gym. Time will tell whether large-scale maple sugaring will grow even larger, or if warming winters will keep growth in check.

How do we balance societal demands and technological innovation with our



THERON S. DEAN, COURTESY SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

inherent need for wilderness experiences? For what John Muir described as “a place to go to hear the wind and little else, see the stars and the galaxies, smell the pine trees, feel the cold water, touch the sky and the ground at the same time, listen to coyotes, eat the fresh snow”? This will be a fundamental question for the GMC.

An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure

Assuring a resilient future requires preparation for extreme weather and unreliable water supplies. Hikers individually can adapt by practices like carrying bigger water containers and wearing quick-dry clothing and waterproof boots.

A resilient future for Vermont's forests requires planning and preparation too. For example, if we manage our forests for a diversity of tree sizes and ages, we create structure and encourage stronger root systems, better able to withstand the impacts of strong winds and water from storm events.

Unfortunately, trail managers must contend with trails and a network of former woods roads inherited from times when less thought was given to soil conservation and water quality. To avoid washouts and erosion we must establish gentle grades when possible, and install erosion control devices to get water off trails and into the woods, where it can be absorbed.

As GMC prepares for the next century of change, we should be encouraged by the dogged efforts of trail builders, conservationists and land managers before us. Though some changes to Vermont's forests and their impacts to the trail experience may seem out of our immediate control, others are the direct result of choices we make as land managers. As was true for those that came before us, today's Green Mountain Club leaders and partners have the opportunity and responsibility to make choices that maintain the Long Trail as one of the finest opportunities for hikers to experience the mountains and natural beauty of Vermont.

Caitlin Cusack is a forester and co-owner of Little Hogback Farm. She lives in Bristol, Vermont with her husband.

Building it Better

The impact of Tropical Storm Irene to the Long Trail System was a wakeup call for trail managers. While we hope that we won't see another storm like Irene, it is clear that larger and more intense storm events are the new reality and something that trail managers have to address proactively.

Trail Structures: A prime example is the newly constructed Winooski River Footbridge that was designed after Irene hit Vermont. Club leaders invested heavily in design and engineering so that the suspended walkway was above Irene flood stage and major support towers and cables could withstand potential flood events. The bridge was also designed so that other components such as stairs, support cables, and tread could be repaired or replaced if damaged. It took over a century to build the bridge. The club made a strategic investment in design and construction so that the bridge would last for another 100 years.

Trail Building: The Long Trail, while famous for its uphill ruggedness, shows signs of decades of erosion. New sections of trail, like the Long Trail north over Stimson Mountain, are built with an eye toward better management of human use and water flow by utilizing gentler grades, switchbacks, and larger, reinforced water bars and drainage systems.

Overnight Sites: GMC's historic and iconic shelters are some of the most cherished components of the Long Trail System. When repairing existing, or designing new overnight sites, we consider management for increased hiker use due to a potentially warmer, longer season, the availability of reliable water sources, and increased infrastructure that will protect sensitive natural resources from impacts of human use.

Stronger and better infrastructure is good for the Long Trail System, but comes at a cost. As trail projects become more complicated, time consuming, and expensive, managers will have to prioritize which project to invest in, and plan far enough in advance to identify the resources to complete projects successfully.

—MIKE DeBONIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Cutting new trail on Stimson Mountain

Trees

It is not so much for its beauty that the forest makes a claim upon men's hearts, as for that subtle something, that quality of air that emanation from old trees, that so wonderfully changes and renews a weary spirit.

—ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON



Tree stands photographed on the Long Trail. Photography by Nika Meyers, Jocelyn Hebert, Susan Shea and John Predom.



The Belated Party... by 150 Years



On August 22 hikers looked curiously as a group of fourteen Civil War era reenactors gathered at a cairn known as Frenchman's Pile on Mount Mansfield to recreate the 1858 Jerome B. Thompson painting, "The Belated Party on Mansfield Mountain."

Depicting a group of young men, women and children picnicking on the ridgeline, the painting caught the eye of Connecticut resident Jessica Craig, who was so taken by the idea of having her own nineteenth century picnic that she recruited a group to join her on a drive up the toll road in full period attire.

Laura Peterson, a Green Mountain Club ranger naturalist in the late 1970s and early 1980s, participated. To the delight of field staff, Laura contacted us, and we made plans to meet the reenactors. The morning of August 22 found Field Supervisor Kevin Hudnell wearing a tweed suit and cap at the Mansfield summit visitor center.

Suddenly women in bonnets and full bustle skirts, and men in top hats and long tail coats, appeared from the parking lot, carrying wicker baskets of glass water jugs and 1861 guidebooks (photocopied). A boy in knickers and a pageboy hat darted amongst them. Needless to say, I felt distinctly underdressed in my bright green caretaker T-shirt.

Kevin kicked off a guided walk by passing around GMC vintage history books and providing a brief history of Mansfield's toll road and bygone summit houses. I followed with information about modern day mountain operations. Once oriented, we headed north on the Long

Trail. Pausing at the first vista, I gave an overview of the area's geological history and an introduction to the rare alpine plants and animals of Vermont's high summits.

Passersby paused to listen, some contributing their knowledge of the area. When we reached Frenchman's Pile, the photo shoot commenced, replicating Harding's painting right down to the pocket watch held by one of the men.

The reenactment concluded with a picnic at the lower parking lot, with stunning views of Smugglers' Notch and plenty of room for wooden trestle tables set with china on linen cloths. The party had brought a feast of homemade breads, jams, pickled eggs, cold meats, cookies, wine and lemonade, all wrapped in linen and carried in wicker baskets. Even the forks were in character, with three tines and intricate detailing!

While we ate, Kevin and I pressed everyone for stories of other reenactments, and asked Laura about her time as a ranger with GMC. As Kevin and I left, the reenactors thanked us for the guided walk, and promised to let us know if they decided to make a tradition of reenacting moments in history on summits of the Northeast.

So if you are on Washington or Greylock next August, keep an eye out for top hats and bonnets, and maybe a few GMC caretakers tagging along!

—ILANA COPEL,
MOUNT MANSFIELD LEAD CARETAKER

UPPER LEFT: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Rogers Fund, 1969, www.metmuseum.org, Jerome B. Thompson (1814-1886), *The Belated Party on Mansfield Mountain, 1858*

UPPER RIGHT AND BELOW: Reenactment in 2015. Photos by Ilana Copel



Farewell to Pete

The Green Mountain Club was Pete Antos-Ketcham's home away from home for twenty-one years. In mid-September, as he left to become executive director of Energize Vermont, GMC colleagues and friends told him, "thank you and, this isn't goodbye—we'll see you on the trail."

Pete's long history with GMC began when he tried to join the field staff at sixteen, but learned the minimum age was eighteen. Unwilling to wait two years, he signed on as a volunteer shelter adopter and "counted the days" until he was old enough to apply again.

When that day came in 1993, GMC board member Lars Botzjorns, then director of field programs, helped Pete pack into his long-awaited post at Skyline Lodge in the Breadloaf Wilderness.

"I remember being impressed with this young lad from Middlebury, a hockey player I believe, who exhibited a strong environmental ethic," says Lars. "He was persistent at gaining employment and when he was eighteen, he and I packed into the site in early June with a fresh 4-inch snow cover. He didn't seem daunted when I left him in the wilderness that day—he seemed right at home."

"A childhood dream realized," Pete says.

For the next six field seasons he worked as a caretaker gaining experience in both the Green and White Mountains. In 1999 he became GMC's fulltime field supervisor under Dave Hardy, who became director of trail programs that same year.

"Pete's work hiring and managing the caretaker staff was essential to a smooth turnover in 1999," Dave recalls. "We both had steep learning curves with agency partners and new volunteer leaders and office staff transition."

"Our work in the field was only accelerating with restoring Butler Lodge, building Stratton Pond Shelter, completing work on the Pico West relocation, and recovering from Hurricane Floyd. Pete quickly mastered caretaker logistics and

When I started as an eighteen year old caretaker in 1993, I had no idea that this trail, this organization, would come to define my life and my career and become, for all intents and purposes, my home.

—PETE ANTOS-KETCHAM



Pete Antos-Ketcham

juggled composting priorities which soon led to his groundbreaking work on Appalachian Trail Conservancy's sanitation manual for backcountry privies."

In fact, Pete became a leader in backcountry sanitation and was the principal author of the first (2000) and second (2014) editions of the *Backcountry Sanitation Manual*. Pete and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's New England Regional Director Hawk Metheny cooperated on both manuals, which describe how to manage human waste in the backcountry.

"Public land managers and trail organizations from around the world frequently refer to the manual since it is the only publication that we are aware of that

comprehensively addresses human waste management on public land," says Hawk. "Specifically, Pete has been the tireless champion of designing an approved universally accessible moldering privy."

Pete's contributions to GMC expanded as he oversaw the club's education program, land stewardship, and facilities management.

In 2003 a fire destroyed the South Barn, which housed the office staff in Waterbury Center. Pete was a key participant in planning and rebuilding after the fire. Former Executive Director Ben Rose credits him for "GMC's beautiful and ecologically responsible headquarters."

"He was essentially our clerk of the works during construction and worked tirelessly to ensure that GMC would harness sun, wood and efficiency rather than fossil fuel to operate," Ben says.

Today, visitors can take the Green Energy Tour through the building that embodies Pete's vision. Energize Vermont, a statewide nonprofit that educates and advocates for small scale and community supported renewable energy solutions, will benefit from Pete's experience in lowering the carbon footprint of GMC's entire Waterbury Center campus to near zero.

Executive Director Mike DeBonis puts it like this: "Pete grew up working for GMC, but we could also say that the club grew by working with Pete. During his tenure, GMC experienced tremendous success. Pete can add the construction of the headquarters building, innovations in backcountry sanitation, and the Winooski Valley Long Trail Relocation to his long list of accomplishments. The club is a better, stronger organization because of his work."

If you find yourself hiking to Skyline Lodge next summer, don't be surprised if you meet Pete, now the volunteer shelter adopter, hauling bark mulch or clearing blowdowns along the trail.

Thank you Pete.

—JOCELYN HEBERT,
Long Trail News EDITOR

A Century of Town Forests in Vermont

BY JENNY MONTAGNE

This year marks the one-hundredth anniversary of the 1915 Municipal Forest Act, which effectively created the robust town forest system we see in Vermont today.

Vermont's forests have played a central role in shaping its communities. From logging to maple sugaring to hiking, the state's forestlands are vital to our economy and the wellbeing of those who use them. The opportunity to be immersed in nature minutes from the bustle of a town center is unique to Vermont. Town forests and managed lands like the Long Trail System provide refuges easily accessible and free to the public.

Uses for town forests are as diverse as the towns themselves, but all share the goals of protecting town lands from development, preserving wildlife habitat and providing space for recreation. According to Danielle Fitzko, urban and community forestry coordinator at Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, municipal forests

“are parcels that are forested or partially forested that are owned by municipalities and are open to the public. They include town forests, community forests, watershed forests, school forests and conservation areas.”

The Municipal Forest Act enabled towns to purchase land for the production and sale of timber. The law rose from necessity: the nineteenth century was a time of unprecedented growth that placed intense pressure on the landscape. By the late 1800s eighty-five percent of Vermont's forests had been cleared for agriculture and timber. The loss of trees caused soil erosion, flooding and the eradication of wildlife habitat and species.

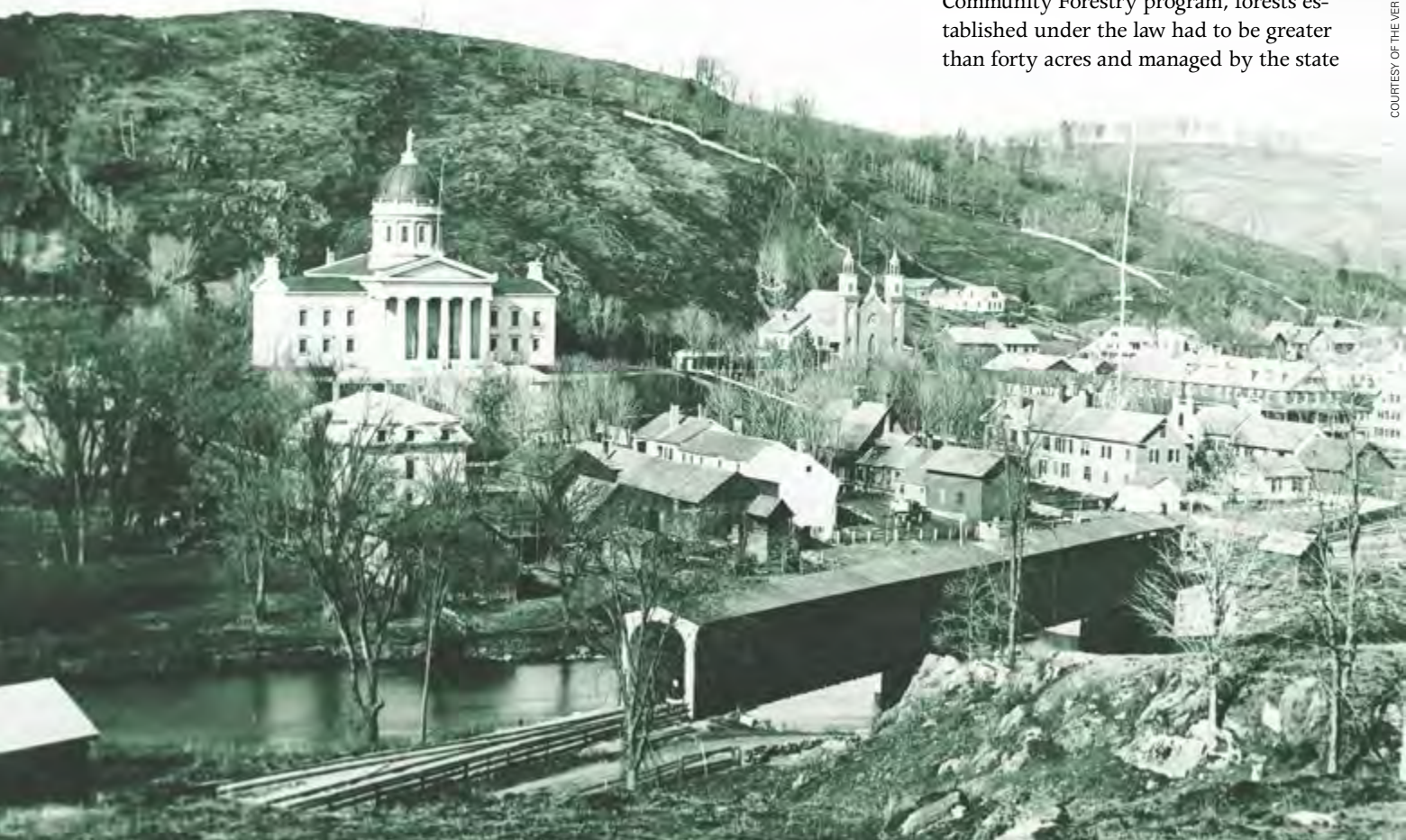
Turning Point

At the same time, the conservation movement was gaining momentum. The establishment of the United States Division of Forestry in 1881 marked a turning point in attitudes toward forests. U.S. Forest Service Chief and conservation advocate Gifford Pinchot cautioned

against the unregulated use of natural resources: “When I came home [from studying abroad] not a single acre of Government, state, or private timberland was under systematic forest management anywhere on the most richly timbered of all continents ... the common word for our forests was ‘inexhaustible.’ To waste timber was a virtue and not a crime.”

As early as the 1860s Vermont towns began designating tracts for community use. Westmore's pastor Charles Gill asked his friend Pinchot for a donation to purchase four hundred acres for the town's Congregational church. One hundred twenty-five acres of cleared land behind the capitol was donated for Montpelier's Hubbard Park in 1899, and L.R. Jones State Forest, the first in Vermont, was established in Plainfield in 1909.

The Municipal Forest Act designated town-purchased forest land as “school endowment forests,” but a 1917 amendment reclassified them as municipal forests, an important distinction that made way for the current town forest system. According to the Vermont Urban and Community Forestry program, forests established under the law had to be greater than forty acres and managed by the state



forester. The state forester was permitted to buy and distribute 150,000 seedlings for each town forest from the state tree nursery, and forest sites were planted with fast-growing softwood species like red and scotch pine and white spruce, preferred because they grew faster than hardwoods and could yield a quicker return.

A Common Vision

Over the next several decades Vermont's Forestry Division grew, and with growth came improved town forest management and oversight. In 1930 Vermont reported forty-two municipal forests spanning almost 9,000 acres. By the 1950s the state's municipal forest land had nearly doubled with 16,000 acres in sixty-eight towns. Today town forests cover more than 65,000 acres in 168 municipalities.

Fitzko believes that town forests are a boon to the quality of life in Vermont: "The public values of these town forests are diverse, from watershed protection, wildlife habitat and forest products to outdoor classrooms and neighborhood gathering places."

The Long Trail is also a place for communities to come together and for individuals to find solace in nature. In fact, the Long Trail System and town forests meet at the Rutland City Forest, the Johnson Town Forest, and along the trail leading to the newly constructed Winooski River Footbridge in the Sara M. Holbrook Town Forest in Bolton. Hiking trails in some other town forests are described in the GMC publications *Day Hiker's Guide to Vermont* and *Walker's Guide to Vermont*.

Vermonters use town forests to play, exercise and find peace in nature. They have evolved and grown from their original design in large part because of a community desire to use and protect these places for generations of residents to enjoy. Another century of town forests depends on continued community engagement to help their legacy endure.

Jenny Montagne is GMC's Membership and Volunteer Coordinator.

Forest Legacy Program Twenty-Five Years of Land Conservation

The federal Forest Legacy Program, which supports state efforts to protect environmentally sensitive forest lands, is celebrating twenty-five years of conserving almost 2.5 million acres in fifty-three states and territories.

We can thank Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy, a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee who was instrumental in writing the 1990 Farm Bill.

Cow Mountain Pond, a 1,660-acre parcel in the Northeast Kingdom, was the first property in the nation conserved under the program. While not the biggest or most famous conserved tract, it was under threat of development, and possessed high ecological, recreation and economic values—all elements characterizing Forest Legacy conserved properties.

The Forest Legacy Program has conserved more than 66,000 acres in Vermont alone. Several properties, including ones in Jay, Eden, and Bolton, have helped preserve the backcountry hiking experience of the Long Trail.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

Since 2004 the Forest Legacy Program has been funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund. But on September 30, 2015, after fifty years, Congress failed to reauthorize the program, and it expired. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is funded not by taxpayers but through revenue from offshore oil and gas royalties. The Green Mountain Club supports the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Forest Legacy Program, and strongly encourages Congress to continue funding these important conservation programs.

—MIKE DeBONIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





Caretakers: Beautiful weekend weather this fall resulted in an all-time high of 87,000 visitors to Mount Mansfield, Camel's Hump, and Mount Abraham. We've chosen a good time to better monitor alpine area conditions!

The Long Trail Patrol, guided by Crew Supervisor Matt Shea, reconstructed parts of the Sterling Pond Trail, the Monroe Trail, Waterbury's Hunger Mountain Trail, and the Bucklin Trail thanks to the Vermont Recreational Trails Fund. They also cut part of the Long Trail relocation along the Winooski River just south of the new suspension bridge in Bolton. Appalachian Trail Conservancy support allowed us to spend a week reclaiming the boundary of the corridor protecting the Vermont Appalachian Trail near Thundering Falls Boardwalk in Killington, and clear the Upper Lewis field above the Gulf Stream bridge in Woodstock.

The Volunteer Long Trail Patrol completed tread hardening on the Long Trail on the Peru Peak-Styles Peak ridge, and started rebuilding the old trail from East Dorset up Mad Tom Brook to Mad Tom Notch with US Forest Service funding.

The Construction Crew, led by Kurt Melin, replaced the roofs on Story Spring Shelter (with the help of the Connecticut Section) and Sucker Brook Shelter. They also started repairing Boyce Shelter (closed for safety reasons), installed railings and leveled the tilting deck of the Pomfret Stage Road Appalachian Trail bridge, built a new drying rack for composting

at Stratton Pond Shelter, and built kiosks at the U.S. Route 2 parking lot near the Winooski River Footbridge.

Shelter Construction: The staff is applying for permits for future shelter projects. We have a site chosen for rebuilding Tucker-Johnson Shelter, which was lost to arson in 2011. We are planning repairs to Butler Lodge and Taft Lodge on Mount Mansfield next year.

We plan to renovate Bryant Camp and Bolton Lodge in Bolton Valley after we conclude the permit process next summer. These cabins will become part of the Long Trail System, via side trails which are under consideration. Let us know if you'd like to help with either of these cabin projects.

Trail Management: GMC has participated in resolving several public lands and trail corridor management issues over the past year.

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources has initiated a rulemaking process for designating all-terrain vehicle connector trails on Vermont state lands linking ATV trail networks on adjoining private land. The agency is addressing a proposal for an ATV connector trail across part of the Les Newell Wildlife Management Area near the Appalachian Trail in Stockbridge.

Designation of motorized trails on public lands clearly requires a very open and deliberate process to hear and accommodate the concerns of all interested parties. GMC will monitor the impacts

to the Appalachian Trail if the new ATV connector trail is approved. We have visited the site, and believe the proposed ATV connector trail will not affect the Appalachian Trail hiking experience.

Backcountry skiing initiatives on Green Mountain National Forest have also been an issue. Designated backcountry glading areas have been proposed for three sites south of Brandon Gap. The proposed glades would depart the Long Trail between Sunrise Shelter and the Chittenden Brook Trail junction. This stretch of the Long Trail is already used for cross country skiing between Brandon Gap and the Mountain Top Inn and Resort ski center in Chittenden. We will conduct winter and summer site visits to see whether backcountry skiing and glading create problems for the Long Trail.

Decisions regarding use of public lands require thoughtful and responsible planning. The club has expressed conditional support for the proposed ATV and backcountry skiing projects, based on continued monitoring of impacts to trail resources and the hiking experience. Public land is managed to provide multiple benefits, including clean water, timber, wildlife habitat, and recreation, but it is important to maintain adequate separation of uses whenever possible.

—DAVE HARDY,
DIRECTOR OF TRAIL PROGRAMS





Staff Update

We are excited to have **Meredith Naughton** join us as GMC's new database manager. Her inquisitive nature and dedication to data management has made her a welcome addition to our staff. Meredith immediately began helping with membership and development phone-a-thons and streamlining some of our data processes. She came with a strong background in data analysis, and most recently was database manager and program coordinator for the Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center in Brattleboro.

Her enthusiasm for the outdoors is contagious! If you have questions or would like to welcome her, she can be reached by phone at (802) 241-8325 or by e-mail at mnaughton@greenmountainclub.org.

We are pleased to announce that **Matt Krebs** is now operations coordinator, working closely with the business manager and executive director to improve and manage the club's internal operations and headquarters facility. He has worked for the Green Mountain Club since 2009 as an information specialist, stewardship assistant, publications coordinator, and interim business manager. His attention to detail and organizational skills are great assets, and he has already significantly improved fleet management and vendor contracting. He will also continue to manage the club's publications.

GMC had an exceptional 2015 field season in large part due to our field staff under the attentive leadership of Field Supervisor **Kevin Hudnell**. We extend our appreciation to Kevin, Field Assistant **Emily Benning**, Long Trail Patrol Supervisor **Matt Shea**, Long Trail Patrol Leader **Max Crystal**, Volunteer Long Trail Patrol Coordinator **James Robertson**, Volunteer Long Trail Patrol Leader **Meghan Paugh** (Meg also served as fall Long Trail Patrol Leader), Mount Mansfield Lead Caretaker **Ilana Copel**, Camel's Hump Lead Caretaker **Camille Robertson**, and Construction Crew Foreman **Kurt Melin**.

And finally, congratulations to three GMC staff members who completed Long Trail thru-hikes in 2015! Database

Manager **Meredith Naughton** finished in August, a week prior to joining the staff. Research Coordinator **Elisabeth Fenn** traveled southbound with her dog Sybil and finished in September. And, *Long Trail News* Editor **Jocelyn Hebert** completed her third thru-hike, also finishing in September.

The club would also like to recognize **Karalyn Mark**, whose passion for Vermont's history was reflected in her recent volunteer work cataloging the club's historical materials and processing new donations. Karalyn has a bachelor's degree in photography from Ithaca College, and is well-versed in photographic preservation and archival methods. She moved to Warren this summer to work as an archives intern at GMC, and has since become immersed in its history.

Karalyn says she feels privileged to be working with the archives, which includes cataloging a set of glass slides by Herbert Wheaton Congdon (in whose honor Congdon Shelter was named). She feels connected to the Long Trail through her work, and looks forward to experiencing the mountains and sites captured in old prints and documented in trail logs in the club's collections. A native of suburban Philadelphia, she is drawn to the natural beauty, tranquility and contemplative hikes that Vermont's woods provide. Her photographic work can be viewed at karalynmark.com.



Karalyn Mark



Meredith Naughton and Alicia DiCocco at WDEV

Tune in to GMC!

Tune into WDEV Saturday mornings at 7:30 for the Green Mountain Club Report. Listen as we talk about our favorite topic: hiking in Vermont! We share hiking stories and tales from the Long Trail, interview specialists on nature topics, and address hiking safety, recommendations for gear and trails, and how to have fun in the woods. Visit the WDEV website (www.wdevradio.com) for local listing areas.

Planned Giving

Planned gifts enable donors to make contributions in ways that accomplish their financial goals while ensuring the long-term financial strength of the Green Mountain Club. The generosity of donors enables the Green Mountain Club to protect and maintain the Long Trail for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

Types of Planned Gifts:

- Charitable Bequests
- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Charitable Remainder Trusts
- Gift of Life Insurance
- Retirement Plan

To learn more, please contact Director of Development Alicia DiCocco at (802) 241-8322.



Volunteers Honored at Annual Appreciation Picnic

Staff, board members and volunteers from all over New England celebrated another successful year of hiking trail stewardship in Vermont at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic on September 26 at club headquarters in Waterbury Center.

Volunteers present included trail maintainers, section presidents, outreach ambassadors and landscape photographers, to name a few. Each played an important role in keeping Vermont's trails available to the public, and supporting the work of the GMC.

Cider House Pub & Barbecue of Waterbury catered lunch, and Rock Art Brewery and Director of Trail Programs Dave Hardy generously donated beverages. Local band, Two Cents in the Till, played old time bluegrass through the afternoon, and the celebration concluded with ice cream donated by Ben & Jerry's.

Sincere thanks go to our wonderful community of volunteers!



Phil Hazen

Volunteer of the Year: Phil Hazen

Phil has served in almost every volunteer capacity since joining the GMC more than twenty years ago, including an eight-year run as Burlington Section president. Today, Phil serves on the Development and Membership Committees, and is an enthusiastic trip leader for Burlington Section outings. Phil has a special ability to draw in other volunteers and new members with his entertaining stories and inclusive and friendly spirit.



GMC Trail Angels

Group of the Year: GMC Trail Angels

GMC Trail Angels are volunteers who shuttle people from point to point so they can hike the Long Trail and Vermont Appalachian Trail. They often provide this service free, or suggest that their passengers become GMC members or make a donation to the club. Their assistance—another form of trail magic—is invaluable to hikers, especially those from out of state or abroad.

Thank you to GMC Trail Angels:

Don Groll, Dick Andrews, Doug McKain, Pat Spielman, Joan Gilbert, Dot MacDonald, Linda Reynolds, Louanne Nielsen, Kathleen Byrne, Andy and Carlene Squires, Leigh Hunt and Jonathan Wahl, Jen Kenney, Bill and Julie Frascino, Jim Stead, Noah Kanter, Tim Heath-Swanson and Rick Swanson, Stephanie Frederick, Dave and Louise Ransom, John Selmer, Jeff and Nancy Comstock and Steve Merrill. (If you would like to be added to our trail angel list, please contact Jenny at jmontagne@greenmountainclub.org.)

Special Recognition Awards: Dick Andrews and Bill Lyons

Executive Director Mike DeBonis presented Dick and Bill with special recognition awards for their continued support of and dedication to GMC. Both Dick and Bill have volunteered over the years in many different capacities, including serving on the club's Executive Committee, which they left in 2015.

Special Tribute: Sandy Stare

(See page 5, Sandy Stare: Builder of the Original Lost Pond Shelter)

Special Tribute: GMC hero Doris Washburn

was honored with a special tribute. Though she couldn't attend, friends and fellow volunteers wished her well, and offered written thanks for her years of service on a large poster

board card. The tribute commemorated Doris's decades of volunteer service to the club and her willingness to be one of the club's greatest ambassadors on and off the trail. Her passion inspires volunteers, members and staff. Doris recently took a step back from volunteering, but we know we will be seeing her around the club and at section events in the future. Thank you, Doris!

Green Mountain Award:

Given to volunteers who have done exemplary work on a specific program or who, over the years, have been tireless in their commitment and devotion to the Green Mountain Club.

- Amanda Brink
- Inge Brown
- Gary Sawyer
- Harry Temple
- Heinz Trebitz
- Inge Trebitz
- Howard Van Benthuyzen

Trail Blazer Award:

Given to relatively new GMC volunteers who have gone well beyond the norm on the trail, off the trail, or anywhere else that benefits the Long Trail and Green Mountain Club.

- Chris Diegel
- Lee Eastman
- Adam Heckle

Trail Magic Day

On August 8 the Green Mountain Club celebrated the first Trail Magic Day in the Green Mountains! Volunteers from GMC sections set up at Long Trail and Vermont Appalachian Trail road crossings and greeted hikers, provided trail magic in the form of tasty treats and hiking information, and discussed the work of the club. GMC members and staff enjoyed the chance to connect with hikers and trail supporters in our shared love for the mountains of Vermont. We look forward to more wizardry next year!

My fourteen year old son and I were on a six day backpacking adventure in southern Vermont at this time. We were toward the end of our day on one of those 80-degree days, and I remarked that we would soon cross a major road, and wouldn't it be great if there were an ice cream stand on the road... you know how food fantasies take over when you're backpacking... It was magical to encounter GMC vols across the road with chairs, lemonade, cookies and candy bars—my son thought that he had died and gone to heaven. I proudly reported to them that we are long-time members and regular users of many trails and shelters. Thanks for all you do! —KATE BELLUCHE, BURLINGTON

SAVE THE DATE FOR GMC's Winter Trails Day!

GMC and long-time club supporter and business member CC Outdoor Store will combine their hiking expertise at this year's Winter Trails Day celebration.

Bring friends and family to CC Outdoor Store on Saturday, February 6 for an invigorating day of guided hikes and walks through the forest. We'll have hikes for every experience level, provide hiking information, and demo the latest in winter traction options. Of course there will be trail snacks for the hikers and hot chocolate for all!

Winter Trails Day is being held in conjunction with the Waterbury Winter Festival, a ten-day series of events including running and ski races, broom-ball, ice skating, art, food, snowshoeing, hiking and much more, in and around downtown Waterbury. It begins Friday, January 29, and runs through Saturday, February 7. For the latest schedule of Waterbury Winter Festival events visit www.waterburywinterfest.com.

For more information please contact GMC Membership and Volunteer Coordinator Jenny Montagne at jmontagne@greenmountainclub.org.

2015 Winter Trails Day hike to
Wind Gap on Camel's Hump



Get Involved! Volunteer Opportunities

Winter Trails Day Hike Leaders

Hike leaders are needed for our annual Winter Trails Day in early February. Experience leading hikes and familiarity with local trails is required.

Thursday Office Volunteers

Come join our wonderful Thursday volunteer team! Thursday volunteers assist with membership mailings, preparing marketing materials, envelope stuffing, and supporting GMC staff projects. Volunteering in the office is a great way to connect with hiking enthusiasts and support the club in an indoor capacity. Come be a part of this fun and hard-working crew!

Trail and Shelter Adopters

As a trail or shelter adopter you can care for the trail and keep it in good condition for others to enjoy. Adopters trim brush, clear drainage channels, maintain blazes, make minor repairs, and report problems. GMC provides tools, signage, and training. Several trails and shelters currently need adopters.

Volunteer Corridor Monitors

As a corridor monitor, you help ensure that conservation requirements are met and help steward Vermont's lands. Monitors walk the boundaries of GMC-conserved land at least once a year, and report back to the club. Practice your navigation and mapping skills, gain conservation experience, and provide an essential service to GMC's conservation mission.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities and programs, please contact Jenny Montagne, membership & volunteer coordinator at jmontagne@greenmountainclub.org or (802) 241-8324.



Section Directory

Bennington

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

Brattleboro

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

Bread Loaf

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

Burlington

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

Connecticut

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

Killington

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

Laraway

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

Manchester

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

Montpelier

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

Northeast Kingdom

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

Northern Frontier

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

Ottawaquechee

Location: Upper Valley, and New Hampshire
 Maintenance: Appalachian Trail from Maine Jctn. to
 the New Hampshire line
 President: Dick Andrews, (802)-885-3201
 E-mail: techcomm@vermontel.net
 Website: http://gmc-o-section.org

Sterling

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

Worcester

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

Bread Loaf Section

The GMC Bread Loaf Section gives tremendous thanks and appreciation to Barbara and Al Stiles of Middlebury.

Since moving to Middlebury in 1976, Barbara and Al have been consummate volunteers—active members of GMC almost forty years as well as volunteering for several other outdoor organizations.

Trail users in the Moosalamoo National Recreation Area and other parts of the Green Mountain National Forest have benefited from their many hours work on the Long Trail, side trails (notably Skylight Pond and Lake Pleiad Trails) and the Wilkinson Trails. Al has been building trails for the Middlebury Area Land Trust's Trail around Middlebury (TAM) since it was founded in 1996. He is especially known for his work with wood: a zigzag footbridge on the TAM, his own small kayak, many wooden puzzles and even his unique wooden hat! Al has also volunteered at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum for almost thirty years.

Married sixty years in September (Barbara recently turned ninety) they remain active and take brisk daily walks.

We wish them all the best as they move from Addison County to Santa Cruz

County in California. Barbara and Al, GMC's stewardship of the Long Trail has been strengthened by your service!

—RUTH PENFIELD,
 BREAD LOAF SECTION PRESIDENT

Connecticut Section

From September 18 to 20, eleven volunteers from the Connecticut Section and four members of the GMC Construction Crew put in 277 work hours replacing the roof of Story Spring Shelter.

The work party hauled equipment, tools and supplies in and then back out on packboards. Frank Maine performed trail magic by bringing in and cooking sixty hot dogs for us and all hikers who passed through.

Members of the work party were Kevin Breton, Bill Brodnitzki, Kevin Burke, Peter Finch, Dick Hart (section vice president), Dennis Himes, Frank Maine, Jim Moore, Jim Robertson (section president), and Adam and Mike Shaw from Connecticut; and Dave Hardy (GMC Director of Trail Programs), Kurt Melin (GMC construction crew foreman), and crew members Justin Towers and Dillon Hancock.

—DICK HART, CONNECTICUT
 SECTION VICE PRESIDENT



Barbara and Al Stiles of Middlebury



Connecticut Section



Manchester Section



Northeast Kingdom Section



Northeast Kingdom Section
Cathi Brooks



Montpelier Section

Connecticut Section

Replacing the roof on Story Spring Shelter

Manchester Section

Replacing puncheon on the Long Trail north of Bromley Brook crossing. L: Rick Ladue, Katie Adams Brooks and Katie's dog. R: Dave Ratti and Jayne Dellaratta.

Northeast Kingdom Section

The Wheeler Pond Camps annual wood stacking extravaganza. Wood crew volunteers, stacked almost four cords in two and a half hours. Front L-R: Lenny Targonski and William Gratton. Rear L-R: Nina Church, Judy Anastasia, Cathi Brooks, Michael Chernick, Angela Marquis and daughter Brooke, Andrew Bouchard, Luke O'Brien and Lisa.

Montpelier Section

Members of the Montpelier Section, joined by four UVM students, on their fall work hike in Smugglers' Notch.

For more than one hundred 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-four years of the Taylor Series—a great way to spend an evening!

Admission is \$5 for members and \$8 for nonmembers; kids under 12 are free. Tickets are available at the door only. Proceeds support local sections and the GMC Education Program.

1,000 Miles across Alaska

KRISTIN GATES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 7 P.M.
GMC VISITOR CENTER
WATERBURY CENTER

At twenty-six Kristin Gates became the first woman to trek solo across the trailless Alaska's Arctic Brooks Range. She mapped a route herself, and bushwhacked the 1,000-mile distance from the Canadian border to the Chukchi Sea. During the expedition she endured grizzly bear and wolf pack encounters, perilous river crossings and Alaska's infa-

mous mosquitoes. She also was lucky enough to see part of the Porcupine caribou herd migration and the last great wilderness in our country. Come listen as she shares stories and photographs from her adventure. You can also check out her blog at www.milesforbreakfast.com.

Climate Run: Iceland

PAVEL CENKL

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 7 P.M.
GMC VISITOR CENTER
WATERBURY CENTER

Join us for an evening of stunning images and stories from Climate Run: Iceland—a solo

run across Iceland from the Atlantic to the Arctic Ocean covering 240 kilometers and more than 6,000 meters of elevation gain. Learn about Iceland's unique landscape, its connection to climate disruption, and the lessons endurance sports can teach us about ourselves and our world. Climate Run brings together athletes from a range of sports to build resilient communities in the face of global climate disruption. Pavel hopes to inspire audiences, transform thinking, and build a more resilient approach to local ecology and the global climate.

They Call It Walking: Exploring the Trails of the United Kingdom

REIDUN AND ANDREW NUQUIST

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 7 P.M.
GMC VISITOR CENTER
WATERBURY CENTER

Join Montpelier Section members Reidun and Andrew Nuquist to explore legendary long-distance hiking

trails of the United Kingdom. The paths wind through the best landscapes of the realm: across sweeping downs, along rugged coastlines and over craggy mountains. Instead of following white blazes, you track signposts with acorns or thistles. Endlessly fascinating for history buffs, they skirt Roman forts, village churches and castle ruins. Best of all, says Andrew, each day starts with a big meal cooked by a friendly bed and breakfast host. The slideshow will feature England's Hadrian's Wall Path and the Cotswold Way, and Scotland's Speyside Way and Arran Coastal Way.

Three Poems and a Parkway

BRUCE POST

FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 7 P.M.
RICHMOND FREE LIBRARY
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BURLINGTON SECTION

The 1936 rejection of the Green Mountain Parkway is embedded in the Green Mountain Club's creation myth. History

1,000 Miles Across Alaska



The "Other"
Mount Meru



and Archives Committee member Bruce S. Post uses poetry, photos, maps and movies to plumb the Parkway story and to ponder the consequences of its defeat. With the spirit of GMC founder James P. Taylor as a hiking companion, Post will take us on a virtual trek along the proposed Parkway route, examining then and now photos, showing alternate trail locations, and uncovering the club's little known role in the fate of what could have been one of America's most visited national parks.

The "Other" Mount Meru and Mount Kilimanjaro: High Hopes in Tanzania

CECILIA ELWERT

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 7 P.M.
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Join Cecilia as she takes you through her nineteen-day trek to Mount Meru, the fifth highest mountain in Tanzania, and the warm up trek, 19,340-foot Mount Kilimanjaro. While her focus will be on the two major peaks, she will take side

Out on a Limb



trips to Ngorongoro Crater and Tarangire National Parks, and highlight time among the locals: planting trees on property soon to host housing for retired porters, meeting a rifle ranger in Arusha National Park, singing with school children, and hiking with their outstanding guide, Yusuf.

Cecilia is a GMC hike trip leader and a former Bread Loaf Section board member, and maintains nearly four miles of trail on the Long Trail System. Long ago she worked as a GMC hut caretaker and ranger naturalist (now summit caretaker).

Out on a Limb: What Black Bears Have Taught Me about Intelligence and Intuition

BENJAMIN KILHAM

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 7 P.M.
GMC VISITOR CENTER
WATERBURY CENTER

Black bears, often thought to be solitary, have their own types

of social behavior that may parallel early human behavior. They show evidence of reciprocal altruism, food sharing, and early group formation of unrelated individuals. Bears can live for as many as forty years, which allows them long term benefits from forming relationships with fellow cooperators.

Ben Kilham is a wildlife biologist from Lyme, New Hampshire. His love of and devotion to black bears has enabled him to study their habits and interact with them for more than twenty years. He and his wife Debra have accepted orphaned bear cubs into their home, and enabled them to return to the wild. Ben has been the focus of news articles and documentaries including *National Geographic's A Man Among Bears* and *Animal Planet's Papa Bear*. He is also co-author of the book *Among the Bears: Raising Orphaned Cubs in the Wild*.

The Taylor Series is sponsored by GMC's fourteen sections, local businesses and other friends of the club. To learn how you can support this important community outreach effort, please contact Membership & Volunteer Coordinator Jenny Montagne at jmontagne@greenmountainclub.org or (802) 241-8324.

**This is a partial list of business contributors to the GMC Annual Fund. A complete listing and information on how businesses can support the GMC can be found at www.greenmountainclub.org.*

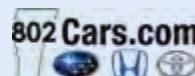
Major Supporters of our Taylor Series *

\$1,000+ Business Contributors

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

\$500 – \$999 Business Contributors

- Alchemist Brewery
- ArborTrek Canopy Adventures
- CC OutdoorStore.com
- Jay Peak Vermont
- Rock Art Brewery
- Thread Rolling, Inc.
- Woodchuck Hard Cider





In his first report as president at the September 26 board meeting, John Page said the club is in good overall health thanks to the committed efforts of both staff and volunteers. John listed the following goals for his presidency:

- Strengthen the club's financial health.
- Take advantage of opportunities to protect the last five miles of unprotected Long Trail;
- Build a strong and vibrant camps program.
- Maintain a strong program of trail and shelter construction.
- Complete the one-hundredth anniversary edition of the *Long Trail Guide*.
- Maintain, repair and reconstruct treadway to high standards across the Long Trail System.
- Review the club's governance structure to provide for a self-sustaining future.

Treasurer Stephen Klein reported that fiscal year 2016 income and expenditures are on track with the budget. Steve pointed out that this year's budget is one of transition, because the Winooski Valley Long Trail Relocation project is completed, so special contributions and withdrawals from reserve funds associated with the project will no longer be supporting club operations. The fiscal year 2015 audit was completed on schedule with no adverse findings. Bret Hodgdon, a principal of the accounting firm of Davis & Hodgdon, presented highlights of the audit.

Executive Director Mike DeBonis provided thoughts on how the club fared in meeting the six goals outlined in the 2010-2015 Strategic Plan. Overall, the club made great progress, but budget cuts and shifting funding streams affected internal capacity and program continuity. Mike announced that the club

would begin the process of updating its strategic plan.

Director of Development Alicia DiCocco reviewed the club's development of a new web presence to replace our outdated ten-year-old website.

The board:

- Voted to approve chair and member assignments for eighteen GMC committees for fiscal year 2016.
- Voted to increase the club's short term operating line of credit from \$200,000 to \$250,000.
- Voted to approve initiating a review of the club's internal governance.
- Authorized the staff to support the 2015 Les Newell ATV connector trail and rules as proposed by the State of Vermont.

—LEE ALLEN, SECRETARY

Give the gift of the Green Mountains this holiday season!



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Journey to GMC

People often ask how I became involved with the Green Mountain Club. I always pause momentarily because my connection to the Vermont Mountains started when I was very young—before I could truly understand it—but I became connected with GMC much later in life.

A faded color photograph of my family on the summit of Camel's Hump taken in 1974 captures what must have been my first hike. My father points into the distance, most likely at our house in the rolling green landscape for my brother Kyle. My other brother and I face the camera for my mother, the family photographer. We were six, seven and eight years old; I was the youngest.

I am sure our family hiked together more, but my next memory is of a hike up Camel's Hump with the GMC's Montpelier Section. Details are fuzzy, but I recall a newspaper ad for the hike, meeting at Montpelier High School to carpool to the trailhead, wearing blue cotton soccer shorts and burgundy striped tube socks, and being about fourteen. I didn't fully understand who I was hiking with, or what the Green Mountain Club did.

A westward adventure in my twenties with Kyle, who was on his way to grad school in Alaska, exposed me to big mountains. We backpacked in Grand Teton National Park for a few days and learned a lot—especially that we had a lot to learn about backpacking. I wanted to learn more, but I really didn't until I joined a group of central Vermont hiking enthusiasts in my thirties. Their mission was to explore a different peak on the Long Trail weekly between early June and late September.

With each excursion my appreciation of GMC's work increased. A friend loves to exclaim, "Mother Nature provides!" every time he approaches a stone staircase on the trail—a fantastic, if indirect, compliment to the Long Trail Patrol. And well-deserved. I have often stopped to



Camel's Hump, 1974

I was slow to realize that there would be no Long Trail to hike without the Green Mountain Club.

imagine the time, energy and skill that must have gone into building features like stone staircases—to make them functional, yet blend into the landscape. Mother Nature would be pleased.

My interest in day hiking expanded to thru-hiking when another friend told me he had recently finished a Long Trail section hike. I became so intrigued by the idea of walking the length of Vermont that in 2006 I told my family I was going to thru-hike the Long Trail!

That Christmas, as is tradition, our family gathered by the fireplace in our formal living room to open gifts. I was handed a package signed, "Love, Kyle, Suzanne, Zach and Niko." It was a membership packet from the Green Mountain Club, a shiny new waterproof *Long Trail Map* and the *Long Trail Guide*.

After more than thirty years of hiking Vermont's trails, I was a Green Mountain Club member!

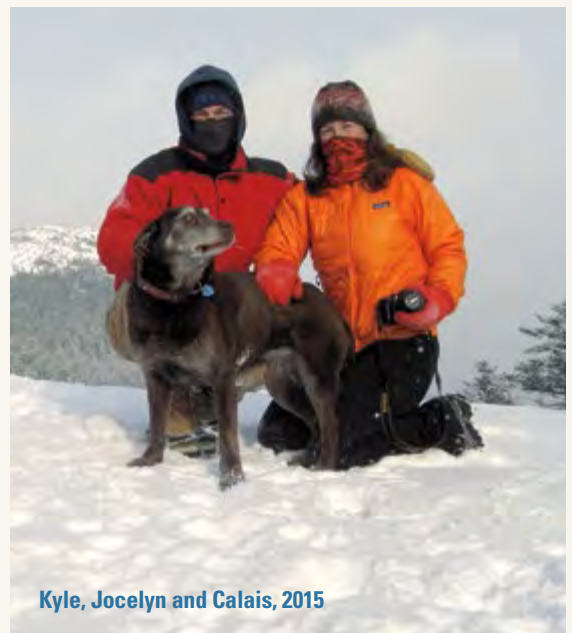
I flipped through my new guidebook and pored over

the map that afternoon. And in 2007 I *did* complete a thru-hike. In 2010 I walked the trail again to raise awareness of Parkinson's disease and in memory of my late father, who had struggled with it for more than a decade. When I finished that hike I stopped at the GMC Visitor Center, and dropped off a thick journal detailing my adventure. The post and beam building was beautiful, spacious and had a fragrance of wood, reminiscent of the trail.

That spring I found myself working at the visitor center, helping people plan hiking adventures. Five years later I still work in that beautiful spacious building, new wonderful friends from the GMC hiking community stream regularly into my life, and I better understand how the Green Mountain Range has kept its natural beauty.

I sometimes ask myself why it didn't occur to me to become a member sooner. And I thank Kyle, who had the foresight to give me the gift of GMC membership that Christmas morning. It changed my perspective, and my life.

—JOCELYN HEBERT,
Long Trail News EDITOR



Kyle, Jocelyn and Calais, 2015



Green Mountain Club

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

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

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

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

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



Daan Zwick

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

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

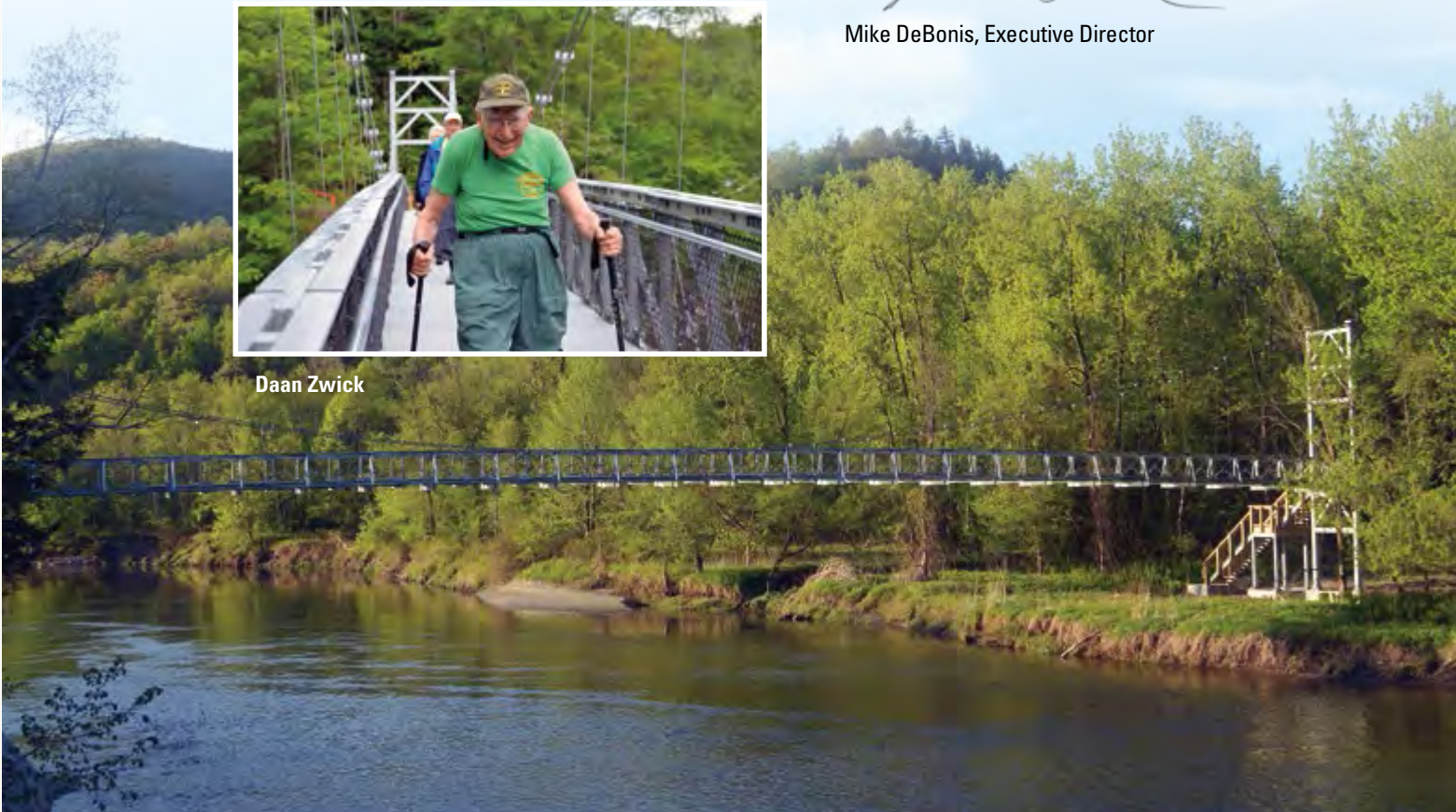
Next year hikers will enjoy hiking on two miles of new trail winding through the Winooski River Valley south of the Winooski River Footbridge. We will begin renovating Bolton Lodge and Bryant Camp, update and redesign the club's website, and develop a strategic plan which will lead the club through the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

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

Sincerely,

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

Mike DeBonis, Executive Director



Because of your support this year...



We Communicated Our Mission:

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



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

—Adriane Edwards-Bacon





We Protected and Stewarded Land:

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



We Cared for the Trails and Mountains:

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

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

—Terry Paquette



Thank You...



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

—Ryan Morra, 2011 Caretaker

To Our Members

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

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

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

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

To Our Donors

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

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

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

To Our Volunteers

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

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



Fiscal Year 2015 Financial Report

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

—Stephen Klein, Treasurer

GMC Officers

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

GMC Directors

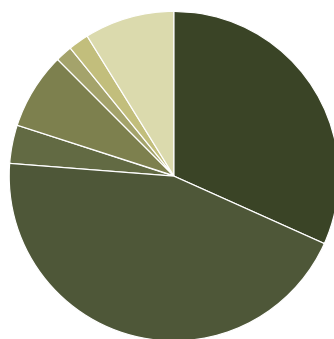
Ted Albers, *Burlington*
 Lee Allen, *General*
 Michael Chernick, *Northeast Kingdom*
 Marge Fish, *Manchester*
 Chris Hale, *Laraway*
 George Hall, *General*
 Allison Henry, *Killington*
 Paul Houchens, *General*
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 Martha Stitelman, *Bennington*
 Mike Wetherell, *Montpelier*
 Richard Windish, *Brattleboro*

GMC Staff

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

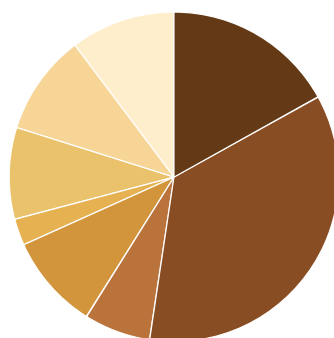
1 Started in FY 2015 2 Departed in FY2015

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



Operating Revenues & Support

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



Operating Expenses

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



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Our Wishes for You This Holiday Season:

Peace

Found in the silent winter woods, navigated using our redesigned and waterproof *Vermont's Long Trail Map*

Community

Built by sharing your commitment to the mountains and the Long Trail and giving the gift of GMC membership to a loved one

Time

To explore the Northeast Kingdom mountains with GMC's new *Northeast Kingdom Hiking Trail Map*

Warmth

Felt by wearing a new GMC logo fleece zip-up, or sipping hot tea from a GMC coffee or travel mug

Good Health

Enhanced by winter hiking when days are short and nights are long, using the *Winter Hiking Guide to Vermont*

The Spirit of Giving

Through a financial donation to your favorite hiking club, endowment of a shelter on the Long Trail, or donation of a vehicle to support the work of the Long Trail Patrol

Beginning this holiday season, GMC members receive 20% off all GMC merchandise and publications.

www.greenmountainclub.org

