

# Long Trail NEWS



Quarterly of the Green Mountain Club

FALL 2016





# Long Trail NEWS

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

## Quarterly of the Green Mountain Club

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Cover photo: GMC field staff members Chris Podesta and Daley Matthews-Pennanen at crosscut training. Photo by Northern Field Assistant Ilana Copel



PHOTO BY MOLLIE KLEPACK FLANIGAN

GMC Field Supervisor Matt Shea clearing microburst blowdown on Vermont Appalachian Trail in West Hartford.

## CONTENTS

Fall 2016, Volume 76, No. 3

### FEATURES

#### 5 / Glacial Pothole on Burnt Rock

*By Amy Potter*

#### 8 / Caretaker Life at Gorham Lodge

*By Howard VanBenthuyzen*

#### 10 / Photo Essay: Field Staff at Work

#### 12 / Getting a Read on GMC Field Staff

*By Jenny Montagne*

#### 14 / *Letters from Home:*

#### The Building of Beaver Dam Camp

*By Jocelyn Hebert*

### DEPARTMENTS

3 / From the President

4 / Mountain Views

5 / Blue Blazes

17 / Field Notes

18 / GMC Updates

20 / Trail Mix

22 / Stewardship

24 / Volunteers

26 / Sections

28 / Outdoor Programs

29 / Board Report

31 / Journey's End



Last June, GMC members gathered for the 106th annual meeting at Lyndon State College, in the heart of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. As always, when the business and board meetings adjourned, everyone went hiking.

I joined a group exploring the Perry Holbrook State Park in Sheffield, which was donated to the state in 1991 by Clair Holbrook in honor of his late son Perry. Led by past GMC President Jean Haigh, the guru of hiking in the Kingdom, we passed a chain of three pristine ponds, observed rare white lady's slippers, chatted with a few anglers, and generally enjoyed the natural ambience of a beautiful upland forest. Today the 307-acre park is being restored to include its original trails, lean-to and tent platforms, and will remain a quiet space for contemplation, as requested by Clair.

Our visit to this jewel of a place caused me to think about the Northeast Kingdom that I knew as a child and its transformation in recent decades. Residents of this picturesque and remote part of our state have long enjoyed the forests, lakes, streams and mountains in a traditional way, with public access for hunting, fishing, and snowmobiling on mostly private land.

In the past decade the region has experienced an upsurge in popularity among hikers, paddlers, and other backcountry enthusiasts, and the Green Mountain Club has played a large part. The 1998 sale of the 132,000-acre parcel formerly known as Champion Lands, now Kingdom Heritage Lands, was the seminal event for this renaissance. Local GMC

members Jean Haigh, Luke O'Brien, Michael Chernick, and Beth Dugger were asked to form a fourteenth GMC section called the Northeast Kingdom Section.

Soon after the formation of the section, GMC accepted the gift of two rustic cabins on Wheeler Pond in Barton, situated on a network of great hiking trails around Willoughby State Forest. The camps have proven extremely popular, and attract thousands of hikers to the Northeast Kingdom annually.

Under the leadership of the NEK Section and the NorthWoods Stewardship Center, GMC has also spent ten years scouting and building a seven-mile trail over Middle Mountain in Avery's Gore. In the process, the club acquired Headwaters Camp, a traditional family hunting camp on Unknown Pond that will provide users of the new trail with a unique overnight accommodation. Eventually, the Middle Mountain Trail will be extended another eight miles to Bluff Mountain and the village of Island Pond. There is even a long-term vision of extending the trail further from the Willoughby State Forest trail system, including Bald Mountain, to create a continuous hiking trail from Gore Mountain in Warren's Gore to the Wheeler Pond Camps.

When the sale of the Champion Lands was announced, the transfer of so much woodland encountered resistance from local residents who feared that ownership by the state, federal government, and unknown private entities would eliminate public access, and restrict or close their beloved woods to hunting and fishing. Unfortunately, some of this suspicion was initially directed at the Green

Mountain Club as a visible agent of change.

The club has worked hard to gain the trust of those who want to keep the woods

as they have always been. Fortunately, hiking is entirely compatible with hunting and fishing, and so far we believe we've successfully created friendships and partnerships with those we share these woods with. We expect that when Headwaters Camp opens to the public it will enjoy as much use by hunters, fishermen and snowmobilers as by hikers.

When GMC was first offered the Wheeler Pond Camps, there was some concern on the Board that the camps were not part of the Long Trail System, and therefore they fell outside our mission. Protecting and maintaining the Long Trail will always be our first and highest priority, but from its inception the Green Mountain Club's official mission statement has been "to make the mountains play a larger role in the life of the people." The Board finally concluded that building and maintaining trails and acquiring camps in the Northeast Kingdom would be in keeping with that mission, and that the club had the human and financial resources to commit to the area. Today we are permanently invested in this spectacular region, and the benefits to the club and hikers are no longer questioned.

— JOHN PAGE, PRESIDENT



Perry Holbrook State Park

PHOTO BY ED O'LEARY





## End-to-ender Names Missing from List!

I have appreciated the work of the Green Mountain Club since I moved to Vermont in 1969. The Long Trail and side trails are gems to be treasured and enjoyed year round (except mud season). I gladly support the work you do.

In early spring last year my granddaughter Adrienne Remick and Sally Duval's granddaughter Maura Duval decided to hike the Long Trail end-to-end. They were thirteen at the time, and neither had done any overnight backpacking, but they are very energetic and outdoor enthusiasts. Maura's dad, Peter Duval, agreed to join them for the entire trip. Peter's mom, Sally Duval, had done the sections from Lincoln Gap to Hazen's Notch in 2005, and this was her opportunity to finish the sections she hadn't done. A grandson of Sally's, Konoha Duval, age fourteen, came from Oregon to join them.

The five did the hike over four weeks starting in mid-June. It was so amazing to see three generations of Sally's family (ages 3 to 74) and my granddaughter (and her dad) start off from the south late in the day. They had very wet weather and long days, never complained, and had a wonderful time. I, of course, am extremely proud of each one of them. So I was disappointed when only one of the five names was on your end-to-end list. They did all receive the certificates.

—KEITH MORGAN

*Editor's note: Due to a computer glitch, GMC regrets the omission of end-to-enders' names in the summer Long Trail News! Each and every one of you well earned the certification and deserve to be celebrated. Because there were several instances where families or hiking partners were not listed together, as noted in the letter above, we are republishing the list in its entirety. We apologize for any disappointment this error caused. Please see pages six and seven for a complete list.*



Volunteer Caretaker Dave Iverson and GMC Caretaker Alice Tonry

*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.*

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## Important Role of Caretakers

I want to thank all of the members and volunteers of the GMC for maintaining such great experiences for everyone who visits Vermont's wilds. I hadn't hiked Mount Mansfield since I moved to Massachusetts in 2011, but I hiked yesterday on the 27th of June. It was every bit as beautiful as I remember (though a bit tougher of a climb than I remember!).

I had forgotten how far apart the Chin and the Forehead were before I set out from the Stevensville access. I decided to cross the ridgeline anyway after taking the Wallace Cutoff to the Long Trail, though I did not bring enough water or any sunscreen.

It is thanks to Dave the caretaker that I did not get badly sunburned or dehydrated on my trip yesterday. He gave me some of his own sunscreen and told me where to find the Runny Nose to refill my water before my descent. The hike down Maple Ridge Trail to Frost Trail would have been exceptionally harder in yesterday's full sun and high heat without his generosity. Thank you, Dave, for volunteering and showing one of the important roles of the Green Mountain Club. Needless to say, I will be preparing for future hikes much more carefully.

I wish that I could give a larger donation to recognize your spirit. I know that the GMC will use it to train more people to appreciate natural Vermont the way Dave does. Thank you all again. I wish a happy summer and safe hiking to everyone in the GMC.

—ELLIOTT CROWE

*Editor's note: Former GMC Caretaker Dave Iverson now volunteers on the Mount Mansfield ridgeline during the club's busy season. We thank Dave and all volunteers like him who readily lend a hand when needed.*

## GMC Officers

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# GLACIAL POTHOLE

## A Hidden Gem on Burnt Rock Mountain

**M**any factors shaped the mountains of Vermont over millions of years. It is hard to believe that they may have been at least twice as tall as they are now. Moving tectonic plates, weather and, most recently, glaciers helped form the mountains we see today.

Glaciers passed over Vermont about 15,000 years ago, leaving evidence throughout the state. Drift Rock on Mount Mansfield is a prime example of the way glaciers deposited big boulders in apparently random locations. Also on the west side of Mansfield is a glacier-formed crevasse on the Maple Ridge Trail.

Glacier lake deposits occur in the Winooski, Lamoille and other river valleys. Striations mark ledges in many places in the Green Mountains. Even more extreme examples are the shapes of Camel's Hump, Smugglers' Notch, and the faces of other peaks.

Then there are hidden treasures that require a little more searching to find. One is a glacial pothole on Burnt Rock Mountain located at the base of a small cliff. It's only about seventy-five feet off the Long Trail, but

no trail sign will lead you there. Only the lure of adventure and love of nature will help you find this unique geological feature.

Of course, you could start your hike to Burnt Rock Mountain from Massachusetts or Canada, but the easiest way is to follow the moderate blue-blazed Hedgehog Brook Trail past streams and ladders about two miles to the Long Trail. Then the Long Trail heads north toward the summit. The spur trail to the pothole leaves the Long Trail on the way to the summit at a tiny rock cairn that might have been knocked over and appear a random pile of rocks. If you pass a high mossy ledge to your right, you have gone too far! After you find the spur trail you only have a few steps to reach the most unusual pothole.

At an elevation of 2,820 feet, it is one of the highest known glacial potholes in New England. Most potholes are formed by waves or stream currents spinning rocks in a vortex. Because of its location at high elevation with no other evidence of a stream nearby, geologists conclude a subglacial stream formed this one. As water flowed beneath the glacier,



a stream mixed with sand and debris plunged over the cliff, continuously swirling and eroding the rock into the pothole we see today. At one point, it may have been up to fifteen feet deep, but over time the surrounding rock eroded and it is now about three feet wide and thirty inches deep. Today the pothole is filled with water that glimmers off the nearby rock.

Stunning views and interesting hiking on exposed rock make an outing to Burnt Rock Mountain complete in itself, but the glacial pothole is an uncommon feature the hike offers. This unique piece of Vermont's geological history—older than any trail, shelter, or stone wall—is direct evidence of how the mountains we love and enjoy were formed.

—AMY POTTER  
VISITOR CENTER MANAGER



PHOTO BY MARI ZAGARINS



# You Did it!



## 251 Hikers Complete 272-Mile Footpath Through Green Mountains

Congratulations to the following hikers who walked the rugged footpath over the Green Mountain Range from the Massachusetts border to the Canadian border and became Long Trail end-to-enders:

Fallon Abel, "Virgil", Thetford Center, VT  
Oliver Adams, "Nobody Knows", Dorset, VT  
Sydney Adreon, "Humming Bird", Vergennes, VT  
Ryan Adreon, "Goose", Vergennes, VT  
Sarah Alper, Amherst, MA  
Maxim Alvarez, "Pan", Milton, MA  
Gary Anderson, "Doc", Bath, NC  
Heidi Anthony, "Baby Bear", Pinellas Park, FL  
Elaine Anthony, "Night Crawler", Pinellas Park, FL  
Steve Badowski, "Foxbat", Stratford, CT  
Randal Bailey, Arlington, MA  
Joe Barnett, "Backtrack", Maplewood, NJ  
Jacob Barnett, "Beans", Maplewood, NJ  
Michelle Barrett, "Sprinkles", Concord, NH  
Rachael Bassett, "Lieutenant Rachael", West Brookfield, MA  
Mathieu Bastien, "MapMat", Montreal, QC  
Fred Beddall, "Tater Salad", Florence, MA  
Gabriel Beland, "Blackberry", Montreal, QC  
Jakob Berbrich, "Hiccup", Littleton, NH  
Anna Berg, Calais, VT  
Danny Beutler, Stamford, CT  
Hannah Birnbaum, "Lost and Found", Rochester, NY  
Thomas Bleazard, West Kirby, Merseyside, UK  
Joseph Bonasia, "Samwise", Smithtown, NY  
Justin Bondesen, "Juke Box", Bryant Pond, ME  
Kathy Borrell, Cochranville, PA  
Adrian Botran, "Bearfoot", Miami, FL  
Seven Bowen, "Legolas", Reading, VT  
Isaiah Bowen, "Bobo", Reading, VT  
Bob Bradley, "Robbo", Canton, CT  
Sue Brass, "Mama Bear", Dorval, QC  
Melissa Bridges, "Herbal Lucy", St. Johnsbury, VT  
Bob Brown, "The Instigator", Springfield, VT  
Connor Brown, "Moe Baykin", Springfield, VT  
David Bryant, III, "Piano Man", Springfield, VT  
Christian Burris, "Compass", Atlanta, GA  
Bob Cafarella, "Grandcanyonbob", Phoenix, AZ  
Ingrid Cantarella-Fox, Wayne, PA  
Diane Capogna, "Sniffles", Nassay, NY  
Laura Cappio, "Glitter", Duluth, MN

Mike Cherim, "Tramper", Intervale, NH  
Scott Chilstedt, "Metric", Burlington, VT  
Eric Chin, "Sprout", Windham, NH  
Lisa Clemmey, "Hobo", Arundel, ME  
Abby Colbert, "Twiley", Waterbury, VT  
Charles Colver, "Papa Chuck", Waukegan, IL  
Rich Connell, "Boot-Burner", Dublin, NH  
Hilary Coolidge, Proctor, VT  
Randall Costa, "Bip", Andover, NH  
Lael Costa, "Ender", Andover, NH  
Karen Costello, "K2", South Burlington, VT  
David Craig, "Crockett", Locust Valley, NY  
Rene Cusson, "Chimpunk", St. Albans, VT  
Richard Daros, "TomCat Rich Flava", Brewster, NY  
Donna Day, "Happy 60", Essex Junction, VT  
Rick DeAngelis, "Dharma Bum", Montpelier, VT  
Angela deBettencourt, "Bucket", Oak Bluffs, MA  
Eliza Densmore, "OMI", Williamstown, MA  
Daniel DeRosier, "Puck", Aldan, PA  
Shalin Desai, "Shay", Hudson, MA  
Bram Diamond, "Boot", Newton, MA  
Allison Diehlmann, "Blister in the Sun", Tunbridge, VT  
Kathy Dixon-Wallace, "Thirsty Boots", Milo, ME  
Ross Donley, "Blue Mummy", Stowe, VT  
Mary Drake, "Flute", Atlanta, ID  
Richard Duquette, "Thor & Dick", Holyoke, MA  
Heather Durkel, "Firefly", Jeffersonville, VT  
Maura Duval, "Sharpie", Underhill, VT  
Peter Duval, Underhill, VT  
Sally Duval, Essex Junction, VT  
Konoha Tomono-Duval, "Sandals", Philomath, OR  
Douglas Eaton, "Gray Jay", Sunderland, MA  
Thomas Egge, "Not Yet", Somerville, MA  
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James Ellis, Orlando, FL  
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Jamie Ide, "Truckin'", Jericho, VT  
Jory Innes, "Two Little Feet", Tunbridge, VT  
Allison Irion, "E-brake", Daytona Beach, FL  
Hannah Ivins Narowski, "High Efficiency", East Cornith, VT  
Rose Jackson, "Roasted", Greenfield, MA  
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Sue Johnston, "Vernmonster", Danville, VT  
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 Lydia Jones, "Ladyslipper", Craftsbury Common, VT  
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 Patrick Kennedy, "NoKey", Syracuse, NY  
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 Andrew Potter, "Observer", White River Junction, VT  
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 Keith Wendrychowicz, "Prospector", Mahwah, NJ  
 Justin White, "Fixer", Bolton, MA  
 Quinn Wilcox, "Scout", Kennebunk, ME  
 Susan M. Williams, Bellows Falls, VT  
 Terri Wilson, "True Grit", Lebanon, NH  
 Clare Wilson, "Detroit", Warren, VT  
 Michele Winterberg, "Monarch", Standish, ME  
 Tracie Winters, "South Pole", Sanford, FL  
 Chris Wright, Jr., "Leo", Bryn Mawr, PA  
 Irati Wyatt, "Meta", Sharon, VT  
 Max Zielinski, "Sox", Chicopee, MA  
 Elaine Zumsteg, "Cadi", Stuart, FL

*Due to a computer glitch, GMC regrets the omission of end-to-enders' names in the summer Long Trail News! Each and every one of you well earned the certification and deserve to be celebrated. Because there were several instances where families or hiking partners were not listed together, as noted in the letter above, we are republishing the list in its entirety. We apologize for any disappointment this error caused.*



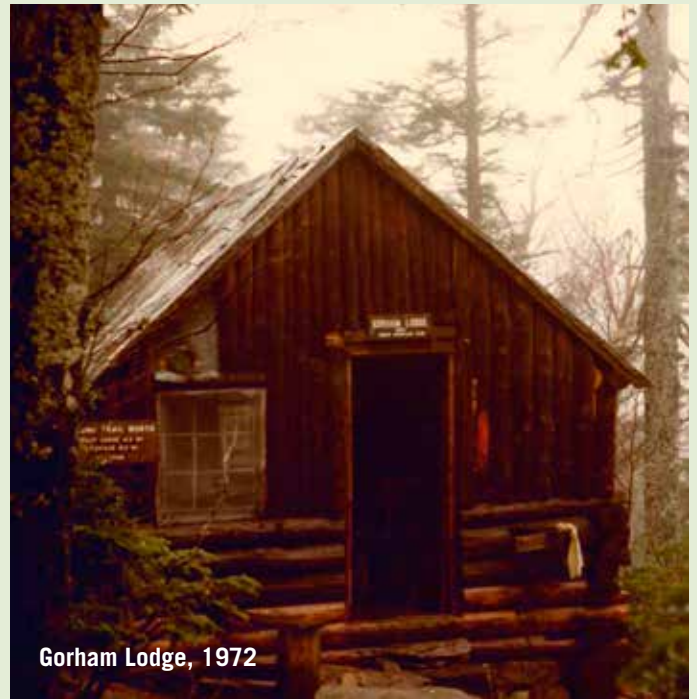


# CARETAKER LIFE

## AT GORHAM LODGE

I remember it as if it were yesterday. It was the Friday of Memorial Day weekend, 1972, and I found myself slogging up the (now closed) Calloway Trail on the northeast side of Camel's Hump with a heavily loaded Camp Trails external frame pack, heading for my first night as GMC caretaker at Gorham Lodge.

Ken Boyd, a caretaker notable in the mid-1960s and 1970s for reviving and expanding GMC's caretaker program had enticed me with the prospect of fun, adventure and the princely sum of \$175 for the summer! And, as a bonus, I got to keep the overnight fees—a whopping 50 cents for GMC members and 75 cents for nonmembers. I was excited to be spending the summer taking care of the cabin, greeting and educating hikers, and exploring the mountain. From Memorial Day to Labor Day, I welcomed more than a thousand overnight guests, learned a lot about myself (and others), made some great friends, and was in the best shape of my life. That season cemented my lifelong love of the woods and trails. Below are written memories from the journal I kept during my summer at Gorham Lodge:



Gorham Lodge, 1972

**MAY 28:** In for the first night with the assistance of Ken Boyd: packed in a Coleman stove, gas, Coleman lantern, canned goods etc. ...

**MAY 28:** A hiker from Waterbury Center paid me 9 cents and a can of beans for his overnight stay...

**MAY 30:** Bugs really swarming around the cabin. Roger [Summit Ranger-Naturalist Roger Wilder] says he catches edible trout out of Ridley brook...

**MAY 31:** Packed out about 50# of garbage from Gorham and Montclair...went down to Don Field's house below Monroe Farm, picked up my motorcycle and went home for quick day off...

**JUNE 2:** It's really very relaxing and peaceful up here. I've got no company tonight except for the rightful inhabitants of the mountains...

**JUNE 3:** Fought off marauding porcupines with the axe handle... Headed for Wiley Lodge at 10:35. Made Wiley at 12:10, covering the 4.3 miles in 1 ¾ hours [Oh to be young again!]...

**JUNE 6:** Roger gave me some of his gear to carry up from the Monroe Farm, 30# or so. Got to Gorham Lodge in the middle of a mild thunder and lightning storm in one hour 5 minutes...

**JUNE 10:** At about 4:30 it began to snow and ice, and 33 boy scouts and leader and leader's wife and daughter arrived cold, wet and hungry. Snow continued to mount outdoors...scouts came into shelter and eventually it got to 50 degrees inside!...scouts used up most of my plastic trash bags for sleeping bag covers as they mostly slept outdoors...lodge full, I slept by the door.

**JUNE 14:** Packed in 2x4s and nails, and Roger and I brought up 2 sheets of plywood, built the new loft at Gorham, put all my stuff up there...I feel this is a significant improvement as it increases the capacity of the lodge by 4-5 people and thus decreases the number forced outdoors...

**JUNE 16:** Fought off porkies...

**JUNE 17:** Guests included 5 Czechoslovakian refugees from Montreal, a Goddard College grad student, a stone cutter from the Barre quarries and one very large white dog, the dog created some friction...but the stories from the Czech's about the Russian invasion were interesting to say the least...

**JUNE 19:** Found unauthorized campsite near Monroe Farm in red pine plantation...went over to Montclair then back across the summit, got to Gorham around 6:30 where I found a bunch of guys yelling around a campfire they had built in front of the shelter on the rocks...asked them to extinguish it...

**JUNE 20:** Guy from Indiana found taking a bath in the brook pool above the drinking water outlet...

**JUNE 30:** Tupperware box containing much of my food disappeared overnight...I think stolen by Racoons...

**JULY 1:** Found the box upstream—chewed but not penetrated...no guests last night...cool and rainy (again)...going to work my way up Forestry Trail cutting blowdowns out...took out load of scrap metal collected from hut clearing, down to Monroe Farm...back home (Gorham) by 6...put out campfire behind the lodge on arrival. Let them cook their steak on my Coleman stove.



**JULY 4:** Spent the day on the summit, views were unusually clear, views to Canada...

**JULY 9:** Reblazed LT from Gorham to Wiley—used a whole quart of paint! This clears up confusing area near Honey Hollow that was recently logged. In bed by 9, awakened several times by mice running over my sleeping bag...

**JULY 11:** Gave guests a compass lesson...

**JULY 17:** Packed 35 # of rubbish out of Wiley back up to Gorham, mostly cans and bottles...

**JULY 19:** Guest had a Svea stove fire in cabin, I put it out with a wet towel after throwing the thing out the door with the shovel. From now on, Svea stoves can only be used on the wood stove or outdoors...

**JULY 21:** Packed a large bag of rubbish out down to Monroe Farm...

**JULY 22:** Reblazed Alpine Trail, put up new sign at Callahan-Forestry Junction, replaced broken toilet seat in privy...Mountain sandwort in bloom on summit...

**JULY 23:** Rigged an elaborate mousetrap using an empty Tang jar, 14' of line, peanut butter and scotch tape...sat motionless waiting for mouse to enter, when he did, pulled line, caught mouse, transported him several tenths of a mile distant from the Lodge...attempts at recreating this feat, failed...

**JULY 25:** Met Rod Barber of VT Forests and Parks in the hut clearing, talked a while, returned to Gorham to find a real boon left to me by Joel Page: a bottle of Mateus wine, 3 bags of gorp, ½ a Cadbury's chocolate bar, 5 hot dogs, bread and a hunk of cheese!!!!

**JULY 28:** Interviewed by Barre Times-Argus reporter Bob Simpson. Nice guy!

**JULY 29:** Packed out the wood stove with Roger...sorry to see it go but the Club says go it must...packed back up to Gorham lumber to repair the lower bunks...not sure whether Roger is happy about decision...

**JULY 31:** Reblazed Forestry Trail...

**AUGUST 4:** Sent out a letter via the Moccasin Telegraph...

**AUGUST 5:** Evening patrol of the Hut Clearing finds three groups intending to camp there or on the Summit...tried to dissuade them from that, only partially successful. Later Roger chased 14 people from New Jersey off the summit and they came down and stayed at Gorham, making a total of 24 people there that night!

**AUGUST 6:** Woman from New Jersey angry that the drinking water at the hut was so unsanitary. Not much I can do about that—I drink it every day...

**AUGUST 7:** I planned my next leg of the LT: from Jonesville to Canada...

**AUGUST 18:** Encountered young couple lost between Wiley and Gorham: they were using a '63 guidebook and got confused...

**AUGUST 20:** Up to the summit to see the sunrise...Then headed out to touch up the blazes on the Dean Trail...

**AUGUST 21:** Coming down from the summit and found a tired little girl, carried her pack down to the hut for her...

**AUGUST 23:** Carried in six new panes of glass for Wiley lodge...

**LABOR DAY:** Left Gorham with a heavy heart: what a great summer! But looking forward to my senior year at UVM!!!

—HOWARD VANBENTHUYSEN,

1972 GORHAM LODGE CARETAKER, 1973 & 1974 RANGER-NATURALIST,  
AND CURRENT GMC BOARD MEMBER



PHOTO BY MATT LARSON

# Field Staff



## LEFT PAGE

Top: Battell Shelter Caretaker Adam Joseph on Mt. Abraham

Middle, L: LTP member Charlie Wolock & leader Danielle Sanderson

Middle, R: Taft Lodge Caretaker Amelia Williams

Bottom: Lead Camel's Hump Caretaker Jake Chinitz

## RIGHT PAGE

Top: Field Supervisor Matt Shea leading caretakers on Mt. Mansfield

Middle, L: Long Trail Patrol Crew

Middle, R: LTP members Kevin Mullen & Jesse Vining

Bottom, Top left: Sterling Pond Caretaker Isaac Alexandre-Leach

Bottom, Lower left: VLTP member

Bottom, Right: Volunteer Long Trail Patrol crew







# Getting a Read on GMC Field Staff

Storytelling is an ancient tradition, motivated by a need to pass information on to others and make sense of our environments. Stories pass from generation to generation, spanning distance and time to create links with listeners seen or unseen. Stories draw us to understand our world better and find companionship in words.

Reading is a natural part of that experience. We instinctively scan the back of cereal boxes at breakfast, stuff novels in our packs before long trips, and leaf through the *Long Trail News* while taking breaks at trail shelters.

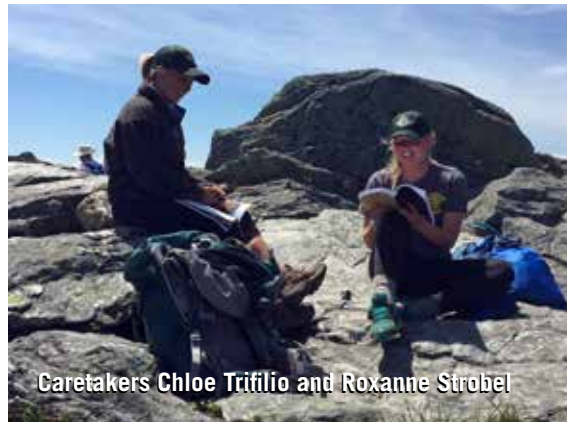
Though stories always surround us, the experience of forging a real connection to a book is rare. A good story can entertain, challenge, and stave off loneliness. Stories can catalyze action, inspiring individuals to change their lives or found movements.

More than 170 years ago, Henry David Thoreau, a writer and Transcendentalist, went to the woods of Concord, Massachusetts, and built a cabin near the shore of Walden Pond to escape the “quiet desperation” he witnessed in his community. While living in his cabin, Thoreau recorded his often poignant

Like environmental writers, GMC’s field staff members leave lasting impacts for future hikers and outdoorspeople they will probably never know.

observations of the undeveloped landscape in his journal. Eventually he spun those entries into *Walden*.

Environmental writers like Aldo Leopold, Mary Oliver, Edward Abbey, Rachel Carson, and Bill McKibben followed Thoreau’s tradition, but took a more activist approach to environmental writing. While Thoreau’s quiet observations and self-discipline were a refreshing contrast to the hustle of the early industrial era, the works of the latter were crucial in changing the way modern people lived their lives. Leopold asked his readers to see the world as their companion: “Harmony



Caretakers Chloe Trifilio and Roxanne Strobel

with land is like harmony with a friend; you cannot cherish his right hand and chop off his left.” Their work, and the work of dozens of other writers, has touched the lives of countless readers, and inspired them to carve out relationships with the natural world.

Generations of the Green Mountain Club’s field staff are among those countless readers. Like environmental writers, GMC’s field staff members leave lasting impacts for future hikers and outdoorspeople they will probably never know. Their efforts will inspire others as they walk the Long Trail. Their legacies are the beams of a shelter, a functioning water bar, or the mounting of a trail sign to keep hikers on the right path.

Summit caretakers, ridge runners, and members of the Long Trail Patrol and Volunteer Long Trail Patrol spend hundreds of hours in the woods and on the trail every season. After a day of conversation with crowds of hikers on a summit or of grueling labor building or maintaining trails, it’s important to relax—to reflect on the day or escape for a few hours. Reading facilitates reflection or provides escape for many.

Reading has long been an integral aspect of life for GMC’s field staff. In summer of 1938, Taylor Lodge Caretaker Daan Zwick reportedly read *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare*. The Back Forty, GMC’s seasonal housing on the Waterbury Center campus, boasts a well-stocked and eclectic take-and-leave library, complete with field guides, camp cookbooks, knot tying guides, and romance novels. The informal field staff book club calls on incoming field staffers to complete Guy and Laura Waterman’s *Wilderness Ethics: Preserving*

*the Spirit of Wilderness*, and to prepare comments for a discussion at the end of the season field staff party in late August. This season the book club has added John McPhee’s *Encounters with the Archdruid* to its reading list.

Field staff members meet thousands of hikers every season, and are responsible for communicating responsible trail use. The required reading encourages them to consider their role on the trail and their place in the environment. According to Caitlin Miller, a former summit caretaker

and GMC’s AmeriCorps Group Outreach Coordinator, the culminating book discussions can become intense, as each reader brings a different interpretation of the book to the discussion.

Field staffers also have a long legacy of reading books aloud together. Hugh and Jeanne Joudry, veteran caretakers on Stratton Mountain, read aloud to each other often. One of their most memorable choices was Laura and Guy Waterman’s *Forest and Crag, A History of Hiking, Trail Blazing, and Adventure in the Northeast Mountains*: “We read this large and great history of the White Mountains, the Adirondacks, [and] the Catskills aloud to each other. It probably took a good part of the first season to finish the book.”

Susan Winters, a co-leader on the Volunteer Long Trail Patrol, described the unifying affect that reading aloud can have on a group: “I love read-alouds because they’re a great way to spend time together while not staring at a screen or actively participating in a conversation. It brings everyone together, too. If everyone’s into the book, a great read-aloud can provide conversation material for days. It’s definitely a solid bonding strategy for newly formed crews.”

Thoreau wrote in his journal that “a truly good book is something as wildly natural and primitive, mysterious and marvelous, ambrosial and fertile, as a fungus or a lichen.” It’s true. Anyone who loves to read knows that making a connection to a book can transport you to another realm or time; articulate your belief system; inspire you; and offer company and inspiration when you least expect it.

—JENNY MONTAGNE



# Field Staff Recommended Reading

**ALICE TONRY**

**Mount Mansfield and  
Sterling Pond Caretaker, 2015:**

***Women's Lives*, By Susan Cahill**

"I carried around this huge, 800-page tome of *Women's Lives*, which is an anthology of women's autobiographies...there was a quote on the front that said: 'This is a book to be marooned on a desert island with.' I thought that was an appropriate thing for being marooned on a mountain top...There were so many stories of strong, independent and interesting women in the book, which gave me confidence and an appreciation for my own experience while hiking alone throughout the mountains, doing trail work and living in the backcountry away from many of the societal expectations of women."

**[Story in *Women's Lives* anthology]**

***The Italics are Mine*, by Nina Berberova**

"I took her idea of 'a profound aversion to false comfort and coziness' to heart and thought about it fondly as I found my own simple and minimalist coziness in the three shelters that I split my time between: Stone Hut, Taft Lodge, and Sterling Pond Shelter."

**ILANA COPEL**

**Northern Field Assistant:**

***Into Thin Air*, by Jon Krakauer**

"A suspenseful and emotional study of one of many disaster expeditions on Everest. I read it on Mansfield to put in perspective how margins of error are relative to the environment one's in, and because I knew reading it in the mountains would help me relate to the drive which pushes people to go into those extreme environments."

**SUSAN WINTERS**

**Volunteer Long Trail Patrol Co-leader:**

***Travels with Charley* by John Steinbeck &  
*The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, by J.R.R. Tolkien**

"*Travels with Charley* and *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, along with some other books, have had a bigger impact on my desire to be outside. They have a sense of adventure when being read. I think the feeling a book conveys can be just as powerful, if not more, than the written message."

**MARLA DAVIDSON**

**Butler Lodge Caretaker:**

***A Sand County Almanac*, by Aldo Leopold**

"I liked how holistic his approach was." Explaining that she once took a comparative course on Thoreau and Leopold, Marla described the differences in their approaches: "For *Walden*, nature was everything that man wasn't...Leopold's envisions nature including everything, even man."

***Tree: A Life Story*, by David Suzuki and Wayne Grady**

"Artfully illustrates all the genetic, evolutionary, and environmental factors that go into the birth and death of a single Douglas fir."

***The Princess Bride*, by William Goldman**

"The book is just as good (and sometimes better than) the movie."

**JAKE CHINITZ**

**Camel's Hump Lead Caretaker:**

***1Q84*, by Haruki Murakami**

"I fell in love with Murakami's writing style, and *1Q84* came highly recommended by friends. And, as a summit caretaker, I was reading around 200 pages a day, and needed something that would hold me over for at least five days."

**DYLAN HANCOCK**

**Construction Crew, 2015**

***The Maine Woods*, by Henry David Thoreau**

"I chose to read this book because I liked *Walden* and...Thoreau's descriptive writing when it comes to talking about his natural surroundings. He also recounts his experience in Maine with amazing detail as if he had recorded every single thing that he did. The basis of the book is that Thoreau goes on a long canoe trip on the Penobscot River during the 1850s. Along the way he meets fur traders, loggers, and a few Native Americans, one of which is his guide throughout most of the trip. What was most interesting about this book was how different Maine was 150 years ago. It was a true wilderness during that time, and Thoreau was one of the first to write about that area in such detail."

**ROXANE STROBEL**

**Camel's Hump Caretaker:**

***The Sellout* by Paul Beatty**

"It's a dark comedy set in modern day which raises questions of racial equality (or lack thereof) in the US. I found it to be exceptionally relevant in light of recent events. I really enjoy this book because it's open to interpretation and isn't a book that you read solely for the plot. It's controversial, unapologetic...which makes it really interesting to read in the field, and then mull over when doing trail work."

**Kurt Vonnegut**

"Kurt Vonnegut's books have had a great effect on me. A lot of his fiction falls under the category of science fiction, and his interpretations of the human implications of scientific discoveries and pursuits are really fascinating."

***Wilderness Ethics*, by Laura and Guy Waterman**

"When it comes to environmental literature I have really enjoyed reading *Wilderness Ethics*, by Laura and Guy Waterman. This is the book that we will be discussing at the end of the field season, and I'm excited to see what the rest of the field staff has to say about some of the assertions in the book, because a lot of the Waterman's assertions are new to me, and I had not considered them before in my previous trips into the wilderness. If nothing else, it helps me be a little more mindful and aware of my own actions each time I go into the field."





# Letters from Home

## The Building of Beaver Dam Camp in the Northeast Kingdom

In 1959, families gathered around television sets to watch *The Twilight Zone*, and Miles Davis' jazz album *Kind of Blue* streamed over the air. The pace of life was slower, especially in small Vermont towns like Barton, allowing families to gather often.

In that same year, Barton resident Earl Fisk accepted a vacant one-acre land parcel (valued at \$200) on Wheeler Pond from Edna Orcutt in exchange for a land survey. From 1959 until 1973, Earl and his wife Amy, and their six children and families, came together on weekends and eventually built a family camp on the shore of the pond. Later called Beaver Dam Camp, it became one of two on the pond that the Green Mountain Club has rented to thousands of visitors seeking respite from the more hectic times of today.

In the late fifties Wheeler Pond was mostly undeveloped and surrounded by a mixed hardwood forest bordering the western edge of Willoughby State Forest. Moose Mountain rose above the far shore, providing color that morphed with the season and reflected in still evening water. Visitors enjoy the same scene today.

For the fourteen years the Fisk family owned the camp, Amy typed letters (using carbon copy paper) to the kids every week or two with updates on family news; the letters were interspersed with notes about life at the pond. Amy's Wheeler Pond recollections were ultimately transcribed by her daughter Harriett into a chronical titled: *Letters from Home*.

In her letters, Amy noted that by 1960 the Fisks were enjoying pond side picnics and camping but that Earl (Dad) had his mind on something more than a tent site.

MAY 16, 1960

Dad has bought some lumber for camp—when Mrs. Sawyer's house was torn down—Can't take it to Wheeler Pond yet—no road in there—Dad is going to have a road bulldozed as soon as he can—maybe we will be making a camp this summer.

JUNE 30, 1960

Helen wanted to get another trip to Wheeler Pond so we did. Bruce and Alan had already pitched a tent there Friday. The men went fishing Saturday but caught just a few small ones. Took along hot dogs, potato chips, cookies, Kool-Aid, rolls etc. Had a nice lunch and a lot of fun. Bruce has his tent set up with two cots in it; also a stone fireplace built.

By the next summer a road to the building site was roughed in so lumber and other materials could be transported into the site more easily. It was time to think about a building plan and structure design.

MAY 31, 1961

Now, Dad says the road is way in to our acre... but needs smoothing up and needs gravel. Sawed trees and bulldozed etc. Now Dad is going to have the Stevens man haul the lumber...

JUNE 20, 1961

We went up to Wheeler Pond and Dad and Roy got another long sleeper moved over for a side beam. Have to lay down 2 by 4 beams and roll the sleeper over on some iron posts. The kids played in the water. Jon and I thought we "improved" the fire place where we cook! She carried lots of flat stoned and we built it up higher.

JUNE 20, 1961

Mannie says to have long hemlock or cedar poles or trees for a foundation, one on each side and build the house up on them. Then when the frost heaves, the foundation will settle back.

Weekend by weekend, board by board, the camp took shape. By late summer it was far enough along that picnics could be enjoyed inside as well as out. And, Earl negotiated the purchase of Edna Orcutt's remaining acre for \$75 so they could access the nearby brook and install a water pump.



AUGUST 24, 1961

Sunday, they got the floor all on. Wide boards for the bottom. Bill brought the chain saw he had repaired so they sawed and nailed on boards. Had floor all done...looked so nice! We ate on the floor.

AUGUST 24, 1961

Dad wants to buy more land for the "right-of-way."

As summer ended, thoughts shifted to winter snow loads, and the bane of all camp owners—porcupines.

SEPTEMBER 1, 1961

Had Bill help put up more 2 by 6's and then three cross-pieces to hold the sides together. Judy and I "pulled" on the sides. So it is solid and won't fall down now. Sides are all up and ready to begin the top section for the roof.

SEPTEMBER 25, 1961

The roof is high pitched...don't see how any snow could cling to it. There is a porcupine...gnawed a wooden pail...some boards...etc. Dad thinks he lives in that dirt right behind the camp...Have to trap him or he will gnaw the cabin.

It's spring again. Cue the hedgehogs. Or did Amy mean porcupines? Back then, no matter what you called them, they seemed to be a nuisance. But neither pesky critters nor poor weather on Memorial Day weekend dampened Fisk family spirits.

MAY 29, 1962

Now it is Memorial Day. Dad is over to camp...The hedgehogs are chewing the boards that have been nailed on—so he's trying to get them.

...it started thundering. Before we could get to the car it rained hard. Roy had run with Danny so he didn't get wet and I had my winter coat on...but the rest got soaked! Jon and Roy were trying to "help the old folks" and JoAnne and David thought it was fun to be out in the rain!! Laughed -----David with a pail over his head. He had a lot of fun with two frogs in a pail— and JoAnne with shiners in the trap. The kids loved the woods.

The Fisks used recycled materials, and watched for other bargains to keep expenses down, which included a wood stove for twenty-five cents.

AUGUST 9, 1962

Bought a stove at an auction. Roy and kids went with Dad and he had Ad take the stove over into the woods and left it at the top of the hill. Dad gave him \$2.00. So we got more "bargains" -- paid .25 for the stove.

Earl continued to put in long hours at camp. It's easy to imagine the rhythmic sound of his hammer as he worked, lost in thought. Or to imagine him sitting quietly by the pond, taking in the earthy smells and the beauty of yellowing leaves as the season subtly changed.

SEPTEMBER 11, 1962

Guess Dad has been nailing more boards in the gable ends. He crawls up high by himself. Usually stays over there three or four hours. But I know where he is and if he didn't get back by the time I expect him, I'd send someone after him.

The day Helen and Dick came up Dad had gone over to camp. He didn't come back when dinner was ready at 1 P.M. so Dick went over. Dad was just enjoying being over there and thought there was no hurry.

With summers came the ebb and flow of camp life—securing a board here, taking a break to cool off in the pond or have lunch there. The Fisk family seemed to fall easily into a pattern of working hard together but taking advantage of summer.

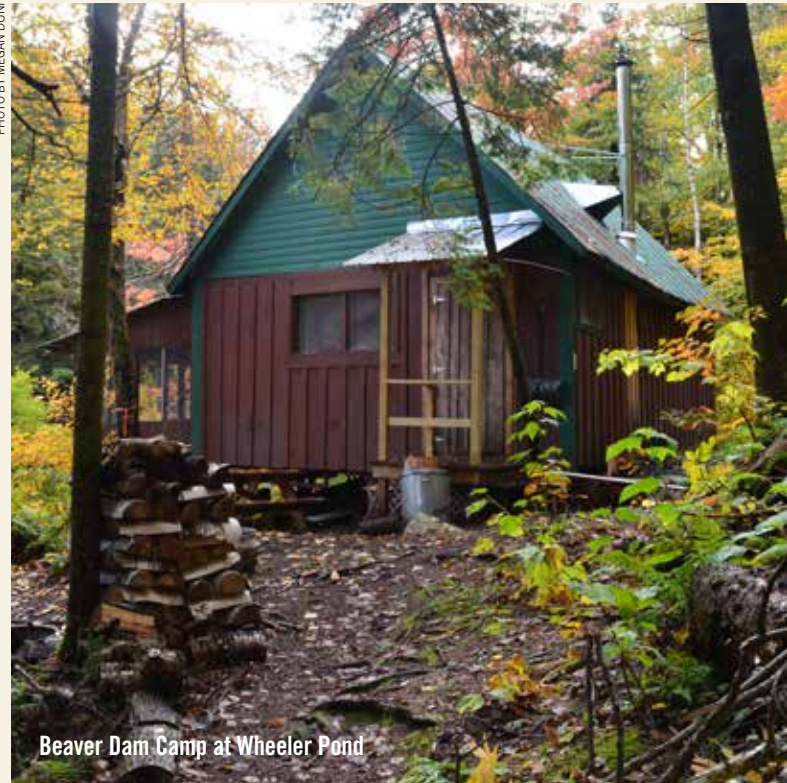
AUGUST 9, 1963

Florence and Bruce and kids and Dad and I went to camp. Kids out in Bill's boat. Dad and Bruce started to work on the "picture" window. Ripped off boards etc. Frank Babcock made the frame and took it over there. Holds three ordinary windows.

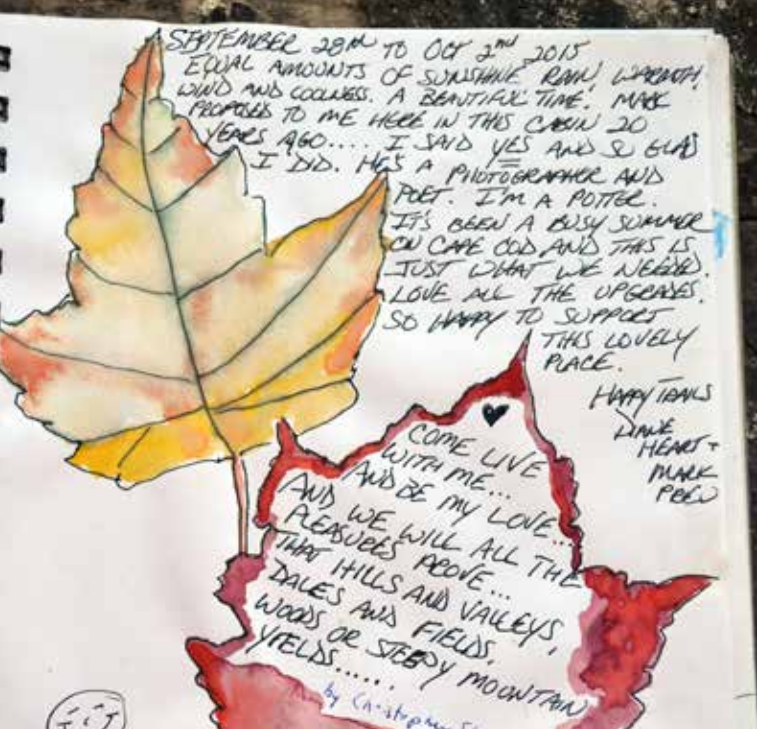
Florence cooked hamburg and we ate supper there...we made some apple pies and a meat pie ...in the afternoon Florence and kids went to camp with Dad...they got the window in place. Looks nice.

Beaver activity in the mid-sixties raised the pond, but not enough to cause alarm. Today the beaver dam is a fixture of Wheeler Pond. Recently GMC installed a beaver baffle to eliminate the threat of flooding, while leaving the beavers undisturbed.

PHOTO BY MEGAN DUNN



Beaver Dam Camp at Wheeler Pond



## Share Your Wheeler Pond Memories

[greenmountainclub.org/hiking/share-your-story/](http://greenmountainclub.org/hiking/share-your-story/)

*... morning here is magical ... the changing light plays on the mountains and pond, transforming the view moment to moment ...*

*... the cabin, the pond, the mountains, the forest have barely changed over the years ... we see the herons, the loons, beaver, moose ...*

*... our first time here ... kayaked on the pond under the full moon & hiked the red trail up Wheeler Mountain ... humbled by the vistas, the color ...*

### AUGUST 26, 1965

The beavers have dammed up the brook so that the pond water is up over that big rock and about halfway to the camp. Jon paced it, and called it 16 feet to the water from the edge of the camp. I thought the beaver dam should be destroyed, but Dad did not seem concerned about it.

Sadly, Earl's health began to fail. In January, 1966, a slight stroke had him in and out of the hospital for the rest of the year. He went to camp when he could and the family continued to appreciate their time together while there.

### SEPTEMBER 12, 1966

When we got there Roy and Bill were up on the roof painting the side towards the hill green on ladders. Dick was painting the jet under the roof on the back side.

We looked all around. Seemed good to have the gang all there.

Finally, the girls put on some old jackets there and went to painting too. Little kids played around in the woods. I walked all around camp and watched.

Have the roof all painted!! And the woodwork is white as far down as the black paper. Good job done and MANY THANKS to everyone.

After six seasons the camp was almost finished. But in fall of 1966 Earl became more seriously ill, and he passed away in summer of 1967. From then until 1973, the Fisks tried to keep up with the camp but the family was scattered through Vermont and beyond, and without Earl, their inspiration and anchor, they decided to sell it to William Mares and Christine Hadsell, who also owned the camp next door.

### NOVEMBER 27, 1973

So, Dad's camp is no longer ours. Love, Marm

Harriet, Amy's and Earl's daughter, remembers standing with her father at camp, watching her two children chase a squirrel through leaves in the woods:

*The day was a beautiful fall day with a rich blue sky and puffy white clouds. The air was fresh and clean as only a fall day in Vermont can be. The squirrel would scamper real fast, and then stop and wait, and the two laughing children would run as fast as they could after him. He would dodge and dart around logs and trees and so would they. He would stop and hide in the leaves until they came near, and then he would race away again. All you could hear was the rustle of leaves as the tiny creature made his way, and the delighted laughter of the children as they followed the noise. Dad and I laughed also, enjoying the pleasure of two children that we both loved. We agreed there was nothing more rewarding than watching children explore, learn and grow.*

More than a decade of Fisk family memories fills the walls of Beaver Dam Camp; their spirit eddies in the water and whirls in the wind. Beaver Dam is more than just an old building on a pond. People have traveled long distances to spend an overnight or more at this cherished place. Other children have scampered after squirrels. Special anniversaries have been celebrated. For leaf peepers, hikers, skiers, and hunters it has been home as they pursued adventure in the Kingdom.

Unfortunately, failing materials and wear and tear have gotten the better of the once dependable haven, and GMC closed its doors this spring. The good news is that the club plans to build a durable new cabin where families and friends can come together to relax and share their love of the land and mountains in the spirit of the Fisk family tradition.

—JOCELYN HEBERT, LONG TRAIL NEWS EDITOR

## Help GMC Rebuild Beaver Dam Camp

To learn more about the club's efforts to rebuild Beaver Dam Camp, please visit,

[greenmountainclub.org/wheelerpond](http://greenmountainclub.org/wheelerpond).



## Solid Good News

The **GMC Construction Crew**, led by Kurt Melin, and the **Volunteer Long Trail Patrol**, led by Susan Winters and Sorrel Dunn, handled two important safety related projects this spring.

In May, the construction crew replaced the badly deteriorated deck of a bridge cantilevered from the side of a cliff on the Lake Trail leading to Griffith Lake from the west.

In their first week of the season, during the first wave of Appalachian Trail thru-hikers, the volunteer patrol replaced and improved fourteen badly damaged or deteriorated bog bridge (or puncheon) spans across beaver-flooded Stamford Meadows south of Congdon Shelter. The Vermont ATV Sportsman's Association helped move lumber to the site. We plan to continue to work with them, both to safeguard the hiking experience south of Vermont Route 9 and to accommodate some well-managed ATV use near the Long Trail/Appalachian Trail corridor.

## More Good News

Plans to operate **Bryant Camp** and **Bolton Lodge** year round led to a challenging process of obtaining wastewater permits for composting outhouses. We started last fall, and have submitted applications based on our expertise with batch-bin composters on the Long Trail.

One consideration has been bear proofing stored sewage during the off season. Bears have become an increasing problem because of their attraction to compost and their growing population. Our permit applications emphasize secure storage of sewage, so fully composted human waste will be safely processed, removed from the backcountry, and delivered to certified sludge processors. This will keep watersheds safe now and for future generations.

Unware and uninformed hikers also contribute to bear problems. Our caretaker program is endeavoring to improve bear country knowledge among trail users.

## Bad News

Unfortunately, emergent projects have delayed work to rebuild **Tucker-Johnson Shelter**. We have approval from the land owners to build at a site better situated to a water source, but

key projects like re-siting the **Big Branch Shelter** **privy** away from hazard trees (a much more difficult issue in a federal wilderness) are delaying Tucker-Johnson. We hope to clear our emergency project list this summer so long-standing projects can proceed.

## Steady and Moving in the Right Direction

The construction crew has completed a two-season project, funded by the Green Mountain National Forest, renovating **Boyce Shelter** in the Breadloaf Wilderness. We plan to have permits to replace both the rotted log courses at **Taft Lodge**, and the deteriorating site kiosk at **Twin Brook Tenting Area**.

We have also built temporary tent platforms at **Taft Lodge** for our summit caretakers while the **Stone Hut** restoration process complies with historic preservation and fire safety code requirements, which are especially stringent after the recent fire at the hut. The temporary tent platforms will become puncheon on Hell Brook Cutoff and the Long Trail below timberline after Stone Hut is rebuilt. On the plus side, the fire did not seriously damage the hut's CCC-built stonework. We hope restoration of Stone Hut, now boarded up, will begin soon.

We are working on:

- A **Long Trail** relocation route between the Winooski River boat access on River Road in Bolton and the Bamforth Ridge Long Trail parking lot;
- Establishing a route across **Dry Ridge** in Johnson, where we are turning over a proj-

ect from past stewardship coordinator, Pete Antos-Ketcham, to current stewardship coordinator, Mollie Klepack Flanigan;

- Building a boardwalk loop in the **Notch Brook wetland** behind Barnes Camp in Smugglers' Notch to complete a Long Trail relocation; and
- Replacing puncheon with longer lasting materials on **Mount Mansfield** north of the visitor center.

## Wonderful News

The Town of Bennington acquired a **parking lot easement** from landowners Chris and Dawn Denio for the Bald Mountain Trail, which begins on Branch Street in Bennington. This effort began in October, 2013, when unauthorized and unsafe trail user parking prompted Mr. Denio to ask GMC to move the Bald Mountain Trail off his property. The GMC, Town of Bennington, and the Denios worked together to develop a plan to relocate the trail onto an adjacent powerline right-of-way and build a new trail parking lot on the Denio's land off of Branch Street.

The Bald Mountain Trail is one of southern Vermont's hidden gems, a link from Bennington to the Long Trail/Appalachian Trail via the West Ridge Trail, with great views from the ledges above town on Bald Mountain. This project provides safe functional trail access and is a great example of how a community can work together to transform a public recreation problem into a success.

—DAVE HARDY

DIRECTOR OF TRAIL PROGRAMS



Lake Trail Bridge

## Camel's Hump State Park Just Got Bigger

The Green Mountain Club congratulates the Trust for Public Land on an important and successful land conservation victory, its purchase last spring of 2,085 acres in Duxbury known as the Dowsville Headwaters. Added to Camel's Hump State Park, the land will provide wildlife habitat protection and improved flood resiliency in the Winooski River watershed and the Lake Champlain basin. It will also help protect the view from Camel's Hump, the state's highest undeveloped peak, and provide new hiking opportunities off the Long Trail.

## The Winooski River Footbridge Is One Year Old

A year after completion of the Long Trail reroute through the Winooski River Valley via the new suspension footbridge, we can reflect on the remarkable partnership of the club and the wider community that achieved something so monumental. Every day Long Trail hikers cross the bridge, but so do fisherman, cyclists, sightseers, and families and folks just out for a walk. For some, crossing the bridge is their first outing on the Long Trail, or even their first exposure to

hiking or to the Green Mountain Club. The accessibility and grandeur of the bridge make it the perfect ambassador for the club and the Long Trail.

## Connecting the AT to Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park

On July 11, the Green Mountain Club secured an easement for a portion of a projected connector trail between the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park. For years GMC, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the national park, and the local community have wished to establish a connection between the park and the trail, which are both units of the National Park System. This spring, the Vermont Land Trust bought the locally named Gilbert Hill property and sold it to a landowner willing to allow the connector trail to cross the property. Future steps include the acquisition of easements on adjacent properties.

When complete, the connector trail will thread hilltop forests and open areas offering sensational views of the Upper Valley countryside, and will traverse Gilbert Hill, the location of the first ski tow in the United States.

## Proposal for Mount Mansfield Summit Station

A science and stewardship center on the summit of Mount Mansfield is being proposed by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, University of Vermont, Stowe Mountain Resort, and other interested parties. Under the proposal, the building that now serves as the GMC Mansfield Visitor Center at the top of the Toll Road would be remodeled into an overnight research facility.

The Green Mountain Club supports the mission of the center, which would be to promote the health of Northeastern mountain ecosystems, however, we consider the potential impacts of extended high-elevation housing on the fragile alpine environment of the summit ridge a serious concern.

Proponents of the center have sought recommendations from mountain stewards and scientific researchers. GMC staff and volunteer leaders have been working with them to ensure that the center would not conflict with the protection of the ridgeline that the club has pursued for forty years. By the time you read this, we should have received a more detailed proposal to review.



Camel's Hump

PHOTO BY SHERI LARSEN





Winooski River Footbridge

## Headwaters Camp on Unknown Pond in Northeast Kingdom

In 2015, GMC purchased a rustic hunting camp on remote and tranquil Unknown Pond in Avery's Gore from longtime GMC friend and supporter Norm Grearson. Aptly named Headwaters Camp, it sits at the source of the North Branch of the Nullhegan River, a 2.3-mile hike from the trailhead on Route 114 in Warren's Gore. The club plans to rent Headwaters Camp to the public, but must first analyze provisions of the lease of land on which the cabin sits, upgrade its foundation, and build a privy suitable for year-round use, among other preliminaries. After renovation the camp will be the only public overnight site on the pond and on the nearby Middle Mountain Trail system.

## The New James Jeffords State Forest

Vermont's newest state forest was dedicated in honor of the late U.S. Senator James M. "Jim" Jeffords, a Shrewsbury resident with a long legacy of environmental stewardship and land conservation. To establish the forest, the Trust for Public Land worked with the State of Vermont, a generous landowner who donated 266 acres, and the communities of Shrewsbury and Mendon. Members of the GMC's Killington Section worked

with the Trust for Public Land to help build community support and funding for the project.

Less than a mile from the Long Trail and Appalachian Trail, the 1,346-acre forest is a haven for hikers, cross-country skiers, snowmobilers, anglers, and hunters. The tract is also an essential wildlife corridor between Coolidge and Aiken State Forests, offering refuge to black bear, moose, fisher, bobcat, and other species that range along the spine of the Green Mountains.

## Beaver Dam Camp on Wheeler Pond Closed for Repairs

GMC's Wheeler Pond Cabins, Beaver Dam Camp and Hadsel-Mares Camp, have been a beloved recreational sanctuary since before 2003, when the club acquired them. But Beaver Dam Camp was built with salvaged materials on unstable ground at the edge of Wheeler Pond, and has deteriorated past the point of economical maintenance. The camp has been closed and will be restored once sufficient funds are raised (see pages 14-16). Hadsel-Mares Camp remains in fine shape, so go ahead and schedule your Northeast Kingdom getaway! To learn more about the camps and our fundraising efforts please visit, [greenmountainclub.org/wheelerpond](http://greenmountainclub.org/wheelerpond).

## GMC Received Trail Stewardship Award at Trek to Taste

Every year on or around National Trails Day, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park holds a Trek to Taste event which features food from local vendors and hikes around the park and Woodstock. This year, Deputy Superintendent Christina Marts presented the Green Mountain Club with the Annette G. Compton Fierty Trail Stewardship Award. Annette was a steadfast supporter of trails in the Woodstock area, and receiving the award reflects GMC's strong commitment to outdoor recreation in the region.

The award highlighted the club's education work with the Prosper Valley School, the maintenance of the Appalachian Trail performed by the Ottauquechee Section, and the GMC's cooperation with the Vermont Land Trust and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy to lay the groundwork for a trail connecting Woodstock to the Appalachian Trail.

Representatives of the club have attended Trek to Taste every year since its inception in 2009.



GMC volunteers Richard Windish and Peter Hope holding the Annette G. Compton Fierty Trail Stewardship Award



# A Lifetime of Memories on Camel's Hump

## GIVING BACK TO THE MOUNTAINS

Last month I spent an afternoon with Dave and June Keenan, members of GMC's Ridgeline Society and Legacy Society, in their house in Essex. I was immediately drawn to a magnificent image of Camel's Hump hanging on their family room wall.

Before I could sit down, Dave's eyes lit up, and he began talking about how meaningful that area is to him. He described the view, spoke of the many trails he has taken to the summit, and recalled memories of climbing it with Boy Scouts and his family. He estimated he had climbed Camel's Hump at least fifty times.

Dave has hiked on the Long Trail since he was ten years old. He shares his love for it with his family, especially his son, with whom he completed the trail in sections. Dave joined the club in 1959, eventually joining the Burlington Section and filling his weekends with section hikes and annual Oyster Stew hikes at Taylor Lodge.

He was grateful for the *Long Trail News* when he served in the military. More recently, he sent articles on the construction of the Winooski River Footbridge to his son, an engineer in Texas. When his son and his family visited last summer, Dave took them to the bridge. They made sure to cross it, because they have crossed every other bridge on the Long Trail together.

While Dave and June no longer hike as they used to, they don't let that stop them from enjoying the scenery the Long Trail and the Green Mountains have to offer. They grinned ear to ear describing a recent excursion by chairlift to the top of Killington and how the view was so clear you could see all the way down to Mount Greylock in Massachusetts and up to Jay Peak near Canada.

With two end-to-end patches on his pack, Dave is proud to call himself a member of the club. "I have spent so much time on the trail, it really is an honor to leave what I can to the Green Mountain Club when the time comes," he said when asked why he had named the club in his will.

—ALICIA DICOCO, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

*The Ridgeline Society consists of individuals who contribute \$1,000 or more annually to support GMC's general operating fund. Legacy Society members are individuals who name GMC as the beneficiary to one or more parts of their planned giving.*

*If you would like to learn more about giving back to GMC through annual or planned giving, please contact Director of Development Alicia DiCocco at (802) 241-8322 or [adicocco@greenmountainclub.org](mailto:adicocco@greenmountainclub.org).*







**2016 FIELD STAFF: Back row L to R:** Jackson van Raan, Chris Podesta, Susan Winters, Daley Matthews-Pennanen, Isaac Alexandre-Leach, Kevin Mullen, Sean Pease, Jesse Vining, Kurt Melin, Marla Davidson, Danielle Sanderson, Matt Shea  
**Middle row L to R:** Director of Trail Programs Dave Hardy, Max Zielinski, Roxane Strobel, Caroline Eyman, Meg Lyczak, Emily Heymann, Charlie Wolock, Ege Sakrit, Livia Chesley, Sarah Drew, Leo Saraceno  
**Front row L to R:** Nicole Constable, Chloe Trifilio, Amelia Williams, Sorrel Dunn, Jake Chinitz, Adam Joseph, Tony Zambito, Jack Minich, Alli Summerly, Sam Kenney, Caitlin Miller, Ilana Copel

## Staff Update

**L**enny Crisostomo grew up in the White Mountains of New Hampshire before moving to Boston, where he worked in database management for the Appalachian Mountain Club. In 2015 Lenny and his wife Hannah left the city and moved to Vermont. He became our new database manager this spring.

Managing records of GMC's 9,000 members is one of the club's most fundamental functions and we are thrilled to have Lenny's experience and intimate knowledge of trail clubs. Lenny works with our development and membership departments to execute and manage appeals, mailings, reports and renewals. Since coming onboard, Lenny has implemented new systems and procedures to improve efficiency and service to members.

Out of the office you will find Lenny hiking or paddling his canoe. Recently he took up mountain biking, and he says that may become a new addiction. Come winter, you'll find this avid snowboarder exploring backcountry trails on his splitboard.

While earning an animal science degree at the University of Vermont, **Amy Potter** completed a three-month semester abroad in Namibia, living in a tent while studying environmental and wildlife conservation and deepening her love of the outdoors and adventure. After pursuing a career in veterinary medicine, Amy was pulled in a different direction and was attracted to the opportunity to work for GMC as our new visitor center manager.

Not only is Amy a passionate hiker, mountaineer, and recent Long Trail end-to-end, she has climbed all the four-thousand-foot peaks in Vermont and New Hampshire. She is pleased to be able to share her hiking knowledge and enthusiasm with our visitors.

A New Hampshire native living in southern Vermont, Amy recently moved to Worcester with her husband Dan and three dogs,

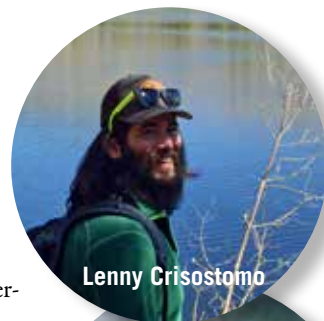
Mika, Lucy, and Sister. She spends her free time exploring new trails, riding horses, catching live music, and eating good food.

Through a partnership with Vermont Law School, the Green Mountain Club offers a conservation stewardship summer internship to graduate students interested in gaining experience in land conservation and recreation management. This year the club selected **Shawn Byrns**.

Before entering Vermont Law School Shawn lived and worked as an educator in Thailand. That experience helped direct him to a career improving the lives of people through protection of natural resources and sustainable land management. It also drew him to GMC for exposure to land conservation and resource management.

This summer Shawn helped create baseline documentation and legal files for recently acquired trail properties, conducted background research on boundary and encroachment problems on GMC-owned lands, and worked on high priority projects concerning management of lands and conservation easements held by GMC.

-MIKE DeBONIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Lenny Crisostomo



Amy Potter



## Get off the Beaten Path, Corridor Monitor for GMC

**H**ave you ever broken through an invisible spider's web only to have it stick to your face? Have you ever wrestled through interlacing tree limbs with the vigor and dedication of a small child on a scavenger hunt? Or looked at your map and compass, and thought, "With these, I can go anywhere!"

If these questions intrigue you, here is a volunteer opportunity for you: corridor monitoring.

Corridor monitors help protect the Long Trail, wildlife habitat, and diverse plant life while exploring some of the wildest places in Vermont.

With support from partners, the Green Mountain Club has been successful at protecting most of the land that the Long Trail System traverses, ensuring a permanent home for the trail. But work doesn't end once the deed or easement is signed. Then the long term stewardship of the land begins to ensure it is used and maintained as intended. Corridor monitoring is a critical component of that work.

Corridor monitors walk and maintain the boundaries of parcels, watching for improper uses. With map and compass, monitors navigate through forests, over babbling streams and to some of Vermont's least visited places. Getting off the trail rewards corridor monitors with bird song, wildlife sign, and wildflowers unappreciated by anyone else.

"Being off trail, you get to see different things," long-time corridor monitor Doug Reaves says. "Bear nests in beech trees, beaver ponds with newts swimming in them, and spectacular wildflowers. Bushwhacking is harder than hiking, and it can be challenging to find the boundary line at first, but it feels like detective work, and that becomes one of the most fun things about the experience. It's a great way to help out the Green Mountain Club."

If this sounds like a stimulating volunteer opportunity, the Green Mountain Club would love to hear from you. We are looking for monitors to adopt parcels throughout Vermont. You'll be asked to visit your assigned parcel at least twice a year to ensure conservation restrictions are being upheld and to mark the boundary. It's a great way to learn map,

compass, and bushwhacking skills, gain conservation experience, and observe wildlife.

New monitor trainings will be hosted in October in northern and southern Vermont.

To learn more and sign up for training, please contact Land Stewardship Coordinator Mollie Klepack Flanigan, [mflanigan@greenmountainclub.org](mailto:mflanigan@greenmountainclub.org) or (802) 241-8217.

### Corridor monitors needed for these and other tracts:

#### LONG TRAIL:

##### **Atlas I—Jay, Richford, 1,110 acres**

This GMC-owned tract of land is on either side of Vt. Route 105, and includes North Jay, a trail-less peak at 3,438 feet. The parcel is wooded with beech, birch, and maple on the lower elevations and spruce and balsam fir on the upper elevations. Three miles of Long Trail run through the property.

##### **Jon Villeneuve—Lowell, 110 acres**

This GMC-owned tract is on the north- and east-facing slopes of Haystack Mountain. A large active beaver pond occupies about 4.5 acres at the northeast corner.

##### **Villeneuve V—Eden, 20 acres**

This tract is on a slope overlooking Belvidere Pond with sugar maple and other hardwoods dominating the forest. Moose and deer tracts are often observed when visiting the property.

##### **Blank S—Johnson, 182 acres**

This tract is south of Plot Road, with some road frontage. It includes Roundtop Mountain, and the Long Trail runs 0.9 mile along the ridge. The parcel is accessed by the Long Trail and by a logging road from Plot Road.

##### **Smith—Bolton, 177 acres**

Deer, bear, and moose signs are common throughout the property, and massive boulders are scattered through the northern hardwood forest.

#### APPALACHIAN TRAIL:

##### **Woodstock Stage Road to Route 12**

Pomfret and Woodstock, about 2.0 miles of Appalachian Trail.

##### **Route 12 to Jabez Hill Road**

Woodstock and Bridgewater, about 4 miles of Appalachian Trail.

##### **Bridgewater Hollow Road to Stony Brook Road**

Bridgewater, about 4.5 miles of Appalachian Trail.

##### **Stony Brook Road to River Road**

Killington, about 4 miles of Appalachian Trail.

##### **River Road to Route 100**

Killington, about 2.5 miles of Appalachian Trail.

##### **Maine Junction to Jungle Junction**

Mendon, about 4.5 miles of Long Trail-Appalachian Trail.

##### **Jungle Junction to Shrewsbury Peak Trail**

Mendon, about 4 miles of Long Trail-Appalachian Trail.

*This is a partial list. For more options please contact Land Stewardship Coordinator Mollie Klepack Flanigan at [mflanigan@greenmountainclub.org](mailto:mflanigan@greenmountainclub.org).*



Lockwood Brook on Meltzer Tract



# GMC TRAIL LANDS:

## A Profile of the Meltzer Tract

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

**Name:** Meltzer.

**Location:** Lowell, the westernmost town in Orleans County.

**Owner:** Green Mountain Club.

**Since:** 1988.

**Size:** 1,846 acres, one of the largest properties that GMC owns and manages.

### Trails:

- Frank Post Trail: 2.0 miles.
- Forester's Trail: 2.1 miles.
- Long Trail: 2.8 miles.
- Forester's-Long Trail-Frank Post Loop: 6.9 miles.

### Structures:

Tillotson Camp, an enclosed overnight shelter built in 1939 with bunks for eight. Belvidere Firetower, with views of Jay Peak and beyond to Canada.

### Landscape Features:

- **Summits:** Belvidere Mountain (3,360 feet) with views from the fire tower, and Tillotson Peak with a forested summit (3,040 feet).
- **Water:** Lockwood Pond, the highest headwaters pond of the Missiquoi River, at 2,650 feet near Tillotson Camp. Lockwood Brook flows from the pond, cascading through the property as a mountain stream. Seeps and springs are plentiful.
- **Special Habitat:** Mast stands of American beech trees provide critical bear habitat. Bear sign, such as claw marks on trees, bear nests and scat, are evident throughout the property.

### Land Management:

The Green Mountain Club has been selectively harvesting timber on Meltzer since 2010. Harris Roen, GMC's consulting forester, has directed the work, hiring loggers from the Lowell area. Management goals include:

- Protection and enhancement of recreational experiences.
- Conservation, protection and enhancement of natural resources.
- Improvement of forest health and vigor, and income for GMC operations and programs, through targeted harvesting.
- Enhancement of native wildlife habitat.



Bear Nest

## Natural Wonders to look for on Your Next Hike

### Black Bear Nests

Fall is great time to see signs of one of our most charismatic and thrilling species of wildlife: black bears. Bears leave numerous signs, but one of the most intriguing are nests high up in American beech trees. You're right, of course, bears don't nest in trees, but their feeding behavior creates things that resemble large nests.

Beech trees produce nutritious and energy-dense nuts, one of the favorite foods of black bears putting on fat for winter. The small nuts are hard to eat en masse and are prime food for other animals, but bears have figured out a way to get first dibs and to eat them efficiently. They climb into tree crooks, break off branches, and pluck the nuts. The bear discards stripped branches to the side, creating a sizable cluster of broken branches and twigs, which look from the ground like large nests.

While hiking this fall keep your eyes on the crowns of large American beech trees and watch for parallel vertical black claw marks on smooth beech bark, made by razor sharp claws while climbing for beech nuts in prior years. You may just find one of these meal sites of our ravenous friends.

In 2003, I was way off trail doing a timber cruise for the property. While tracking a bearing, I looked down from my compass and was shocked to see an alien-looking creature that I nearly stepped on. It took me a few seconds to realize the bug-eyed animal was a baby moose. No mama was around; I never would have gotten that close if she was.

— GMC CONSULTING FORESTER  
HARRIS ROEN







# Volunteer Long Trail Patrol Progress Report



VLTP Crew



Stamford Meadows Bog Bridges

Everyone who walks or works on the Long Trail joins a community spanning time and space. I am honored to be a part of that community this summer through the Volunteer Long Trail Patrol.

As we carry tools, tarps, tents and, of course, plenty of food into the woods, we are also carrying on the legacy of volunteerism that built the trail. Different though we are in age, nationality, background, and outdoor experience, we share literal and figurative common ground in the trail on which we walk and in our desire to live outdoors, challenge ourselves, and be stewards of the landscape.

Setting out for a work week—a “hitch”—is exciting: what will we find in the woods? In each other? Ourselves? Five days may seem short, but it’s amazing how much can happen.

On the hike to our worksite in the morning, if we are quiet, we might pass a porcupine or spot a new bird. The days slip by quickly when they are so full of hard work, dirt, silliness, problem solving, and what sometimes seem small miracles. We are working during peak thru-hiking season, and it’s great to meet hikers and share their excitement.

Evenings, we cook a communal meal and relax, playing games or discussing important would-you-rathers, like, “would you rather have feet for hands, or have every hair on your body grow three inches every time you sneezed?” Happily exhausted from a good day’s work, we practically have to prop our eyelids open to stay awake much past dark. By the end of the week we still aren’t sure about the whole feet-for-hands thing. But we have all become part of the trail, and parts of the trail have become ours.

During our first week we replaced fourteen segments of puncheon along a beaver wetland at Stamford Meadows between Seth Warner and Congdon shelters (and yes, we spotted some beavers!). Everyone gained experience using drills, pick-mattocks and rock bars as we dismantled the old and built the new. Most of our summer will be spent on beautiful Pico, building rock structures to divert water and protect against erosion.

I am thrilled to live and work with such incredible volunteers and I can’t wait to see where we will take the trail this season.

—SORREL DUNN, VLTP LEADER



# MOURNING THE LOSS OF THURSDAY VOLUNTEER Barbara Brown Watts

Barbara Brown Watts, who began a nearly twenty-year stint as a GMC Thursday office volunteer in 1992, died in June at age eighty-seven.

Barbara volunteered partly because she lived less than a half-mile from our new headquarters in Waterbury Center, and partly because she had just retired from her job as CEO of Food Services Corporation in Syracuse, New York. But she volunteered mostly because, as a native of New Hampshire's White Mountains, she loved to hike. For all of those nearly twenty years, Barbara hiked in to headquarters every Thursday except when it snowed. On snowy days she arrived on snowshoes.

Barbara did the behind-the-scenes tasks that keep the club running: updating the list of Long Trail end-to-enders, staffing phone-a-thons, shipping merchandise and new-member packets, preparing bulk mailings, photocopying information packets for the board, counting store inventory, restocking shelves, and filing trail and shelter adopter records.

Doris Washburn, Barbara's fellow office volunteer, says she and Barbara preferred to be behind the scenes. One day, a staff person approached them about researching a GMC

historical figure for an article in the *Long Trail News*. Doris looked at Barbara. "I don't like doing research," she said. Barbara laughed: "I don't either. Let's go tell them we're not going to do it."

As volunteer coordinator, I worked with Barbara for about a year and a half. Like Doris, I admired Barbara for her ability to turn down projects she wasn't interested in. I believe that is an important quality in a volunteer.

Barbara desired no recognition. Nevertheless, in May, 2009, she received one of GMC's highest honors, an honorary life membership, awarded to people who have made outstanding contributions to the club over many years.

If Barbara missed a Thursday at the office, her absence was felt in at least two ways. First, she had the best penmanship, so she wrote notes to donors. (She even brought in a special pen with her name taped to it for this purpose.) Second, she usually brought homemade brownies, of which long-time Thursday volunteer Tom Massoth says he ate more than his fair share.

More than the brownies, however, Tom will miss "great intense political conversations" with Barbara. He also was impressed



that she groomed her lawn with a push mower. "After hearing that she used one I went out and bought one myself," he said. "I think I used it twice, and decided it was too much work. It has sat in my shed ever since."

Soon after Barbara began volunteering, her husband Peter noticed the office was furnished with uncomfortable metal folding chairs. Realizing that Barbara and Doris would spend a lot of time there, Peter donated two padded swivel chairs for his wife and her friend. Someone wrote their names on pieces of masking tape and labeled the chairs. Anyone unwise enough to be seated on one when Barbara or Doris arrived was directed to a folding chair.

Barbara earned the love and respect of all who knew her. She will be missed.

—MARI ZAGARINS, FORMER MEMBERSHIP  
AND VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR



## Save the Date! Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

Join us at the Green Mountain Club's annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic!

Whether you're a lifetime volunteer or just joined the club, you're invited to attend our annual volunteer appreciation picnic at the GMC Visitor Center in Waterbury Center. Come and share a meal with other volunteers as we honor your accomplishments and thank you for your hard work.

**WHO:** GMC's amazing volunteers!

**WHAT:** A celebration with awards honoring your work, music by bluegrass band Two Cents in the Till, and a catered picnic by Bon Temps Gourmet.

**WHERE:** GMC Visitor Center, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Center.

**WHEN:** Saturday, September 24, 1:30-4:00 p.m.

**WHY:** Because the Long Trail would not exist without you.

## Section Directory

### Bennington

Maintenance: Harmon Hill to Glastenbury Mountain  
President: Lorna Cheriton, (802) 447-1383  
E-mail: chertop@comcast.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 Bushey, (802) 893-2146  
E-mail: brbshey@comcast.net

### Manchester

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

### Montpelier

Maintenance: Bamforth Ridge to Jonesville and Smugglers' Notch to Chilcoat Pass  
President: Steve Bailey, (609) 424-9238  
E-mail: stevebbailey@gmail.com  
Website: www.gmcmontpelier.org

### Northeast Kingdom

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



## Sections

# ALTRUISM STRONG AT GMC

## Six Steadfast Volunteers Honored at Annual Meeting

The Green Mountain Club has presented its highest honor, the **Honorary Life Membership Award**, at annual meetings since 1990. This year the club honored two outstanding people: Jean Haigh and Richard Windish.

### Jean Haigh, Northeast Kingdom Section

Jean has come to define leadership at GMC. She grew up hiking in the mountains near her home town of Rutland, and she has hiked trails in places as far flung as Scotland and Switzerland. Today she lives in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, and probably knows the mountains and trails of that region as well as anyone.

Jean helped lead the formation of the GMC's Northeast Kingdom Section and has been its guiding spirit ever since, including serving as president and as section director on the GMC Board.

Jean's accomplishments (too many to publish) would exhaust a normal mortal, but Jean is not a normal mortal. She has twice the energy of most people half her age, and it can be fairly said that never has such a small person



Jean Haigh

cast such a large shadow.

Everything Jean has done for GMC has been with good cheer, endless energy and, above all, exceptional leadership.

### Richard Windish, Brattleboro Section

Rich is a Long Trail end-to-ender who has been a stalwart member of his section's trail maintenance crew for nearly twenty-five years. For much of that time he has also been a diligent adopter and trail maintainer. Altogether, he has logged more than 1,500 hours maintaining the Long Trail and Appalachian Trail, and that counts just the hours that he's thought to officially report. He has been previously honored with just about every other GMC award there is.

But his greatest contribution to GMC has been his service on the Board of Directors, which he left at this year's meeting after exactly twenty years. During that time, he served in numerous roles: on the Executive Committee for seventeen years; chair of the Nominating, Personnel, and Legal Insurance & Risk Management Committees; member of the Trail Management, Stewardship, Long Range Planning and Centennial Celebration Committees; the club's secretary and vice president; and president from 2006 to 2009. With the possible exception of Jean Haigh,



Richard Windish

it's fair to say that Rich has contributed more to the Green Mountain Club during his tenure on the board than any other volunteer leader.

Former Executive Director Ben Rose once said that Rich "bleeds GMC green." Every recent club president and executive director will tell you that they've relied heavily on Rich for his wisdom, judgment, legal savvy and negotiating skills. The Green Mountain Club's current success is due in no small measure to Rich's twenty years of leadership.



## President's Award Winners

As president, I have the pleasure of recognizing individuals who have given exceptional volunteer service to the club and of honoring them with the President's Award. This year I decided to commend four people, each of whom greatly deserves recognition in his or her own right, but who collectively represent a critical group of volunteers essential to the club—the leaders of our fourteen sections.

The individuals I honor today have recently stepped down after long tenures as presidents of their sections. A complete list of their contributions to their sections and the main club would be far too long, so I'll hit the highlights.

### Reidun Nuquist, Montpelier Section

Reidun Nuquist just stepped down as Montpelier Section President, where she has been a member since 1970. She and her husband, former GMC President Andrew Nuquist, have been leading outings regularly since they joined and have been among the most active members of the Montpelier Section. Reidun is an Honorary Life Member of both the Green Mountain Club and her section. In addition to all of her section activities, Reidun, a retired librarian at the Vermont Historical Society, is almost certainly the foremost living historian of the Long Trail and the Green Mountain Club, having published scholarly articles, edited books, and written frequently for the *Long Trail News* on historical topics, including a recent article on the role of women in the club.

### Carol Langley, Connecticut Section

Carol Langley stepped down in March, 2015, as the Connecticut Section President, where she has been an active member for nearly twenty years. Carol has also served as the section's newsletter editor, leader of many section outings, a trail adopter, a trail maintainer, and a volunteer for many section events. She was previously honored by GMC with the Long Trail Service award and a special recognition award.



Reidun Nuquist, John Page and Carol Langley

### Martha Stitelman, Bennington Section

Martha Stitelman stepped down this March as Bennington Section President, where she has been an active member for more than twenty years. As a regular on the section's trail maintenance crew and as a trail adopter, she has logged more than 1,000 hours of work on the Long Trail/Appalachian Trail. She has also served for many years as the Bennington Section's representative on the GMC Board, and as a member of the Publications and History & Archives Committees. In 2008 Martha received the Roy Buchanan Award, recognizing her lengthy service to the Green Mountain Club.

### Inge Brown, Ottauquechee Section

Inge Brown stepped down last October as Ottauquechee Section President. She has been an O-Section member for more than twenty years. Inge has been the section's organizer and promoter par excellence, including setting up and managing the

section's first website, and hosting and organizing section meetings at her home. She was responsible for initiating the section's outreach to the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Park and for leading countless hikes, logging more than 500 hours of trail maintenance on the Appalachian Trail, adopting the 900-foot Thundering Falls Boardwalk in Killington, and managing the section's annual Taylor Series lecture. Inge's attention to detail and conscientiousness are legendary.

Virtually every one of our fourteen sections has at least a few leaders like Reidun, Carol, Martha, and Inge. Without them the sections could not function, and without our sections the Green Mountain Club could not maintain the Long Trail and Appalachian Trail. So please join us in thanking them for all they have done, and continue to do!

--JOHN PAGE, PRESIDENT

## Green Mountain Club Outdoor Programs

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

**Experienced instructors teach** hiking and backpacking; wilderness first aid and medicine; conservation and stewardship skills; navigation by map, compass and GPS; outdoor leadership; and much more. Visit us at [greenmountainclub.org](http://greenmountainclub.org) and sign up today.

### SOLO Wilderness First Aid

Saturday and Sunday  
October 22 and 23, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.  
GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center

This sixteen-hour, hands-on course will prepare you for backcountry medical emergencies. Its focus is on the prevention, recognition and treatment of injuries and illnesses. Wilderness First Aid (WFA) certification or Wilderness First Responder (WFR) recertification is provided upon completion.

Instructors: Stonehearth Open Learning Opportunities staff. Limit: 30. Fee: \$190. Please contact GMC if you need WFR recertification (additional fees apply). Register at least two weeks in advance.

### Registration

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

*Phone:* (802) 244-7037

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

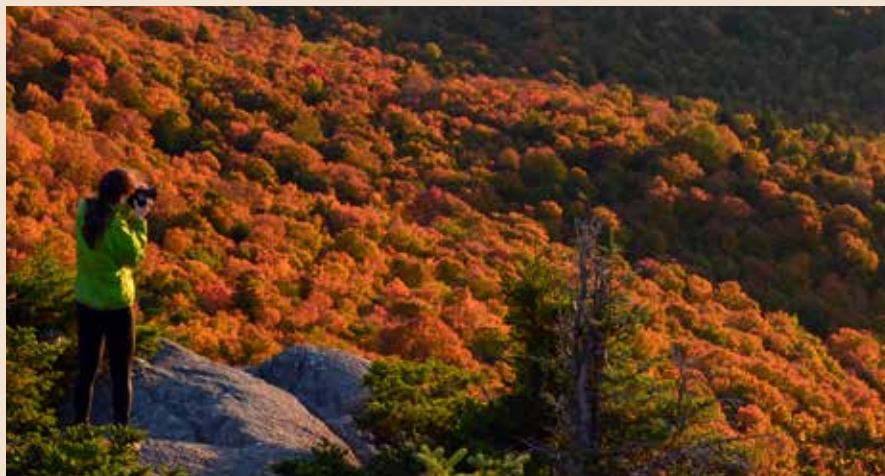
*Mail:* 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road,  
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Register online at [greenmountainclub.org](http://greenmountainclub.org).

*Age Requirement:* The minimum age to participate in a workshop is sixteen, unless otherwise noted.



Another successful workshop teaching women backcountry skills.



### A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words

Have you captured a stunning mountain view, wildlife in its natural habitat, or hikers enjoying the trail? High resolution (300 dpi minimum) digital images depicting life on the Long Trail, Vermont Appalachian Trail, and Northeast Kingdom Trails are always desirable.

*Please share yours!*

**[Photos@greenmountainclub.org](mailto:Photos@greenmountainclub.org)**





The GMC Board of Directors met briefly on June 16 after the 106th annual business meeting, hosted by the Northeast Kingdom Section at Lyndon State College. President John Page thanked the section for hosting the meeting, and welcomed incoming board members Hope Crifo, Russ Ford, Peter Hope, Ed O'Leary, Ira Sollace, Howard VanBenthuyzen, and Matt Wels. John also thanked outgoing members Faith Brown, Geordie Hall, Millie Mugica, Walter Pomroy, and Richard Windish for their service.

The board discussed the favorable condition of the club's finances, and approved motions by the budget and finance committee and the executive committee to use the budget surplus from fiscal year 2016 to pay off internal debt and to start a rainy day fund for working capital.

The board elected officers for the 2016-2017 year: president, John Page; vice president, Tom Candon; treasurer, Stephen Klein; secretary, Lee Allen.

John summarized the governance review process begun in September 2015. Several working groups are developing recommendations for the structure and function of the board, functions of committees, and the roles of the board and staff. More working groups will be formed soon to work on maintaining vigorous sections and developing a strategic plan. The executive committee will review the recommendations of all working groups before forwarding them to the board.

—LEE ALLEN, SECRETARY

### Schedule of Board Meetings

The Green Mountain Club Board of Directors will meet on the following Saturdays and all GMC members are welcome to attend:

- **September 24, 2016**—Location, GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center (followed by Volunteer Appreciation Picnic)
- **January 7, 2017**—Location to be determined, in southern VT
- **March 18, 2017**—Location, GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center
- **June 10, 2017**—Location to be determined



## Vehicle Donations Needed!

The Long Trail Patrol needs pickup trucks and other vehicles to continue its vital work maintaining the Long Trail. If you can help, please contact Matt Krebs at (802)-241-8321 or [mkrebs@greenmountainclub.org](mailto:mkrebs@greenmountainclub.org).

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# The Caretakers' Caretaker

In 1979, I came out of the woods to resupply after three days on my first Long Trail end-to-end hike, and met GMC Southern Field Supervisor Ray Auger for the first time. Standing in the parking lot at Route 11, I learned that he and I had grown up in the same town in Connecticut. I happened to be a bartender at the nearby Kandahar Lodge, and I was ready for a cold beer. So I invited Ray to join me. We quickly became friends.

Early the next morning I continued hiking north toward Canada. It was early June, so I didn't meet any GMC caretakers until probably Mount Mansfield. But after I returned home to Peru (Vermont) I started meeting caretakers stationed in the south, and over the next few years ended up spending quite a bit of time with them.

During the early eighties there were full time caretakers at all the ponds in the south—Stratton Pond, Griffith Lake, and Little Rock Pond. There were also summit caretakers at various times on Glastenbury, Stratton, and Killington.

For several years, Ray and I met newly arriving caretakers, some stepping off the bus in Manchester, and moved them into their new trail homes. Earlier in the week we had used U.S. Forest Service wooden pack boards to carry canvas tents, Coleman stoves, axes, saws, mattocks, and loppers to the sites. Ray's recol-

lection is that the loads were about seventy pounds; mine is that they were a few hundred.

Ray often stopped by my art studio, and grabbed me at the last minute when he got word of a new arrival. I dropped everything as often as I could, because without help Ray would have to make many trips.

On some trips we encountered hordes of black flies and mosquitos, which are expected at the ponds in June, and sometimes we frantically set up those old canvas Forest Service tents in seconds so we could get inside for cover. One year at Stratton Pond the swarms were particularly severe. We arrived to find the tent platform burned, so we had to rebuild it before we could set up the tent and dive in. It is surprising how many flies you can kill with a hammer.

Once the caretakers were settled in, we made occasional resupply trips—mostly with cold beer.

Caretakers during the early eighties included Michael Russom and Jeff Manas at Stratton Pond, Jory Diehlmann Innes at Little Rock Pond, and Carol McIntyre at Griffith Lake, to name a few. Mondays or Tuesdays were regular nights off the trail so we often got together for half-price pizza, chicken and volleyball at Gurry's in Manchester.

I lived fairly close to the trail crossing at Mad Tom Notch. My house was a regular

stop for showers and couch surfing. Sometimes I came home from work, and opened the door to a pile of backpacks. On several nights the floor was covered with the entire Long Trail Patrol, with some Forest Service types piled in for good measure.

For three and a half decades many of what we call "the old gang" have returned annually from scattered places to meet in different combinations for bushwhack hikes, backcountry ski trips to Kelly Stand or kayak trips on the Battenkill River or White River.

Getting to hang out with folks who chose to spend a season on the trail taking care of passing hikers was immensely rewarding, and the payback has been tremendous in the decades since. Just this winter I needed a spine tune-up as a result of too much hard work and too many miles under a backpack. Among the friends who visited me at the hospital, sometimes bringing massive recovery dinners, were several of my oldest and dearest caretaker friends.

Looking back, we were just kids who loved the trail. There's something about being that age, with a shared urge to live in the woods, that creates amazing long-term bonds. Friends you make on the trail last a lifetime.

—CHRIS MILLER, CALAIS



Stratton Mountain and Stratton Pond

PHOTO BY CORI ALICE HOLLADAY



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