

# Long Trail NEWS



Quarterly of the Green Mountain Club

SPRING 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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ILLUSTRATION BY REBECCA FULLERTON

## CONTENTS

Spring 2016, Volume 76, No. 1

### FEATURES

#### 5 / Tribute to Sam Parisi

*By Matt Wels*

#### 6 / Evolution of the Trail Backpack

*By Mike DeBonis*

#### 8 / Stone, Wood and Iron: A Photo Essay

#### 10 / The Northern Hardwood Forest

*By Squirrel Johnson*

#### 11 / Bear Necessity

#### 12 / A Collective Connection to the Land

*By Caitlin Miller*

#### 14 / Search & Rescue in the Green Mountains

*By Neil Van Dyke*

#### 18 / GMC's 106th Annual Meeting

### DEPARTMENTS

3 / From the President

4 / Mountain Views

15 / Field Notes

16 / Trail Mix

20 / Join the VLTP!

22 / Board Report

23 / Annual Election of  
General Directors

24 / Sections

26 / GMC Outdoor Programs

28 / James P. Taylor Series

31 / Journey's End



**B**enton McKaye claimed that he first conceived of the Appalachian Trail (AT) on Stratton Mountain while hiking the Long Trail in 1922, and that the Long Trail gave him both the inspiration and the model for the AT. When AT construction began a few years later, the Green Mountain Club agreed to let it follow more than 100 miles of the Long Trail to provide a ready-built route through southern Vermont.

Nearly a century later, if you suggest to an old-time GMCer that the Long Trail follows the Appalachian Trail in southern Vermont, you may be told in no uncertain terms that it's the other way around—it's our trail and we allow the AT to use it. Indeed, until the 1980s the *Long Trail Guide* listed the Appalachian Trail east of Maine Junction among the side trails in the Sherburne Pass region, and the trail was blazed with blue paint.

So which of these iconic trails are you following when you hike north from Massachusetts? The truth is that the LT and the AT happily share the footpath under a longstanding, mutually beneficial arrangement under the AT's umbrella organization, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC). GMC provides skilled paid field crews, a critical mass of volunteer trail maintainers, local knowledge and relationships, and a century of experience. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy provides invaluable management and planning assistance, some material resources, and the legal advantages of the AT's status as a national scenic trail. This relationship between the two organizations is a true partnership solidified by decades of cooperation and earned mutual respect.

In November I had the pleasure of attending ATC's semi-annual conference of the seven clubs that maintain the AT in New

England. Attending were key ATC staff plus managers from each club who supply the hands-on trail maintenance and planning for their sections of the AT. Some of the most expert and innovative trail maintainers in the country discussed management problems and projects with their counterparts, sharing information, strategies and solutions. Dave Hardy, GMC's director of trail programs, and his staff ably represented GMC. I was there to observe, learn, and meet some of my peers from the other clubs. As a trail club volunteer, I was in heaven. Some of the things I learned were:

- ▶ Dave Hardy commands tremendous respect among his peers. We are lucky to have him.
- ▶ The Green Mountain Club is regarded as a leader in certain aspects of trail management, especially backcountry sanitation, where our own Ottaquechee Section President Dick Andrews and former GMC Director of Land and Facilities Management Pete Antos-Ketcham have been important innovators.
- ▶ I heard lots of praise and questions about the new Winooski River Footbridge. Of the other attending clubs, perhaps only the Appalachian Mountain Club has the organizational capacity to undertake such a project.
- ▶ Bears are getting restless up and down the AT, as they were this past summer on Camel's Hump.
- ▶ The ATC affiliates in Maine, Massachusetts and Connecticut are still run primarily by volunteers, using essentially the same model that GMC used before we hired a professional staff in the 1980s. They each have their own "mountain saints," much like our legendary Roy Buchanan, Will Monroe and George Pearlstein.



John Page

- ▶ In Maine, Baxter State Park authorities are unhappy with the impact of the ever-increasing numbers of celebrating AT thru-hikers summiting Mount Katahdin, and both Baxter and ATC are considering new ways to manage AT use in the park.
- ▶ Elsewhere in New England, the AT has been overwhelmed by ever-increasing numbers of hikers, and the local trail clubs are struggling to develop strategies to manage seriously overcrowded trails and shelters. In Vermont crowding is not yet a crisis, but our numbers are definitely up, and the trend is worrisome. To stay ahead of the curve we need to observe how our fellow clubs cope with this long term problem.

All day I heard the term "cooperative management" describing the working relationships between the ATC and local clubs. Intensely collaborative, this approach recognizes that professional managers can't do their job without volunteer trail maintainers, and vice versa. The same model characterizes GMC's relationships with its many other partners, including the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, the Green Mountain National Forest, Vermont Land Trust, Friends of Bolton Nordic, ten ski resorts and numerous landowners.

The Long Trail will always be at the core of GMC's mission, but in the twenty first century our role in the larger scheme of outdoor recreation in Vermont and New England will become increasingly important.

—JOHN PAGE, PRESIDENT





## Group Etiquette Lacking

I recently spent eight days on the Long Trail (Smugglers' Notch to Journey's End) with two other GMC members. We encountered several camp groups, and I'm concerned about their lack of shelter and trail etiquette and skills.

On July 23 we found Round Top Shelter completely taken over by a group of nine. We told them groups of six or more weren't to occupy shelters, but were to leave them open for individuals. They didn't care, and wouldn't move. They just said they had been beaten to shelters all week by another camp group. They did make room for us and three thru-hikers after us but that made it too crowded. So we ended up tenting.

The young leaders of this group set a very poor example. The group stored their food in the shelter (not hung up), ate in the shelter (and in their sleeping bags), left dirty pots and pans on the picnic table, etc. They said they had a permit but, we never saw it. We saw and heard of other instances of inconsiderate behavior.

What information is sent to groups? Either they are getting none, or aren't using it. If youth (and adults) aren't properly taught, they won't have skills they need. I want them to have fun, but I also want them to be safe and considerate.

—KATHY BORRELL

*Thank you for describing your experience of group use on the Long Trail. We try to communicate with all groups before their excursions, but we don't reach them all. To help address both group etiquette and impact on the trail we are increasing outreach efforts this season.*

*We ask any reader who has an experience like this to send the GMC the name of the group so we can follow up. We want to educate groups so everyone can enjoy the trail. If you are planning a group outing on the Long Trail please use our group notification system found on the GMC website under "group hiking." No permit is required, but we can help you avoid arriving at a campsite at the same time as another group.*

*For more about groups on the trail, see "A Collective Connection to the Land" on page 12, by GMC AmeriCorps Group Outreach Coordinator Caitlin Miller.*

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Elisabeth Fenn

## Can You Get This Picture to the Mount Mansfield Caretaker—She is Wonderful!

My name is Bob (Porter) Brenner and I completed my LT end-to-end in August of 2014. Along the way I met the young lady in the attached photo on a very cold, sleeting, windy August day on top of Mount Mansfield. She was kind enough to offer a hot cup of coffee to me and allow me to warm up in the Visitor Center before I pushed on to Whiteface Shelter for the evening. I just came across this picture and if you could forward it to her I would appreciate it. I was freezing at the time and brain cells were too cold to retain her name.

She was wonderful! So kind of her to think of offering me some temporary comfort. She is one of many caretakers who I met along the trail who are exemplary people and fine representatives of the GMC. Thank you for all you do!

—BOB BRENNER, NY

## Correction

### Foreword or Forward but not Foreward

In the winter 2015 *Long Trail News* we published a letter by author Laura Waterman titled "Mountain Ethics." The word "foreword" (comments introducing a book) was misspelled as "foreward," not once, but twice! This was not Laura's mistake, but one made by me. Laura graciously accepted my apology, and said that "foreword" may be the most frequently misspelled word in the English language.

—JOCELYN HEBERT, *LONG TRAIL NEWS* EDITOR

### 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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Sam Parisi was a friend to many in the Green Mountain Club community, and family—a brother—to others. But to all who met him, on or off the trail, he was unforgettable.

On November 12, 2015, the Green Mountain Club suffered a tremendous loss when Sam passed away from an aggressive form of cancer. He was thirty-three.

In his last few days Sam was at his home in Morristown, Vermont, surrounded by friends, family and lots of love.

Originally from Haddonfield, New Jersey, Sam attended college in Philadelphia, and eventually found himself in Colorado. Shortly after moving there, Sam met his soulmate, best friend, and future wife Darcy Kimball. They held various conservation and community service positions with AmeriCorps and other non-profits, but the highlight of their time in Colorado was discovering their passion for skiing.

I first met Sam and Darcy in Vermont in 2008 during their Appalachian Trail thru-hike, when they volunteered to help restore the Clarendon Gorge suspension bridge. After completing the AT they found themselves drawn back to Vermont, and moved to Montgomery, where they continued their love of skiing at Jay Peak.

The next summer they began the first of three consecutive seasons as Volunteer Long Trail Patrol leaders. Sam then worked with me as a member of the GMC Special Projects Construction Crew. Our first big task was to rebuild 300 feet of Thundering Falls Boardwalk damaged by Tropical Storm Irene on the Vermont Appalachian Trail. That season Sam and I also built a thirty-five-foot bridge on the Bucklin Trail and the accessible moldering privy at Happy Hill Shelter on the Vermont Appalachian Trail.

In the spring of 2013 Sam and I took a short break from GMC to build a timber frame outdoor classroom at the Reading, Vermont, Elementary School. Each day at lunch we lined up with the kids to receive a helping of the day's menu from the "lunch lady." I remember how much the kids loved hanging out with Sam, and our lunches included lots of fun conversations about ice cream, building stuff, and our favorite colors.

The apex of Sam's time with the Green Mountain Club was of course the

HE WAS UNFORGETTABLE

# Sam Parisi

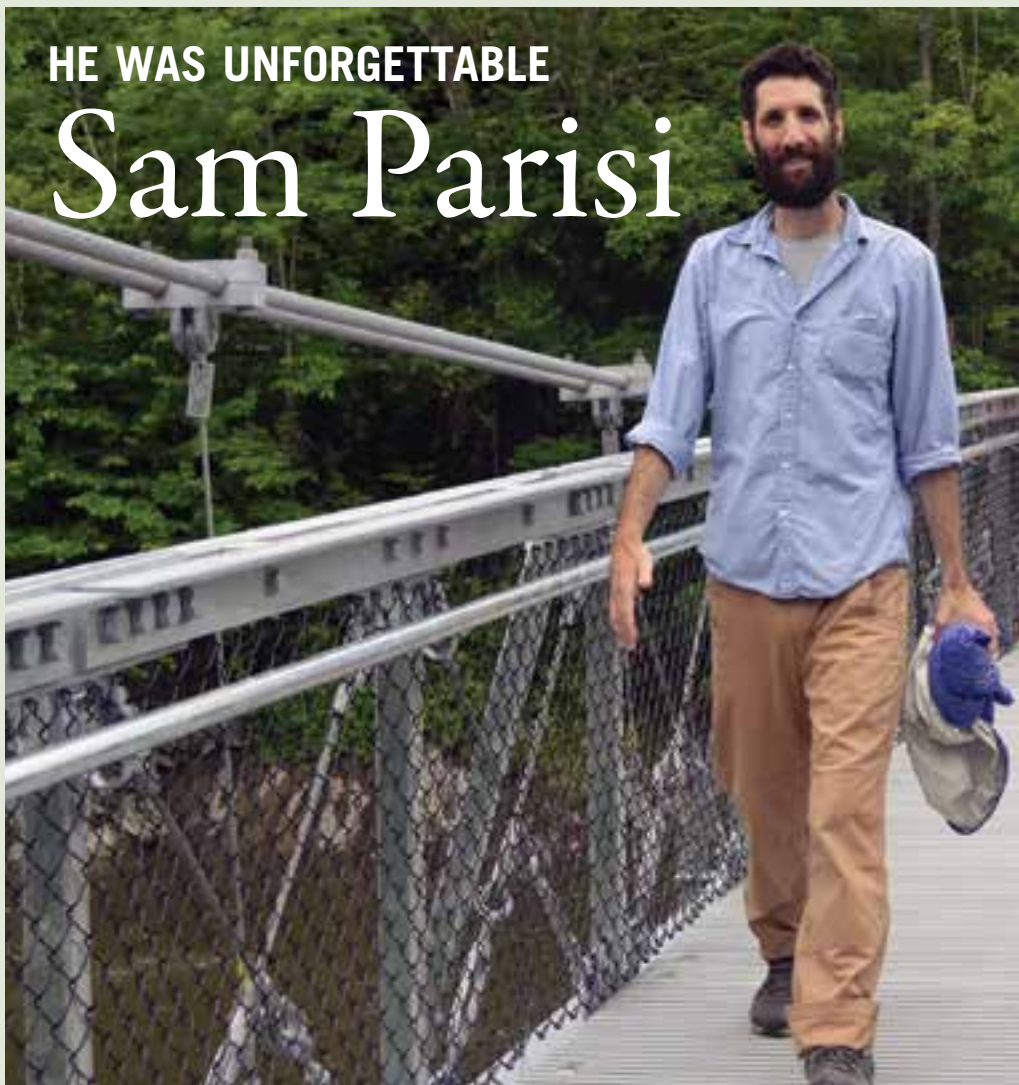


PHOTO BY JOCELYN HEBERT

construction of the Winooski River Footbridge. Sam worked tirelessly alongside close friends Pat O'Brien, Kurt Melin, and me lifting and hoisting heavy steel beams, tightening giant bolts with giant wrenches, and swaying in a worker's basket suspended far above the river in blazing heat and biting cold.

In January, 2015, Sam began working on a large maple sugaring operation with close friend and former GMC field staff member Chris Redder in Belvidere, Vermont. He spent the winter trudging miles through waist-deep snow, stringing sap lines and tapping trees in subzero temperatures.

Sam began feeling abdominal pain that spring, and was soon diagnosed with stage four colon cancer. He courageously carried on doing what he had always done, making the most of every moment and continuing to love everyone in his life. Over the summer and fall he spent

his time canoeing, woodworking, hanging out on the coast of Maine, and traveling to visit friends in the Southwest.

On August 1, 2015, Sam and Darcy celebrated their love and life together by hosting a beautiful outdoor Vermont-style wedding at their home in Morristown.

Everyone who met Sam was drawn to his compassionate demeanor and love of life. He never hesitated to take the time to help a friend or stranger. Even as a child Sam had a loving heart and he remained in adulthood very close to many childhood friends.

Sam will always hold a special place in the hearts of those who knew him, and his memory will remain an inspiration for personal growth, compassion and appreciation of every moment.

—MATT WELS,  
WINOOSKI RIVER FOOTBRIDGE  
PROJECT MANAGER



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

# Evolution of the Trail Backpack

I remember my first “real” backpack well. It was a blue nylon external frame pack with two large side pockets and a top flap that lashed to metal buckles. It sticks in my memory because it coincided with my first ever overnight backpacking trip: a hike up Snake Mountain when I was ten that was both inspirational and transformative. Something about the freedom of carrying what I needed to get by on my back appealed to me then (and still does).

Today backpacks give us the freedom to enjoy the outdoors, but the first backpacks were made for more than just recreation.

The history of humans carrying things is almost as old as humans. Digging into the origins of the backpack provides a glimpse of human innovation and self-reliance, from early hunting and gathering to military activity. Where you find humans, you find technology for carrying things—baskets, shoulder bags or wooden pack frames. While one of the earliest forms of the backpack—the **PACK BASKET** used for hunting—dates back thousands of years, the modern pack for overnight trail backpacking had its beginning near the time the Green Mountain Club and Long Trail originated.

The 1920 *Long Trail Guidebook* characterizes the Long Trail as a camping proposition, and recommends a “Poirier pack, size 2, Grade A” or an army knapsack. Canadian Camille Poirier, living in Duluth, Minnesota, patented the Poirier pack—also called the **DULUTH PACK**—in 1882 as a portage pack for wilderness canoe trips. The pack employed a tumpline, a strap to transfer weight from the shoulders to the forehead, a technique copied from Native Americans. It also had a sternum strap to keep the pack close to the body. The Duluth Pack is still available, its design very little changed. It resembles canvas rucksacks popular in Europe, although most of those have frames or stays.

The development of the Poirier pack paralleled the development of wooden frame packs in Norway in the late 1800s. The *sekk med*

*meis*, or backpack with frame, was a wooden frame with leather shoulder straps. A canvas pack sack similar to a rucksack was lashed to the wooden frame. Later, wooden pack frames in Norway were replaced with lightweight integrated metal frames and canvas bags produced by the Bergen Company. The **BERGEN PACK** became popular among hikers looking for comfort and durability.

The European **HAVERSACK** got its name from the havercake—a dense oat-based bread—customarily carried in a small shoulder bag. The original haversack inspired military haversacks, extensively used from before World War I through World War II. These packs saw a second act in hiking and backpacking.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT

The **TRAPPER NELSON**, common from the early to mid-1900s, was one of the first commercial frame packs in the U.S. It had a wooden frame with a full-length stretched canvas back band for comfort and stability, with a canvas pack bag attached by metal pins through grommets. This created an air space between the back band and the pack bag, and allowed the bag to be removed easily from the frame, so the frame could be used for other kinds of loads. You can see versions of the Bergen frame and the Trapper Nelson at the backpack display on the second floor of the GMC Visitor Center.

A few backpackers from the 1950s through the 1970s used U.S. Army World War II surplus pack frames made of thin bent plywood, which were cheap and indestructible but heavy. Others favored lighter British Army surplus pack frames made of formed aluminum sheet and equipped with an array of straps for fastening loads. Users heard a discordant wailing on windy days, as air whistled through the many large holes that perforated frame members to reduce weight.

Zippers and nylon fabric arrived in the first half of the twentieth century. But the major innovation was the pack designed by Dick and Nena Kelty in 1952. The Kelty featured an aluminum frame, light nylon pack sack and padded shoulder straps. A nylon webbing hip belt unfortunately lacked the generous padding of modern belts. Dick cut, bent and welded aircraft aluminum tubing for the frame, and Nena sewed the pack sack and shoulder straps.

Packs with aluminum frames arrived on the Long Trail before the fishers that the state of Vermont reintroduced to cull porcupines. Loud rasping sounds sometimes awakened old timers who forgot to hang their packs as porkies chewed on the frames, attracted by traces of salt left in the metal tubing by the aluminum anodizing process.

In the 1950s most Poirier packs and military surplus packs gave way to medium sized knapsacks and frame packs with leather straps. A few fans kept carrying the pack baskets they had always liked. Padded hip belts didn't become common until the 1960s. It is hard to imagine that before the hip belt the tumpline was about the only way to shift weight from one's shoulders.

The eventual development of internal frame packs, padded hip belts, and modern fabrics and fasteners fueled a revolution in packs. Other gear also improved and became lighter, allowing the use of smaller, lighter backpacks, and making multi-day trips more enjoyable and accessible to more people. Ironically, some modern ultralight packs have even returned to a basic frameless rucksack, using a foam sleeping pad for primary support and comfort.

Interest in backpacking on long distance trails like the Long Trail has grown exponentially over the last few years. Continued improvements in backpack design, technology and accessibility will help more people discover the joy the freedom of hiking. But that timeless feeling of travelling through the mountains with everything you need on your back is the same now as it was for backpacking pioneers like John Muir, Benton MacKaye, Earl Schaffer, Grandma Gatewood and Vermont's own Three Musketeers.

—MIKE DeBONIS,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Duluth Style



Haversack Style



Bergen Style Front



Bergen Style Back



Trapper Nelson Style Front



Trapper Nelson Style Back



Pack Basket Style



2014 Pack Basket handmade  
by Mike DeBonis

# Stone, Wood and Iron

*So be sure when you step. Step with care and great tact  
and remember that Life's a Great Balancing Act.*

*Just never forget to be dexterous and deft.*

*And never mix up your right foot with your left.*

—Dr. Seuss, *Oh, The Places You'll Go!*

North of Smugglers' Notch  
photo by Jocelyn Hebert



Long Trail North of Skyline Lodge  
photo by Jocelyn Hebert



The Subway  
photo by John Drew Petersen



Stratton Pond  
photo by Kim Rosenbaum





Rebar south of Appalachian Gap  
photo by Jocelyn Hebert



Puncheon south of Whiteface Shelter  
photo by Jocelyn Hebert



South of The Forehead, Mount Mansfield  
photo by Alan Paschell



Long Trail north of Stratton Firetower  
photo by Kim Rosenbaum

# The Northern Hardwood Forest

The northern hardwood forest is the common forest type below 2,500 feet in Vermont's Green Mountains. Yellow birch, sugar maple, American beech, eastern hemlock and white pine dominate, shading hobblebush, several species of ferns, shining clubmoss, and many species of fungi. Ephemeral spring wild flowers bloom in the short window as snow melts and temperatures become milder, before tree leaves block sunlight from the forest floor. Many species of birds and mammals call the northern hardwood forest home year round.

Here is an introduction to some forest community members.

## Artist's Conk *Ganoderma applanatum*

Artist's conk is a species of polypore, or shelf fungus. It is the fruiting body of a mycelium that grows in both living and dead tissue of several tree species in the northern hardwood forest, causing sapwood and heartwood rot. The visible fruiting body is large, shelf-like,



and woody, and can grow for many years. Spores are released from the underside of the fungus, which also happens to make a good medium for etching or drawing, hence the common name.

## Downy Woodpecker *Picoides pubescens*

The downy woodpecker is North America's smallest woodpecker and a common year round inhabitant of the northern hardwood forest. It is very similar to the hairy woodpecker, but has a smaller bill and lacks black spots on its white tail feathers. Both have a rectangular "white blaze" on the back that makes them easy to identify. The downy woodpecker is a noisy bird with a distinct "whinnying" call. It taps and drums on trees as it searches for insects or excavates a nest cavity or winter roost. Its small size enables acrobatic foraging, climbing and perching on small branches using its stiff tail feathers for balance. Like other woodpeckers it undulates as it flies through the forest from tree to tree.

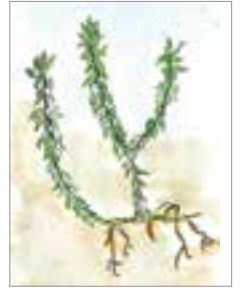


## Shining Clubmoss *Lycopodium lucidulum*

Shining clubmoss, an evergreen relative of ferns, is found among the leaf litter of the forest floor. Underground horizontal rhizomes enable it to spread into mats or tufts of this small but conspicuous plant. Clubmosses have a primitive reproductive strategy that involves the release of spores that must land on wet surfaces for a complete life cycle, limiting where it can grow and reproduce. An ancient plant, clubmosses evolved around 410 million years ago, and grew in much larger form in the coal swamps of the Carboniferous period, from 360 to 300 million years ago.

On your next hike examine the shelf-like artist's conk fungi up close. Look for the white blaze on the back of the downy woodpecker. Imagine giant prehistoric animals walking among the giant prehistoric forms of clubmosses as you pass its diminutive modern form on the forest floor. You will start to notice the many animals and plants of our Long Trail community, and the more you know about it, the more fascinating it becomes.

—SQUIRREL JOHNSON



## Profile on the North American Beaver by Squirrel Johnson

**Trail Name:** *Castor canadensis*

**Gear:** Large incisors (front teeth) for felling trees, webbed hind feet for swimming; flat, leathery tail for steering underwater, storing fat, and slapping to startle potential predators and warn other beavers of them.

**Shelter:** Freestanding lodges made of branches, logs and mud, or dug-out bank dens, with tunnels that exit underwater in both cases. Usually built in a pond, often created by the beavers by damming a stream; or in or on the banks of larger rivers.

**Trail Food:** Leaves, inner bark, and twigs of favorite trees including birch, aspen, red maple, alder and cottonwood. Also ferns and aquatic plants.

**Water Treatment:** None. Beavers often carry the waterborn protozoan parasite *Giardia*, which contaminates water. Always carry a filter or water treatment drops while hiking in beaver country!

**Community:** Beavers often mate for life, and kits remain with adults until they are almost two years old. Sometimes muskrats live with a beaver family in their lodge, making it a full shelter!

**Pace:** Slow waddlers on land, but fast swimmers in water.

**Favorite Long Trail Section:** The pond south of Tillotson Camp, Griffith Lake and other southern ponds, or any section with streams and bogs.

**Trail Magic:** Beaver dams create ponds where beavers build their lodges, store food, and are safe from predators. This is trail magic for many other animals including ducks, wading birds, muskrats, frogs and turtles, because it gives them an aquatic habitat and food.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY SQUIRREL

# Bear Necessity



Persistent and habituated black bears on Vermont's Long Trail are a relatively new problem. It's not surprising, however, given the growing number of hikers and the state's healthy bear population.

Black bears are opportunists, and they combine a varied and omnivorous diet, curiosity, intelligence and an extremely sensitive sense of smell with enormous strength. Public recreational land often is bear habitat. Conflicts with hikers happen when bears discover overnight sites can be food sources, especially in years of scarce natural food. Bear conflicts have required sophisticated management in other parts of the Northeast, so the Green Mountain Club has learned and borrowed much from management strategies in the White Mountains and the Adirondacks.

Last summer GMC, the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation (FPR), scrambled to contain bear problems at Camel's Hump State Park. Hikers encountered bears repeatedly at Hump Brook Tenting Area and at Montclair Glen Lodge, and often sighted them on the trail.

When bears began entering empty tents during caretakers' days off, steps were taken to maximize the safety of hikers, campsites, and the bears. Hump Brook was closed for nearly three weeks from mid-July to early August, and Montclair Glen Lodge was closed for the first week of August.

Following site visits our construction crew, led by Kurt Melin, installed steel bear

boxes with help from the Vermont Department of Public Safety (DPS). Special thanks to Jay Nerenberg from FPR, Forrest Hammond from DFW, Neil Van Dyke from DPS, and GMC Field Supervisor Kevin Hudnell, who were all very helpful.

Camel's Hump Lead Caretaker Camille Robertson wrote a caretaker guide that focused on food storage and public education. Caretakers monitored the situation, demonstrated best practices, and informed visitors, stressing the importance

of following bear safety guidelines and what to do in a bear encounter. They had air horns and bear spray as last resorts.

Caretakers' advice to hikers included:

- Cook at picnic tables, not in shelters or at tent platforms.
- Store all food, trash, and aromatic items (including toiletries, sunscreen, and beverage containers) in the bear box.
- Dump all dishwater at the wash pit; remove scraps from the screen, and store them with other trash.
- Close the shelter securely at night and when leaving in the morning.
- Report bear sightings, behavior and incidents to the GMC.

The Green Mountain Club will continue educating Vermont hikers about bear safety in the hope that an informed public using correct food storage methods will enable bears and hikers to coexist. Coexistence requires adjustments by land managers, caretakers and hikers, but we believe bears can be kept wild.

For more information about black bears in Vermont, check out the Department of Fish and Wildlife web site, [www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com).

## Spring Taylor Series Show

BENJAMIN KILHAM, a wildlife biologist from Lyme, New Hampshire, will present: *Out on a Limb: What Black Bears Have Taught Me about Intelligence and Intuition* (See description on page 28.)

**Friday, April 22, 7:00 p.m.**

**GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center**



# A Collective Connection to

“Reaching a homeostasis between land manager and group users will be crucial to preserving public land in the coming years,” said my colleague Laura Kathrein from the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC). This brilliantly summarized our presentation at the Outdoor Orientation Programs Symposium last April.

Laura and I had traveled to Becket, Massachusetts to discuss group use of trails and campsites in the Green and White Mountains with college trip leaders and program directors from schools throughout the Northeast. The symposium’s subject was maximizing the group bonding benefits of wilderness orientation trips. Although ours was the only presentation representing land management, we were received with great interest by many orientation program directors and trip leaders.

Our goal was to highlight GMC’s and AMC’s group notification systems

and to introduce the Appalachian Trail Conservancy’s new *Organized Group Use Manual*. Although the manual is intended more for land managers than trail users, the fact that there has been a concerted focus on group use throughout the eastern hiking community is a tell-tale sign that balancing different kinds of use in the backcountry with environmental best practices is becoming increasingly critical.

Efforts to influence group use in the Green Mountains began in the 1990s, when GMC started to build an outreach program based on the AMC’s program in the White Mountains. Of course,

groups had been using the Long Trail for decades, from Boy Scout troops to summer camps. But before the late 1980s there were few enough of them that field staff had not sensed a need for a formal program to address organized group use.

The history of group use on the Long Trail is important to keep in mind when thinking about the future of groups on the trail. Although people have enjoyed hiking together for a long time, group use was not as prolific in the 1930s as it is now and the treadway and overnight sites were not created with groups in mind. The Long Trail was built to make Vermont’s mountains accessible while providing



# THE LAND

a peaceful, largely solitary escape from the bustle of society. As Roy Buchanan famously put it, “Shelters should be big enough for six hikers or six porcupines, but not both at the same time.”

The goals of group users and those of the outreach programs differ somewhat but they are not exclusive (unlike the goals of hikers and porcupines). Many groups strive to help participants bond with each other and to offer a chance to learn new skills and enjoy the outdoors. The goal of group outreach programs is to educate groups on minimum impact practices to protect the trail for future generations of users. The key for creating the homeostasis that Laura spoke about at the conference is to find the common ground between those goals—that being, I think, a connection with the land.

A connection to the land that the trail winds through has been the commonality among all the trail users I have met. In my first season caretaking at GMC I learned that, despite the differing philosophies and opinions of trail users, all share a love of the outdoors. As obvious as that might seem, I had never carved that conclusion

from my outdoor experiences until it became my job as Group Outreach Coordinator to find common ground and translate that love of the outdoors and connection to the land into a sense of responsibility for the land.

As the trail becomes more crowded it will be especially important for organized groups to develop a sense of stewardship since they tend to have a disproportionate impact on the land compared with individual users. The social and environmental impacts from group use is apparent to any hiker who has ever shared an overnight site with a group: they need larger cooking areas and more tent space. And, inevitably, ten people working together make more noise than ten traveling independently.

But if groups practice Leave No Trace principles and common courtesies, I believe the impact, if not entirely negated, is well worth the huge benefit group users take from their backcountry experiences: new friends, boosted confidence, and an appreciation for backcountry recreation to name a few.

The responsibility to continue

improving hiking and camping techniques does not rest solely on group users. Land managers must also help reduce adverse impacts of groups. In the last two years recorded group use on the Long Trail has jumped from about seventy groups to eighty-five, and the White Mountains present an even more extreme example of the trend. Land managers will have to design sites and privies to accommodate groups, and most importantly, will have to increase education for all hikers.

As more people head for the hills and the woods, everyone will have to work together to learn how to balance the amount and types of activity with preservation of the backcountry environment and the coveted wilderness experience.

—CAITLIN MILLER, VHCB AMERICORPS  
GROUP OUTREACH COORDINATOR

*If you are planning to take a group on the Long Trail please visit our website to learn more about group use guidelines and GMC's group notification system. [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org)*



ILLUSTRATION BY JENNY MONTAGNE

# Search & Rescue in the Green Mountains

The 2015 hiking season produced fairly typical search and rescue incidents. Here are some notable ones:

## Lower Leg Injuries

Lower leg injuries are the commonest injuries requiring a rescue. In June a hiker injured an ankle on the Long Trail north of Smugglers' Notch. The party made every effort to self-evacuate, which is always best if it can be done safely. Often rescuers simply wrap an ankle, offer a hiking pole or a shoulder to hang on to, and provide moral support. An injured leg that can bear weight seldom requires a full litter evacuation, so a well-prepared group can often handle it. In this case the terrain was too steep and treacherous, so a litter was needed.

In August a hiker suffered a probable leg fracture on Camel's Hump, fortunately fairly close to the parking lot, so rescue was quick. This was not so on Columbus Day, when a woman wrenched her knee just below the summit of Mount Hunger. While not seriously injured, she could not stand up, and the summit pitch was steep with several vertical sections of ledge to negotiate. Twenty rescuers finished a difficult and technical rescue in six hours just as darkness fell.



## Anxiety Attack on Camel's Hump

On August 20 two young women from New York City tried to climb Camel's Hump via the Forest City-Burroughs Trail loop. Near the summit one woman froze on a short section of exposed ledge on the Long Trail just above treeline south of the summit, and could not be talked down by phone. Fortunately at dusk a passing thru-hiker was able to assist the woman down. Once moving she was directed to the quickest and easiest route, where she met rescuers who helped her off the mountain.

Thousands of hikers traverse this section of trail every season. This young woman was on her first hike and became unnerved by exposure and high winds, resulting in a panic attack. Most of us are probably surprised this could happen on such a popular section of the Long Trail, but I suspect we, too, have had moments of high anxiety when pushing our limits on challenging terrain.

## A Cell Phone is not a Headlamp!

At least five hiking parties without headlamps called 911 last season after sunset. All had tried to use their cell phone as flashlights. The pros and cons of backcountry cell phone use is a subject for another day, but the increasingly common assumption that a cell phone can light a trail is a serious problem for rescuers now. A phone can help you find a keyhole in the dark, but is virtually worthless when trying to navigate for an extended period of time on a rough trail.

## Map Anyone?

It's surprising how many people hike with no map, especially those unfamiliar with an area. Carrying a map (and a headlamp) would have helped resolve these recent search and rescue incidents:

- A couple at Stratton Mountain took the short hike from the top of the gondola to the fire tower, but then headed north on the Long Trail. Several miles later they realized they did not know where they were, had no way to find out, and were too exhausted to retrace their steps. A local rescue team was called to help them out of the woods.
- In October a brother and sister hiked to Sterling Pond from Smugglers' Notch. The brother went ahead on the return, but his sister never reached the notch. He reached her by phone but she was unable to describe where she was. Rescuers determined that she had missed the cut-off onto the Sterling Pond Trail, and had gone several miles south on the Long Trail. By this time it was almost dark, she lost the trail, and required rescue.
- In a somewhat unusual case, a family visiting Stowe looked for an easy hike to do with young children. They were directed to scenic Bingham Falls, a walk of about a quarter mile. Unfortunately they parked at the wrong trailhead, and started up the Long Trail northward from Smugglers' Notch. Several hours and 2.5 miles later they had a "we're not in Kansas anymore" moment and called for help! Rescuers were perplexed that anyone would keep hiking several miles up challenging terrain when they expected a short downhill walk to a waterfall, but the family was extremely gracious with appreciation!

—NEIL VAN DYKE

*Neil Van Dyke is the search and rescue coordinator for the Vermont Department of Public Safety. He was a founding member of Stowe Mountain Rescue in 1980, has served as president of the national Mountain Rescue Association, and is a former GMC board member.*



## Increasing Trail Use

GMC field staff will soon return to the Long Trail, probably to increased use there, given the attention the Appalachian Trail (AT) has received as a result of the movie *A Walk in the Woods* and of complaints about hiker celebrations on the summit of Mount Katahdin. We hope increased trail use means higher trail awareness. Leave No Trace (LNT) and the GMC supported HikeSafe programs provide guidance for everyone, from thru-hikers to the beginners we all once were.

## Carry In Carry Out

I want to highlight the Leave No Trace principle, “Dispose of waste properly,” which unfortunately has been abbreviated to backcountry sanitation only. Which. Is. Very. Important. But there’s more: Litter! Before Leave No Trace, we broadcast a thriving “Carry In, Carry Out” message throughout New England and beyond. This message has been buried by Leave No Trace under mounds of you-know-what. So, please carry out what you carry in. Take a plastic bag for trash you find along the trail, at campsites, or even at trailheads. Not only does trash not belong in the backcountry, it attracts wildlife, including troublesome black bears. The club is looking into ways to reinforce the Carry In, Carry Out message at campsites and other popular areas.

## Secondhand Smoke

Last summer we received complaints about smoking in Long Trail shelters. Shelters are public spaces, most are on public land, and they are covered by laws recognizing the danger of first- and secondhand smoke. Please be considerate of all hikers and their need for clean air, especially after a day of exertion on the Long Trail. The Vermont Department of Public Health asked us to post “No Smoking” signs in our enclosed shelters, and even volunteered to install them.

## Poison Ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*)

I can identify poison ivy, but I still spent much of the summer with a poison ivy rash, which is actually a chemical burn. Poison ivy is uncommon along the Long

Trail and Appalachian Trail, but does exist in lower elevation places like river crossings, so please stay on the trail. *Toxicodendron radicans* is likely to spread as the climate warms. It’s worth knowing how to identify it. This sounds like a thinly veiled plug for a botany book or GMC’s *Nature Guide to the Long Trail* or surfing the internet. It is. Learn a few plants that grow along the trail. You’ll be glad you did.

## Rerouting the Sherburne Pass Trail

Scouting excursions south of Sherburne Pass have located the Long Trail route that was abandoned when the Trail was routed further west to accommodate ski resort expansion. It was a graded woods road that remains easy to find if you know where to look, and it is drier and less rocky than today’s Sherburne Pass Trail up the north slope of Pico Peak. We hope to move that trail onto the original LT route after we complete a permit process associated with our trail easement.

## Phase II of the Winooski Valley Long Trail Relocation

The Winooski Valley Long Trail relocation advanced last season with the opening of the river walk paralleling River Road in Bolton. Last fall field staff members Kevin Hudnell and Matt Shea worked with Ken Brown and Jay Nerenberg of the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation to lay out a flagline from Gleason Brook west to the boat landing on the Winooski River. We’ve been working on this since 2012, and we are closing in on a good route. We plan to finish it this spring, and walk it with Montpelier Section volunteer trail maintainers. Once finalized, we’ll have agency specialists review it, and then seek funding to cut the trail in 2017.

—DAVE HARDY,  
DIRECTOR OF TRAIL PROGRAMS

The Green Mountain Club in partnership with Vermont Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation, the U.S. Forest Service and the Vermont Department of Public Safety, supports HikeSafe, a program developed in the White Mountains of New Hampshire to teach or remind hikers how to stay safe in the backcountry. You are responsible for yourself, so be prepared:

- **With knowledge and gear.** Become self reliant by learning about the terrain, conditions, local weather and your equipment before you start.
- **To leave your plans.** Tell someone where you are going, the trails you are hiking, when you will return and your emergency plans.
- **To stay together.** When you start as a group, hike as a group, end as a group. Pace your hike to the slowest person.
- **To turn back.** Weather changes quickly in the mountains. Fatigue and unexpected conditions can also affect your hike. Know your limitations and when to postpone your hike. The mountains will be there another day.
- **For emergencies.** Even if you are headed out for just an hour, an injury, severe weather or a wrong turn could become life threatening. Don’t assume you will be rescued; know how to rescue yourself.
- **To share the hiker code with others.**

For more information check out [www.hikesafe.com](http://www.hikesafe.com)





## Land Conservation Victories!

We celebrated two significant land conservation victories at the end of 2015: Protection of the Long Trail and Appalachian Trail in Vermont, and the reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

### Long Trail/Appalachian Trail protected in Pownal and Stamford

Almost a mile of the Long Trail and Appalachian Trail in Stamford and Pownal, Vermont, has been protected by adding 378 acres of land to the Green Mountain National Forest. In addition to protecting an important section of trail, the property provides access to the Broad Brook Trail and Seth Warner Shelter.

This project was made possible by The Trust for Public Land and the U.S. Forest Service, with help from the Green Mountain Club. The Green Mountain Club and the Trust for Public Land formed the Green Mountain Partnership a few years ago to help support critical land protection projects like the one in Pownal.

The partnership gives GMC access to the resources of a national land conservation organization with strong land protection capacity, and gives the Trust for Public Land access to GMC's strong Vermont roots and local conservation leaders. The partnership also includes the Catamount Trail Association, which joined in 2015. As we work to protect the remaining vulnerable miles of the Long Trail, the ability to work with land conservation partners is very important.

### Land and Water Conservation Fund Reauthorized

The \$295,000 needed by the Green Mountain National Forest to acquire the property in Pownal and Stamford came from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the federal government's main source of money for protecting land. As we reported in the winter issue of *Long Trail News*, authorization for the Land and Water Conservation Fund expired on September 30, 2015. We are very pleased to report that it was reauthorized and funded to \$450 million on December 18, 2015, when Congress passed its \$1.8 trillion omnibus spending package for the 2016 fiscal year.

—MIKE DeBONIS,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Stone Hut Fire

On Christmas Eve morning, 2015, the Stone Hut on Mount Mansfield was found engulfed in flames. Pieces of firewood left leaning against the shelter's hot wood stove unattended by renters sparked a fire inside of the building. By the end of the day the structure was gutted.

The Stone Hut is not a Long Trail shelter and you could hike the trail end-to-end without even knowing it exists. Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s as a warming hut for skiers on Mansfield, it is owned and managed by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation. In winter, Smugglers' Notch State Park rented it by lottery as the preeminent ski in-ski out accommodation in the state.

In summer, however, it has housed GMC summit caretakers since the inception of the ranger-naturalist program in the 1970s. About 200 caretakers have been stationed at Stone Hut, and it is a rare member of GMC field staff who does not have at least one story that begins "We were up at Stone Hut for the evening..." I can still remember my



PHOTO BY JOCELYN HEBERT

first day as a caretaker, newly introduced to Mansfield and the GMC. I entered the Stone Hut, and discovered that, rather than the rugged living I had anticipated, I would be living in a palatial abode, complete with mattresses and a wood stove.

How we regret that wood stove now.

Hiker shelters have often been lost to fire. Long Trail lodges and camps started burning before the trail was even finished, and over the last century more than thirty have burned. Misuse of the very wood stoves that made them so appealing destroyed many enclosed structures, including iconic Taylor Lodge. When the second Taylor Lodge burned in 1977 (the first burned in the 1950s), the club began removing wood stoves from the Long Trail.

Losing Stone Hut hits particularly close to home. But granite does not burn, and Stone Hut can be rebuilt, in time. The state is assessing the integrity of the surviving stonework, and is pursuing all options for restoration of the building. I'll avoid the obvious phoenix metaphor. Suffice to say that everyone at GMC hopes a new Stone Hut will rise from the ashes.

—KEVIN HUDNELL, 2015 FIELD SUPERVISOR



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



**Saturday, March 26, 10:00 a.m.–noon**  
**GMC Visitor Center, Route 100, Waterbury Center**

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



Head to Laughing Moon Chocolates in Stowe between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to meet the Easter bunny.

The hunt starts at 10:00 a.m. sharp and lasts until all the eggs are found. FREE. Open to the public.

## Vermont Women's History Month



The Vermont Historical Society, the Vermont Commission on Women and the Green Mountain Club will present *Green Mountain Girls: Women of the Long Trail*, a lecture and slide show by historian Reidun Nuquist.

Kathleen Norris, Catherine Robbins and Hilda M. Kurth, dubbed "The Three Musketeers" by contemporaries, were the first women to hike the Long Trail. They became a

national sensation. In the century since then many other women have followed in their footsteps, as trail workers and leaders of the Green Mountain Club as well as hikers.

Join us as we celebrate Vermont Women's History Month and the pioneering roles of many Vermont women. The event is free thanks to co-sponsorship by the Cabot Creamery Cooperative and Denis, Ricker & Brown.

**Thursday, March 24, 7:00 p.m.**

**GMC Visitor Center, Route 100, Waterbury Center**

*Reidun Nuquist writes frequently on the history of the Long Trail. A Montpelier resident, she has worked as a librarian at the Vermont Historical Society and the University of Vermont's Bailey/Howe Library.*

Questions? Contact Amanda Gustin, public program coordinator for the Vermont Historical Society, at (802) 828-2180 or [amanda.gustin@vermonthistory.org](mailto:amanda.gustin@vermonthistory.org).



## Vehicle Donations Needed!

Twenty-one years ago the Long Trail Patrol crew was probably rockin' to Pearl Jam as they bounced along gravel roads to trailheads in GMC's revered red Dodge pickup, affectionately named Dakota.

But with 203,691 miles of rough road behind him, Dakota slowed to his final STOP last field season. His rusted undercarriage, faded old-school logo and torn burgundy seats were signs of a job well done. Thank you Dakota. Long Trail Patrol members will miss commuting to their 'office' with you.

Now that Dakota has retired, 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).

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB'S  
**106<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

**Saturday, June 11**

Lyndon State College, Lyndonville, Vermont

**T**he Green Mountain Club's 106th Annual Meeting, hosted by the Northeast Kingdom Section, will be held Friday and Saturday, June 10-11, at Lyndon State College in Lyndonville. It will be a wonderful opportunity for club members, volunteers, friends and staff to share the year's club news and celebrate our work!

Vermont's mythic Northeast Kingdom will be the dramatic backdrop for the weekend's festivities and the sweeping mountain views will inspire you to join a group outing.

On Friday there will be a welcoming reception on the John Marshall Observation Tower with hors d'oeuvres and drinks, a photo display and live music.

Start Saturday with a complimentary continental breakfast, and sign up for afternoon outings before attending the business meeting at 9:00 a.m.

We'll grab lunch before heading out on one of the more than dozen scheduled hikes and paddles around the Kingdom. Reconvene on campus for a buffet dinner at 6:00 p.m.

And you won't want to miss writer, photographer and field naturalist Bryan Pfeiffer present "The Wild Trail" after dinner.



ILLUSTRATION BY CINDY GRIFFITH

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Friday, June 10

**10:00 a.m.**

**Work hike on Bald Mountain Trail.** Meet at the Westmore Town Office on Hinton Hill Road just above Lake Willoughby. We will do basic trail maintenance and blazing to the summit fire tower. Bring lunch, liquids, work gloves and bug repellent, and dress for the weather; GMC will provide tools. Contact [gmc@greenmountainclub.org](mailto:gmc@greenmountainclub.org) by June 8 to sign up. Workers will be back in time for the reception.

**5:30–8:00 p.m.**

**Reception.** Hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, music and photo display.

### Saturday, June 11

**8:00–9:00 a.m.**

**Registration and continental breakfast.** Sign up for afternoon activities.

**9:30–11:30 a.m.**

**Annual Meeting.** Moore Community Room.

**11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.**

**Lunch.** Bagged lunch provided by Lyndon State College. By reservation only.

**11:45 a.m.–1:00 p.m.**

**Board of Directors meeting.** Classroom 106.

**12:30 a.m.**

**Information table** with descriptions of activities and local hikes.

**1:00 p.m.**

**Afternoon outings.** (*See list at right.*) Meet in the parking lot. Leaders will identify trips and set up carpools. Bring water and appropriate gear. Distances are round-trip.

**6:00 p.m.**

**Dinner.** Catered by Lyndon State College. By reservation only.

**6:45 p.m.**

**Raffle** winners announced.

**7:00–8:30 p.m.**

**Speaker:** Writer, photographer and field naturalist Bryan Pfeiffer: "The Wild Trail."

See page 29  
for  
Registration  
Form

## The Wild Trail

With every step on the Long Trail, or most anywhere green in Vermont, we journey through a remarkable drama of wild places and events. Nature plays like Shakespeare among plants and animals: birth, growth, courtship, reproduction, warfare, senescence and death, often unnoticed by even the most seasoned hiker.

With vivid images and tales from the frontiers of science and the trail, field naturalist Bryan Pfeiffer brings the drama indoors for a revealing evening. You'll meet a songbird weighing a fraction of an ounce making one of the most ambitious and audacious migrations of any animal on the planet. A trailside butterfly marked in shocking orange and lime green will weaken your knees. And a simple dragonfly will cause you to question our notion of human dominance on Earth. We'll even discover some bizarre mating up there in the Green Mountains. (This program is rated PG for "Politely Graphic.")



### Bryan Pfeiffer

A writer, photographer and field naturalist, Bryan Pfeiffer navigates the wild places where people and nature converge. That includes the Long Trail, which Bryan has hiked two and two-thirds times. Birds and insects drive many of Bryan's outdoor aspirations. But he finds pleasure in whatever swims, slithers, crawls, walks, hops, flies, sits, grows or decays along life's long green path. Thus Bryan is easily distracted. Just ask his students.

Bryan also teaches writing to ecologists at the University of Vermont. His essays have appeared in *Orion*, *Aeon Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *Field & Stream*, *The Progressive*, *Northern Woodlands* and lots of other places. Along the way Bryan has been or still is a bread baker, a pot washer, a firefighter, a mercenary writer, a beat reporter and a consulting biologist chasing birds and insects. Find him online at [www.bryanpfeiffer.com](http://www.bryanpfeiffer.com) or behind a plate of eggs and home fries with friends at his favorite greasy-spoon diner.

## AFTERNOON OUTINGS AT 1:00 P.M.

- ▶ **Perry Holbrook State Park.** A hike with three beautiful ponds and an overlook in the state park on Route 122, Sheffield. Easy, 3 miles.
- ▶ **Burke Mountain Cross Country ski trails.** Loop hike on the trails. Easy, 3 miles.
- ▶ **Long Pond Trail.** Hike to the summit cabin on Bald Mountain. Moderate to difficult, 4.4 miles.
- ▶ **Middle Mountain, Unknown Pond.** Loop hike. Moderate to difficult, approximately 7 miles.
- ▶ **Bluff Mountain.** Hike the Community Trail. Easy to moderate, 3.4 miles.
- ▶ **Wheeler Mountain Road.** Casual walk on the road with a short spur to Moose Mountain lookout continuing to Wheeler Pond and the camps. Easy, 4 miles.
- ▶ **Willoughby State Forest.** CCC road walk, two miles of which is uphill. Easy, 4 miles.
- ▶ **Mount Hor.** Hike the Herbert Hawkes Trail. Beautiful views of Lake Willoughby. Easy, 2.4 miles (OR 6.4 miles combined with Willoughby State Forest CCC road walk above).
- ▶ **Burke Mountain.** Hike the Red Trail to the CCC road and on to the J-Bar Trail for beautiful views of Willoughby Gap. Easy, 3 miles.
- ▶ **Kirby Mountain.** Bushwack on old logging roads. Moderate, 5 miles.
- ▶ **Unknown Pond Trail.** Hike to Headwaters Camp. Easy to Moderate, 4.6 miles.
- ▶ **Mount Pisgah.** Hike the North Trail to the South Trail along Lake Willoughby including beautiful views of the lake from overlooks. Moderate, 4.2 miles. Car spot.
- ▶ **Haystack Mountain.** Hike the South Trail to an overlook with views of Bald Mountain, Burke Mountain and Lake Willoughby. Easy, 3.3 miles.
- ▶ **Wheeler Mountain.** Hike to the summit. Spectacular views. Moderate, 2.6 miles.
- ▶ **Long Pond.** Paddle from the Long Pond Road fishing access on this pristine pond, which sits below Bald and Haystack Mountains, and has an island in the middle.



**Dirt. Rocks. Duff. Crush. Leaves. Sweat. Brush. Organics.  
Brushing. Erosion. Bench cut. Reroute. Dirt. Drainage.**

## REFLECTIONS OF A Volunteer Long Trail Patrol Member

I have never been so dirty and sweaty, and enjoyed it so much, as a volunteer on a trail maintenance crew! Volunteer crews cut trails, build water bars, set steps, move rocks, crush rocks, lop branches, cut trees, dig ditches; get dirty, sweaty, tired, sore; and go back the next day to do it all over again—willingly and without pay!

Last August was my third season for a two-week stint in the woods. My first was with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Konnarock Crew, and the next two were with GMC's Volunteer Long Trail Patrol. A wise crew leader taught me that trails are designed, built, and maintained to "direct people and to direct water." This simple premise—though usually no simple task—keeps the focus of trail maintenance on the protection of the forest, and in protecting the forest we protect the earth.

Each season has added to my knowledge of and respect for building sustainable trails. I have grown to deeply appreciate the hard work of maintainers who care for a specific section of a trail, and of the special crews who tackle more difficult and technical projects.

We all use the phrase "give back" with reference to some aspect of our lives. Grateful for something that has touched our lives, we need a way to do more than just say thank you. Volunteerism is in the DNA of our country; we would not be the U.S.A. without scores of volunteers through the centuries. GMC is just one of many vital organizations that would not survive without volunteers. Volunteers make a difference to communities, the country and the world, not to mention to simple trails through the woods.

I needed to give back to the organizations that protect the trails I have enjoyed as a hiker and backpacker for many years. Donating money is necessary, and it may be easier, but to

get into the woods and dig in the dirt is to truly be a part of the earth's future.

Trail crew volunteers come in all shapes, sizes and ages. Some have years of experience, while others have never been in the woods or even pulled weeds! But all come together to do something significant and worthwhile.

The primary focus from day one is on safety. Injuries anywhere can be serious but



in the backcountry they can be critical. Hard hats, long pants, boots, gloves and protective eyewear quickly become second nature. Handling tools? Better have safety gear in place! Each tool has a purpose, and used correctly has tremendous power, but tools used incorrectly can have devastating results. We're not talking about your ordinary kitchen hammer or screwdriver, these tools are big and often sharp—shovels, hazel hoes, rock bars, loppers, pick mattocks, weed whips, bow saws, folding saws. Sometimes the job requires an axe, sledgehammer, Griphoist, or even a chainsaw. Respect for tools must be absolute. Crew leaders keep a watchful eye, but the bottom line for safety is

personal responsibility.

The spike site (the campsite where the crew eats and sleeps) becomes home away from home. Kitchen and family room under the tarp, your own private bedroom in your tent, and well...the bathroom? Every spike site has a well-dug latrine hiding in the woods! Need water? The stream provides plenty of ice-cold water for drinking and cooking—filtered of course—and there might be a quick swim at the end of the day to freshen up (but not for the faint of heart).

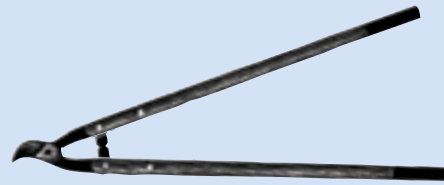
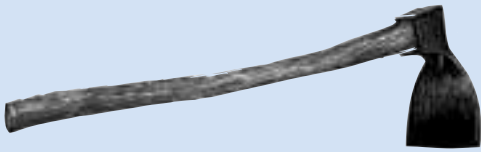
Spike camp is where the crew relaxes, prepares one-pot gourmet meals, tells riddles, plays cards and gets to know one another, building friendships through shared work and vision. Crew members depend on and support one another. We are family for a week or two.

The definition of a volunteer is one who performs a service willingly and without compensation. Well, I think most volunteers do not entirely agree with the "without compensation" part. No, we are not paid with money, but are richly rewarded in dirt, sweat, and the knowledge and satisfaction that we helped create or protect a trail for the future. I want my grandchildren to be able to enjoy those trails and that bit of earth!

Want to make a difference? Be a trail crew volunteer—go get dirty!

—CAROL HANEY, VLTP MEMBER

*Carol Haney considers herself a late-comer to hiking. She began in 2004 and by 2005 knew she wanted to hike the entire Appalachian Trail. She succeeded and is now working on finishing it a second time. Carol has also hiked the Long Trail and the Camino de Santiago in Spain. She works part-time so she can spend more time in the woods and on the trail. Carol is a native of Maine and currently resides in Florida.*



**Deadwood. Tread. Dirt. Mineral soil. Tombstone steps. Gargoyle. Set-in steps. Incline. Sustainable. Dirt.**

## Join the Volunteer Long Trail Patrol!

The Green Mountain Club is looking for Volunteer Long Trail Patrol members. You'll spend one to two weeks working with other volunteers and experienced GMC staff on a trail crew fixing existing trails and building new ones. We'll provide food, group camping gear, tools, training and good times. Weeks 1-6 run Friday through Tuesday. The final sessions, weeks 7 and 8, run Monday through Friday. Apply online at: [www.greenmountainclub.org/vltp](http://www.greenmountainclub.org/vltp).

### BRANCH POND TRAIL

#### Week 1: July 1-5 (Friday-Tuesday)

Tread Improvements to Branch Pond Trail: Strenuous. Crews will install puncheon bridges in soggy sections of trail south of Bourn Pond in Lye Brook Wilderness. While the spike site (base camp) will be close to a road, part of the crew's work will be transporting lumber to the work site. Expect to carry heavy loads. However, also expect opportunities for swimming in Bourn Pond!



### LONG TRAIL-APPALACHIAN TRAIL

#### Weeks 2, 3, 4, 5: July 8-12, July 15-19, July 22-26, July 29-Aug. 2 (Friday-Tuesday)

Tread Improvements to the LT-AT South of Sherburne Pass: Strenuous. Crews will harden tread on the Long Trail-Appalachian Trail west of Pico Peak. Work will include installing crushed rock fill, staircases, and check steps, so expect to use sledgehammers, rock bars and pick-mattocks. The crew will be out during the peak of the AT thru-hiking bubble, so be ready to be thanked by hundreds of long-distance hikers!

### LITTLE POND

#### Weeks 6: Aug. 5-9 (Friday-Tuesday), Week 7: Aug. 15-19 (Monday-Friday)

Trail Improvements in the Bolles Brook and Deerfield River Watersheds: Strenuous. The crew's work will include removing road culverts and standardizing and rehabilitating the trail between Little Pond Road and Little Pond, as well as between Little Pond Road and the LT-AT north of Maple Hill in Glastenbury Wilderness. Camping will be near the shore of beautiful and remote Little Pond.

### HELL HOLLOW

#### Week 8: Aug. 22-26 (Monday-Friday)

Bank Stabilization on Hell Hollow Brook: Strenuous. This crew will build stone staircases to minimize streambank erosion at the LT-AT crossing of Hell Hollow Brook in Glastenbury Wilderness.

### Volunteer Opportunities with GMC

- Trail & Shelter Adopters
- Corridor Monitors
- Bark Mulch Packers
- GMC Outreach Ambassadors
- Publications Committee Members
- Thursday Volunteers

Please visit our web site ([www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org)) or contact Membership and Volunteer Coordinator Jenny Montagne if you are interested in any of these volunteer opportunities. [jmontagne@greenmountainclub.org](mailto:jmontagne@greenmountainclub.org) or (802) 241-8324.



## Board Report



**T**wenty-four Green Mountain Club Board members met on Saturday, January 9, for a short business meeting to review club activities, financial results and budget plans. Yes, the Winooski River footbridge is finished, but its completion is causing a very interesting and challenging transition year, as the staff has shifted focus from the bridge to other needs. Overall, income and expenditures are on budget, with member donations being particularly strong—thank you, members! On the expenditure side, cost containment efforts are yielding results, with reduced office and vehicle expenses. Thank you, staff.

Executive Director Mike DeBonis reported that several excellent candidates from a pool of more than fifty applicants were interviewed for the land stewardship coordinator position. The position will be filled by March.

The board had its first look at the Fiscal Year 2017 draft budget, prepared by staff and the Budget and Finance Committee. It will be another challenging year, but then, when are budgets not tight? The draft includes funding for existing staff positions, a full season for the Long Trail Patrol, caretakers at the usual high-use and fragile summit and pond locations, and a much needed volunteer and education coordinator position that will begin halfway through the fiscal year.

The board approved a motion to accept and promote HikeSafe, a program developed in the White Mountains of New Hampshire to teach or remind hikers how to stay safe in the backcountry. The Green Mountain Club will support HikeSafe in partnership with the Vermont Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation, the U.S. Forest Service and the Vermont Department of Public Safety (state police), which is responsible for search and rescue in Vermont.

After the business meeting, staff members joined the board to discuss GMC governance. President John Page introduced the discussion by describing GMC's transition from a completely volunteer-run organization before the 1970s to one with a dedicated fulltime professional staff as well as a strong and passionate volunteer leadership.

Scoping before the meeting had identified five focus topics: board and staff roles, board structure and practices, committee structure and function, the role of sections in GMC governance, and strategic planning. Participants engaged in group discussions and prioritization exercises to identify opportunities to improve governance. Staff and volunteer teams are now working to address these opportunities, and will bring recommendations to the board for possible changes in policies or bylaws.

—LEE ALLEN, SECRETARY

**AT GMC'S ANNUAL MEETING ON JUNE 11**, four general seats will open on the club's board of directors. General directors represent the Green Mountain Club membership as a whole, and serve with directors elected by the sections. Directors are elected to three-year terms, with a two-term limit. The GMC Nominating Committee presents the following candidates for approval:

- Wayne Krevetski
- Ed O'Leary
- Ira W. Sollace
- Howard E. VanBenthuisen

### How to Vote:

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

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

# ANNUAL ELECTION OF General Directors

## **Wayne Krevetski** of Rutland

has been actively involved in the Green Mountain Club since 2006, and was a member some years before that. He has been lucky enough to thru-hike the Appalachian Trail, hike the Long Trail end-to-end, hike the Northville-Lake Placid Trail in the Adirondacks, and hike the Pacific Crest Trail. He found his AT hike a life changing experience that kindled a desire to give back to the hiking community. It is that desire that fuels his interest in the GMC. In addition to serving on the GMC's Board and its Trail Management Committee, he continues to serve on the Killington Section Board, currently as Vice President. He is a past board member of the Appalachian Long Distance Hiker's Association.



## **Howard E. VanBenthuyzen**

was born in Burlington, Vermont, in 1951, and graduated from South Burlington High School in 1969, the University of Vermont in 1973, and Albany Law School in 1982. He began hiking on the Long Trail with his parents, Ruth and Larry, and also the Boy Scouts in the early 1960s. These experiences blossomed into a lifelong love of hiking, backpacking and the Long Trail.

He took his first long hike in 1970, doing the stretch of the Long Trail/Appalachian Trail from Williamstown to Vermont Route 140 in Wallingford in May. His first of two hikes of the Hundred Mile Wilderness in Maine occurred in May, 1973, and in the summer of 1972 he was the GMC caretaker at the former Gorham Lodge near the summit of Camel's Hump.

In 1973 and 1974 Howard was a summit ranger naturalist (now known as summit caretaker) on Mount Mansfield under the joint auspices of the GMC and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. Since then he has been working on completing the Appalachian Trail in sections, with 540 miles to go. Since 2000 Howard has been the adopter of Hazen's Notch Camp, and since 2015, the adopter of Roundtop Shelter as well. He is a member of the Northern Frontier Section, serves on the GMC Trail Management Committee, carves trail signs for GMC, and is a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club and Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

Howard is a veteran of the U.S. Army and the Vermont Army National Guard, retiring in 2011 as a Lieutenant Colonel, and serving combat deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan. He is a Vermont Superior Court Judge, and lives with his wife Doreen in Hyde Park.



**Ira W. Sollace** is a fifth generation Vermonter whose love of the outdoors began with his dad, who let him tag along on hunting and fishing trips. His grandfather was a Vermont game warden in the 1930s.

Ira has been a member of the Green Mountain Club for more than thirty-five years. He and his wife Cindy have maintained the Dean Trail on Camel's Hump for twenty-five years. This year they also volunteered at Barnes Camp Visitor Center in Stowe. Ira has also recently been appointed to the GMC Budget and Finance Committee.

In 2015 Ira and Cindy finished their second Long Trail end-to-end section hike. Next they plan to complete the Long Trail side trails (having hiked 30 percent of the trails so far) to earn their side-to-side certificate. Ira is a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club's New England Four Thousand Footer Club, and a member of the New Hampshire One-Hundred Highest Club. He has only six peaks remaining to finish the AMC's New England One Hundred Highest list. He is now introducing one of his grandsons to hiking in the Green Mountains.

Ira recently retired from the State of Vermont, where he worked as the director of financial operation for several state entities, including the Agency of Human Services, the state's largest agency. He continues to do financial consulting for state organizations in his spare time.

When he is not hiking Howard can be found cycling, kayaking, woodturning and enjoying his grandsons.



## **Ed O'Leary**

was born and raised in Massachusetts, receiving his B.S. in Forestry from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and a M.A.T. in Earth Science from Bridgewater State College. He worked as a conservation officer for the Town of Duxbury, Massachusetts, Department of Lands and Natural Resources for three years before getting married and moving to Vermont in 1981. He recently retired from the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation after nearly thirty years. As he has for thirty years, he continues to teach natural resources related courses on an adjunct basis for the Community College of Vermont and Johnson State College.

Ed took up hiking in college, having done much summer and winter backpacking in New Hampshire's White Mountains. He and his wife Dale have hiked the Grand Canyon twice, and Ed has rafted the Colorado River and rivers in Maine. He is a member of GMC's Northeast Kingdom Section, and serves on the GMC Camps Committee. He lives in the village of South Albany, where he serves on Albany's planning commission and is its representative to the regional planning commission.



## Section Directory

### Bennington

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

### Brattleboro

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

### Bread Loaf

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

### Burlington

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

### Connecticut

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

### Killington

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

### Laraway

Location: St. Albans area  
Maintenance: Vt. 15 to Vt. 118  
President: Bruce Bushey, (802) 893-2146  
E-mail: brbushey@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 Chilcoot Pass  
President: Reidun Nuquist, (802) 223-3550  
E-mail: arnuquist@comcast.net  
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.nekgmc.org

### Northern Frontier

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

### Ottawaquechee

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

### Sterling

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



### Burlington Section

▲ Burlington Section members (l-r) David Hathaway, Gary Kupperblatt, Holly Creeks, and Phil Hazen pause on the way down Laura Cowles Trail on Mount Mansfield in January.

◀ Meet new Burlington Section Board member Michelle Connor, who succeeded Ted Albers. A native Vermonter, she has worked more than a decade in fundraising and administration at local nonprofits. She thru-hiked the Long Trail in 2008, and looks forward to being more involved with the club and sharing the wonder and joy of nature with others.



### North East Kingdom Section

▲ Northeast Kingdom Section members looking refreshed from a day of hiking Mount Pisgah South Trail are (l-r) Ami English, Angela Marquis, Sue Moore, Jacqueline LeBlanc, Travis DeMent, Jeff Manning and Beth Barnes.





## Ottaquechee Section

◀ Pushups? Or stretching? Annie Janeway and Tom McCleary during an Ottaquechee Section Veterans' Day outing to Paul's Ledges on Windmill Ridge in Athens, Vermont.



## Bread Loaf Section

▲ Bread Loaf Section Trails and Shelters Chair David Morrissey with his dad, giving a pre-trail work prep talk to a dozen volunteers in Ripton in May, 2015. Newly elected in 2015, David led three work days and sixteen volunteers who contributed 120 hours digging out water bars and removing debris.



## Montpelier Section

▲ Montpelier Section Trails and Shelters Coordinator Steve Bailey shows what he can cut with a new small saw.

▶ Montpelier Section members on the new Long Trail relocation along the Winooski River.

# 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 [www.greenmountainclub.org](http://www.greenmountainclub.org) and sign up today.

## OUTDOOR SKILLS

### Introduction to Backpacking

Friday, April 29, 6:30–8:30 p.m.  
GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center

Ever thought about backpacking but weren't sure where to start? Come learn how to get on the trail safely from GMC's experienced education staff! There's so much information today on gear, food, shelters and more, that's it's easy to get lost before you even hit the trail. We'll end the evening by practicing packing for and planning our own backpacking trips!

*Instructor:* Caitlin Miller. *Limit:* 20. *Fee:* \$20. Rain or shine. Please register at least one day in advance.

### End-to-End Panel

Friday, May 6, 5:30–8:30 p.m.  
GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center, and online through Orca Media

Planning to hike the Long Trail or another long distance trail end-to-end this year? If you have questions for hikers who have completed the Long Trail or are looking for tips on equipment, food, and planning join us for this informative evening with a panel of end-to-enders.

*Instructors:* Panel of end-to-enders. *Limit:* 50 onsite. *Fee:* Free. Please register at least two weeks in advance.

### Going Ultralight on a Budget

Tuesday, May 10, 6:30–8:30 p.m.  
GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center

We will begin the workshop learning the basics of ultralight hiking in the backcountry. We'll cover new ultralight techniques that will help you modify essential gear as well as tips for making ultralight gear yourself. We'll end the course making our own alcohol stoves (cans provided)! By the end of the workshop we'll have you prepared to set out on your next hike with a lighter, more efficient pack.

*Instructor:* Caitlin Miller. *Limit:* 15. *Fee:* \$20. Rain or shine. Please register at least one day in advance.





## Introduction to Backpacking for Women Weekend Trip

9:00 a.m. Saturday, June 4–5:00 p.m. Sunday, June 5  
 GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center  
 Hike route to be determined

Want to backpack but don't want to go alone, or just want to learn more? This overnight course will provide a solid foundation: choosing gear, efficiently loading a pack, map reading, route selection, outdoor cooking and using Leave No Trace practices, while having a great time and enjoying the company of adventurous women. Saturday we will meet at the GMC to go over gear and our itinerary, then we will hike up to five miles to our first night's campsite. On Sunday we will pack up and hike up to ten miles out to the car so participants can experience carrying a pack for a full day.

Instructors will provide a suggested gear list two weeks in advance (and lunch and snack suggestions upon request). Using your gear is best, but GMC may be able to lend things you don't have. Pack your own snacks and lunches. Group dinner will be provided Saturday night, as well as group breakfast Sunday morning. Transportation to and from the trailhead will be provided.

*Instructors:* GMC backcountry caretakers Caitlin Miller and Emily Benning. *Limit:* 8. *Minimum:* 4. *Fee:* \$100, student rate \$70. Register at least two weeks in advance.

### GMC Events Calendar

Check the GMC Events Calendar on the website [greenmountainclub.org](http://greenmountainclub.org) for a list of hikes, outings and events throughout Vermont and beyond.

## FIRST AID

### SOLO Wilderness First Aid

Saturday and Sunday  
 April 16 and 17, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.  
 GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center

Saturday and Sunday  
 June 18 and 19, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.  
 GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center

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

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

## YOUTH, FAMILY, AND INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMS

### Young Adventurers Club

The Young Adventurers Clubs (YACs) are a Green Mountain Club program to get kids six and under and their parents outdoors to hike, play, learn, and make friends.

Montpelier YAC:  
[www.gmcmontpelier.org/yac](http://www.gmcmontpelier.org/yac)

Manchester YAC:  
[www.gmcmanchester.org](http://www.gmcmanchester.org)

Bread Loaf YAC:  
[www.gmcbreadloaf.org](http://www.gmcbreadloaf.org)

Burlington YAC:  
[www.gmcburlington.org](http://www.gmcburlington.org)

## GMC Education Program Sponsors

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



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

Phone: (802) 244-7037  
 E-mail: [gmc@greenmountainclub.org](mailto:gmc@greenmountainclub.org)  
 Mail: 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road,  
 Waterbury Center VT 05677

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

## FEES

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

## CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS

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

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

## AGE REQUIREMENT

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



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

*Cecilia Elwert*

Thursday, March 31, 7:00 p.m.  
 Ilsley Public Library, Middlebury  
 Sponsored by the Bread Loaf Section

Join Cecilia as she takes you through her nineteen-day trek to Mount Meru, the fifth highest mountain in Tanzania, and the warmup trek, 19,340-foot Mount Kilimanjaro. While her focus will be on the two major peaks, she will take side trips to Ngorongoro Crater and Tarangire National Parks, and highlight time among the locals: planting trees on property soon to host housing for retired porters, meeting a rifle ranger in Arusha National Park, singing with school children, and hiking with their outstanding guide, Yusuf.

## Ansel and Ansel: Points of Inspiration

*Jack Turner*

Friday, April 15, 7:00 p.m.  
 GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center

Points of Inspiration is a personal account from the families of Ansel F. Hall, the first Chief Naturalist of the National Park Service, and America's iconic photographer, Ansel Adams. It is a tribute to their heritage of vision, innovation, and preservation.

This live program includes fascinating personal stories, historical images, photographs, and important events that shaped much of America's commitment to the environment and conservation. It's also a story of adventure, struggle, determination, ingenuity, and amazing circumstances that still impact the National Park Service and all public lands. For more information check out [landscapesonglass.com](http://landscapesonglass.com).

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

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

## Hike Safe: The Inside Story of Search and Rescue

*Neil Van Dyke*

Friday, April 22, 6:30 p.m.  
 Montshire Museum of Science, Norwich  
 Free; sponsored by the Ottauquechee Section

Ever wonder what happens after something goes wrong in the backcountry? Neil Van Dyke, a former GMC Board member and resident of Stowe, will describe his experience with mountain search and rescue operations, and will discuss mountaineering and hiking safety, with the goal of keeping both outdoor enthusiasts and would-be rescuers out of trouble.

Neil is search and rescue coordinator at the Vermont Department of Public Safety, better known as the Vermont State Police, which is responsible for search and rescue in the state. He also is helping introduce to Vermont the Hike Safe public information program developed in New Hampshire and adopted by the GMC Board.

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

*Benjamin Kilham*

Friday, April 22, 7:00 p.m.  
 GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center

Black bears, often thought to be solitary, have their own types of social behavior that may parallel early human behavior. They show evidence of reciprocal altruism, food sharing, and early group formation of unrelated individuals. Bears can live for as many as forty years, which allows them long term benefits from forming relationships with fellow cooperators.

Ben Kilham is a wildlife biologist from Lyme, New Hampshire. His love of and devotion to black bears has enabled him to study their habits and interact with them for more than twenty years. He and his wife Debra have accepted orphaned bear cubs into their home, and enabled them to return to the wild.

The Taylor Series is sponsored by GMC's fourteen sections, local businesses and other friends of the club. If you are a business owner and would like to become a GMC business member and support this important community outreach effort, please contact Membership & Volunteer Coordinator at [jmontagne@greenmountainclub.org](mailto:jmontagne@greenmountainclub.org) or (802) 241-8324.

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### \$500—\$999 Business Contributors

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 Alchemist Brewery • Rock Art Brewery • Woodchuck Hard Cider • Jay Peak Vermont



## 2016 GMC Annual Meeting Reservation

Annual Meeting is Saturday, June 11. Please register no later than Friday, May 27.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Section: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration (Required)** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

*Includes complimentary continental breakfast*

**Friday Reception:**  Yes, I/we will attend the Friday evening reception (cash bar not included in registration fee)

**Saturday Meals:** Boxed lunches prepared and dinner catered by Lyndon State College

**Lunch:**  Vegetarian  Meat \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10.00

**Dinner:**  Vegetarian  Meat \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$20.00

**Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Lodging (on-site residence hall):** Rita Bole Complex

**Friday night:** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$26.00

**Saturday night:** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$26.00

**Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

■ **Mail payment and form by May 27 to:** Green Mountain Club, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Center, VT 05677

■ **To register by phone:**

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

■ **To register online:**

[www.greenmountainclub.org/meeting](http://www.greenmountainclub.org/meeting)

**Make checks payable to: Green Mountain Club**

Check  MasterCard  Visa  Discover

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 3-digit security code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Reservations and information: [amccoldrivercamp.org](http://amccoldrivercamp.org)



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## A Future Long Trail End-to-End-er?

**M**y daughter Brooke is like most other nine-year-olds—happy, healthy and full of energy. She enjoys many outdoor activities, including horseback riding, golf, downhill skiing, snowshoeing, fishing, hunting, and these days, hiking.

Since I became a member of the Green Mountain Club in 2013 I have hiked with the Northeast Kingdom Section, completed sections of the Long Trail, and climbed a few peaks in New Hampshire's White Mountains. But it wasn't until one of Brooke's teachers sent home a book by Patricia Ellis Herr titled *Up: A Mother and Daughter's Peakbagging Adventure*, that I was inspired to hike with Brooke.

Brooke and I read the chapter book together almost nightly, learning about the challenges and achievements the mother and her five-year-old encountered while peakbagging. It triggered discussions of what to do in unexpected situations, like when the little girl left the trail and was briefly lost. I told Brooke that talking at home or in class about what to do when things go wrong is one thing, but being prepared for a real life mishap is another.

We talked about always taking enough gear (and the proper gear) and enough food and water to spend a night in the woods, even if uncomfortably. I showed her how to use a striker with cotton balls and Vaseline to start a fire, and how to build a shelter of random branches and brush. She loves to practice these skills at home.

At seven Brooke started hiking small mountains like Moose Mountain on NEK Section outings. At first I hesitated to bring such a young child on a public hike, because I wasn't sure how others in the group would feel about it. But the leader graciously welcomed both of us. I told Brooke: "We will hike until it isn't fun anymore, and then turn back to the car."

In three years Brooke has increased her mileage and pack weight, and has hiked Mount Pisgah, Mount Hor, Wheeler Mountain and Haystack Mountain in the Northeast Kingdom, and has hiked in Perry Holbrook State Park in Sheffield.

She's also hiked 3,430-foot North Percy Peak in New Hampshire. She likes to pick up pine cones, look at the bark on birch trees, play on big rocks, and try to identify new birds.

Brooke now enjoys hiking so much that on her birthday her only wish was for birthday cupcakes on top of Haystack Mountain. On her special day Brooke had a friend over, and they planned the details of the hike. I remember how proud she was to show her friend the way up the mountain. It was nice to see her leadership skills shine so I hung back and let them hike their own hike.

Brooke now helps stack wood at GMC's rental cabins at Wheeler Pond each fall. I believe encouraging children to volunteer instills good values and morals, and the Green Mountain Club provides a fun way to do this.

Brooke made a 2016 wish list of summer activities that included geocaching and a hike up Bald Mountain. "Why Bald Mountain?" I asked. "Because we can spend the night in the new cabin, and it has a tall fire tower," she replied.

The Bald Mountain hike is five miles round trip, with a 2,100-foot elevation gain. Brooke is always looking for the next challenge and I think she just may be on her way to becoming a Long Trail end-to-ender.

—ANGELA MARQUIS,  
NORTHEAST KINGDOM SECTION



Brooke



NEK Section  
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- › Spend an evening out together at a spring Taylor Series presentation
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- › Join one of GMC's fourteen sections on a planned hike
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