

Long Trail NEWS



Quarterly of the Green Mountain Club

WINTER 2017



Long Trail NEWS

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

Quarterly of the Green Mountain Club

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Contributions of manuscripts, photos, illustrations, and news are welcome from members and nonmembers.

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Cover: Winter on the Worcester Range.
Photo by Brenda Buckbee.



Skyline Lodge Privy

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A Blueprint for GMC's Future

GMC's board of directors recently adopted a new strategic plan that identifies important goals and strategies for all aspects of the club's activities over the next five years. The plan is the product of a year of systematic self-examination by the entire organization, and paints a picture of who we want to be in the future. It will keep us focused on our core mission of protecting and maintaining the Long Trail while recognizing that the way we achieve that must evolve with changing times. It also reflects the fact that the Green Mountain Club is a maturing organization with an impressive capacity to achieve great things.

Key strategic goals identified in the plan include:

- **Achieve trail parity.** We plan to invest significant additional resources in tread hardening on the Long Trail north of the Lamoille River. Anyone who has hiked the whole trail can attest that the northern trail has significantly fewer durable improvements for erosion control such as water bars, stone steps, and punchon, than southern sections. Our volunteers north of the Lamoille do an excellent job of annual trail maintenance, but serious tread hardening requires the skills and energy of our professional trail crews. Because the Long Trail is notoriously wet and muddy, these improvements are essential if we want a world class hiking trail.

- **Pursue completion of the Long Trail Protection Campaign.** In thirty years we have protected all but six miles of the Long Trail on a willing buyer–willing seller basis. As opportunities to work with land owners arise, GMC will be ready to protect those properties and the Long Trail.

- **Diversify our revenue sources.** Much of the Long Trail crosses public land whose managers help fund the cost of our trail crews and caretakers working on their land. Public funding has been in decline, and the dependability of future funding is uncertain. We need to ensure that our trail programs are fully maintained regardless of public funding.

- **Increase the endowment.** We plan to add \$1.6 million to our current endowment of \$4.6 million. A strong endowment is the foundation of future financial security, because it provides a reliable and sustainable stream of income for annual operating expenses.

- **Become an employer of choice.** We want the Green Mountain Club to become an employer of choice by providing industry-leading compensation and a work environment that will better enable us to attract and retain talented staff.

- **Engage the next generation of trail users.** We will expand our outreach and education programming to engage future generations of trail users and club leaders.



John at the end of his 3rd Long Trail hike, 2017.

- **Ensure volunteer and membership vitality.** We will pursue strategies to promote the vitality of our fourteen sections as well as the club's general membership. In particular, we aim to induce more trail users to become members.

Many of these goals will require new funding sources, but we view this plan as a serious investment in the club's future. We are confident of GMC's capacity to build and grow, and we are excited to see what the club will look like in another five years. To read the full plan and measure our progress, please visit our website at greenmountainclub.org/strategicplan.

— JOHN PAGE, PRESIDENT





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Follow Us:



Mountain Views

Remarkable Field Staff

My partner and I just completed our second thru-hike of the Long Trail (northbound).

While I plan to file a trail diary, I also wanted to make a BIG KUDOS to Scout Phillips [Battell Shelter and Mount Abe Caretaker]. All of the caretakers we encountered at shelters were friendly and helpful. Scout, however, went way beyond that. He was extraordinary! He kept a beautiful site (complete with a hand-colored weather report in the privy), offered us homemade granola bars, was knowledgeable about the trail, and extremely warm hearted. What a positive influence in the middle of our hike! . . . I read his blog and was so taken with his attitude and commitment. Kudos to you for finding such remarkable people to staff the shelters and be present on the summits.

—ALAN PASCHELL, CALAIS



Hiking the Long Trail Song

Thanks so much for including mention of the "Hiking the Long Trail" song in the fall 2017 issue! I deeply appreciate it. What a thrill and what good fortune to be included in the issue containing the article "Music in the Mountains" and the photo essay "Musicians on the Long Trail." I couldn't have asked for a better edition to be included in. The rest of the magazine is awesome too. You did another fabulous job. Keep up the great work.

—MARK TRICHKA

Planning a Vermont Hike to Help with Cabin Fever

To Jocelyn Hebert, *Long Trail News* Editor:

My wife, Jeanne Camin, and I read and re-read your article in the Winter 2016 issue of the *Long Trail News* titled, "Stepping off the Green Mountain Range," and were inspired by your description of the trail and the illustrating photos. In the midst of winter cabin fever on Cape Cod, we set a goal of improving our fitness and backpacking skills so we could replicate your hike. . . We are now completing our plan to do the Vermont AT from Gifford Woods State Park to the Vermont-New Hampshire state line sometime in mid-to-late September. We did some scouting hikes around the Inn at Long Trail

and up to Churchill Scott Shelter as part of another trip to visit friends in the Northeast Kingdom earlier this year. Thank you for inspiring us. We are looking forward to a happy hike in Vermont soon.

—JIM ANDERSON AND JEANNE CAMIN

Restoring the Crosscut Saw

I enjoyed the article on crosscut saws, and it got me to thinking. I am eighty years old and have a two-man crosscut that was my father's. He and my uncle used it when they cleared our house lot in Simsbury, Connecticut in 1946; in the early fifties I used it with another 4-H member, and we entered and won a contest in the Hartford County 4-H Fair at Cherry Park in Canton, Connecticut. My grown children have no interest in owning it. I am interested in contacting Larry Walter. If he thinks it is worth sharpening I would donate it to the Green Mountain Club. By the way, the tooth style is Perforated Lance.

—LOU FAIVRE, BRANDON



Saw and ax collection donated to GMC.

EDITOR'S NOTE: GMC received many inquiries about how to connect with Larry Walter, or donate a saw to the club. Larry met with Lou Faivre and graciously offered to restore one of his felling saws to add to GMC's collection.

Long Trail News welcomes your comments.

Letters received may be edited for length and clarity. GMC reserves the right to decline to publish those considered inappropriate.

Not all letters may be published.

Send to: Jocelyn Hebert,
jhebert@greenmountainclub.org or
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Bald Mountain via LONG POND TRAIL

Long Pond Trail in Vermont's secluded Northeast Kingdom will take you away from your busy life into quiet winter woods and to the area's highest peak, Bald Mountain (3,315 feet). It will also lead you to a fire tower with panoramic views of the Kingdom, and a rustic cabin.

The 2.2-mile trail in Westmore follows a logging road along gentle terrain for a short distance to an open area before turning into a hardwood forest. Blue blazes mark the way as you cross several small brooks before beginning to climb. About 1.6 miles in, the trail becomes steeper as it enters the subalpine spruce-fir forest.

At the top you will enter a summit clearing. Nestled on the open space is a cozy cabin built in 1938 for the fire warden. It was restored in 2013 by the NorthWoods Stewardship Center crew and more than 100 volunteers, thanks to a grant from the Vermont Land and Facilities Trust Fund.

Climb the fire tower (if conditions are safe—or come back in summer or fall) to see Lake Willoughby, Burke Mountain,

Jay Peak, Mount Mansfield, Camel's Hump, the White Mountains of New Hampshire, and Owl's Head in Canada.

The summit area and the cabin are owned by the State of Vermont and managed as part of Willoughby State Forest. The trail is maintained by the GMC Northeast Kingdom Section; it crosses private land, so please be considerate and respectful.

This is a manageable winter hike for people of all ages and abilities. But no matter how skilled you are, remember these basic safety guidelines:

- ❄ Allow extra time and factor in the early darkness of winter;
- ❄ Tell a friend or family member what trail you are hiking and when you expect to return;
- ❄ Have a bailout plan and communicate it clearly to your friend or family member;
- ❄ Make sure to set out prepared for all conditions with appropriate layers—dress like an onion;
- ❄ Wear or carry winter traction (spikes or snowshoes with cleats);



- ❄ Bring plenty of water, drink it even if you don't feel thirsty, and pack extra snacks;
- ❄ Pack a headlamp and extra batteries (Cold batteries die fast. Bring an extra headlamp to avoid changing tiny batteries with cold fingers);
- ❄ Hike with a partner or a group (traveling in groups is recommended in winter).

Distance: 4.4 miles round trip

Elevation Gain: 1,450 feet

Resources to get you there:

Green Mountain Club

- *Winter Hiking Guide to Vermont*
- *Northeast Kingdom Hiking Trail Map*
- *360 Degrees, A Guide to Vermont's Fire and Observation Towers*

—JOCELYN HEBERT
LONG TRAIL NEWS EDITOR



TESTED BY WINTER

Trekking to Glen Ellen Lodge

When children learn the seasons, they are taught that November is an autumn month. Leaves have fallen, sure, but there is no snow yet, and the radio is blissfully devoid of Christmas music. Vermont blurs seasonal lines, however, forcing us to keep ice scrapers and snow shovels in our cars in all but a few months.

I set out to become a guide for the student-run Mountain Club in the fall of my junior year at Middlebury College, and on the first weekend in November I was to complete my final training assignment: the co-lead. A friend and I would plan and lead a student trip to demonstrate our skills to an evaluator, after which we would become guides or be asked to try again.

The forecast called for temperatures in the mid-thirties, with precipitation in one of two challenging forms: rain, snow, or if we were unlucky, both. Eager to get outside and anxious to get the evaluation over with, I was undeterred.

My co-leader and I planned to start from the Battell trailhead and climb the steep three miles to Mount Abraham, traverse the Monroe Skyline to Mount Ellen, and spend the night at Glen Ellen Lodge. The nine-mile day seemed ambitious, but not unmanageable, especially with the riddles and jokes my playful counterpart had in mind.

We planned a gourmet menu. We'd have homemade macaroni and cheese and a berry crumble for dinner, then fresh cinnamon rolls for breakfast. If we botched any of the skills we were required to demonstrate, surely the menu would impress our evaluator.

Though the first morning was chilly and overcast, spirits were high as we ascended through leafless maple and birch.



Krista and co-leader at Glenn Ellen Lodge

Banter gave way to the crunch of leaves underfoot.

As we neared the summit of Mount Abraham, the crunching changed to squeaking. We were delighted by the sight of the first snow of the year. But once on the ridge, it came down in earnest, a heavy wet snow that stuck to boots and reduced visibility to an eerie blur. Having planned for fall conditions, we quickly regretted our lack of gaiters.

At Glen Ellen Lodge there were at least six inches of snow, and our boots were soaked through. My co-leader and I told everyone to put on dry layers while we boiled water for drinks. Turns out boiling water takes a lot longer when it's cold. A lot longer.

As our friends huddled in the lodge with tea, my co-leader and I crouched over cookstoves outside, crafting macaroni and cheese. The snow we had tamped for a cooking area quickly melted and refroze, turning the kitchen into an ice rink. Finishing our creation, I scooped up the pot and nearly spilled it everywhere as I slipped on the ice. I would need micro-spikes to cook dessert.

We entered the lodge beaming and proudly set the macaroni and cheese on the table. It may have taken two hours, but

this was going to be the best camping meal that ever fed the Mountain Club.

That's the thing about winter camping. Ordinary tasks like cooking, cleaning and setting up camp take considerably longer than usual so they feel like enormous accomplishments. We had only made macaroni and cheese, but we felt like winning contestants on a Food Network show.

After dessert, when everyone was snuggled warm and dry in sleeping bags, my co-leader and I debriefed. We hadn't expected to be winter camping, and we

were exhausted.

The next morning the sun shone brightly through the trees. The cinnamon rolls were more of a mush, and several pairs of boots had frozen solid overnight, but the sun inspired cheer. As we descended the Jerusalem Trail, our friends joked that this was their first and last winter camping experience.

I eventually tried full-fledged winter camping in a tent. While burying stakes securely in snow is satisfying, I prefer the comfort that four walls provide at lodges like Glen Ellen, Butler, and Montclair Glen.

Oh, and we passed the test.

—KRISTA KARLSON

Krista Karlson is a Middlebury College senior studying Environmental Policy. An aspiring writer, her greatest Vermont memories have been made outdoors.



Skinning, Skiing, and Splitboarding IN THE BRANDON BACKCOUNTRY

After an excellent season last winter, the Brandon Gap Backcountry Recreation Area is again attracting backcountry skiers. The Rochester/Randolph Area Sports Trail Alliance (RASTA), a chapter of the Catamount Trail Association, began working in 2015 to create the area in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and the Vermont Backcountry Alliance.

The new recreation area has four backcountry zones: Goshen Mountain, Sunrise Bowl, No-Name, and Bear Brook, all in the Green Mountain National Forest and connected by the Long Trail. Nineteen gladed ski lines, totaling nearly twenty thousand vertical feet have been cleared.

The Bear Brook and No-Name zones are accessed about a mile east of the Long Trail parking lot on Route 73 in Brandon Gap. Sunrise Bowl and Goshen Mountain are accessed directly from the Long Trail parking lot. Skiers and splitboarders need only follow a gentle stretch of the Long Trail south, just shy of a mile from the parking lot, to reach a skin track that zigzags across the ski lines in Sunrise Bowl before leading to the Goshen lines.

If you are unfamiliar with backcountry ski terms, you may be wondering what a skin track is. It's a trail designated for uphill travel by backcountry skiers and splitboarders. "Skins," or pieces of textured fabric designed to provide both glide and traction, are attached to the bottom of skis and boards to help with climbing on snow.

RASTA's skin tracks are skillfully positioned to pass through relatively gentle terrain.



A wooden sign marks the entrance to each zone, and yellow RASTA tags and arrows mark the skin tracks. Terrain varies from steep, narrow lines, typical of Goshen, to more mellow, flowing lines with less vertical drop, typical of the Sunrise Bowl.

Unlike illegally cut glades, such as the infamous Big Jay scar on GMC-conserved land in the Northeast Kingdom, the Brandon Gap glades were well-planned and responsibly cut with consideration for ecology and wildlife. The Forest Service worked with partners, including the GMC, to develop the glades as part of a multi-use recreation plan on the National Forest.

RASTA called on volunteers to help cut the glades, so one beautiful fall day in 2016, my partner and I joined about fifty other volunteers to help clear a line in Sunrise Bowl. Gathered in a circle, holding loppers and saws, we listened as glade chief Karl Fjeld briefed us on our tasks for the day. Since most of the chainsaw work was done, we cleared brush, lopped it into manageable pieces, and scattered it away from the trail.

As we worked, anticipation showed in the eyes of the eager skiers and riders as they scanned slopes, visualizing how they would slash turns into untouched lines of deep powder, or jump from boulders to clear landings.

At the end of the day we crossed our fingers and did a snow dance, with hope that the coming winter would be better than the dismal season before. It worked! The winter of 2016-17 became one of the snowiest on record in much of northern New England. On April 1st (no kidding) my ski buddy, Alex, and I went to Brandon Gap and reaped the rewards from the lines my partner and I had helped clear in the fall.

At least a foot of powder greeted us as we skinned the Long Trail to Sunrise Bowl and Goshen Mountain. We lapped the zone all day until the all the fresh powder had become memories of an April Fool's day well spent.

—LENNY CRISOSTOMO, DATABASE MANAGER

If you would like to learn more about the Rochester/Randolph Area Sports Trail Alliance and the Brandon Gap Backcountry Recreation Area, visit rastavt.org/projects/brandon-gap.



Alex jumping a ledge in Sunrise Bowl

PHOTO BY LENNY CRISOSTOMO

Beyond the Cathole

Everything you Didn't Know you Wanted to Know About Outhouses

In the summer of 2012 I was hired as the Hump Brook Tent Site caretaker on Camel's Hump. Six field seasons later I do a little of this and a bit of that, but mostly I swing hammers in the woods. For my first three years though, I was a caretaker. At the start of that first summer, I had no idea what I had gotten myself into.

Backcountry sanitation is part of the caretaker job description, but twenty-three-year-old men, enamored of Jack Kerouac and Edward Abbey, tend to gloss over the minutiae when given an opportunity to live in the woods and get paid for it. So, when Field Supervisor Kathryn Wrigley started talking about composting human waste as if she took it for granted as an essential duty of a caretaker, I was taken aback. How could I have missed such a daunting responsibility? The summer of 2012 would teach me more about the subject than I ever thought I wanted to

know. But once I reconciled how disgusting it seemed at first, it was quite interesting. Here's an overview:

As a consequence of nourishment, people... hikers... find the need to go "number two" regularly. Through basic math, we can surmise that the more people visit the woods, the more waste they leave. And there certainly are more visitors every year. Camel's Hump caretakers counted more than 20,000 visitors on the summit for four consecutive years. This creates a problem, and a question: What do we do with all the sewage?

Old Fashioned Outhouse

The old fashioned pit privy used to be an adequate solution: an elevated seat above a deep pit. When the pit fills, the entire structure is lifted and placed on top of a fresh pit. Old pits are buried and covered with forest debris to hide them. This worked well when visitors

were few. Today, since more than 200,000 people visit the Long Trail System every year, a busy pit privy can fill in less than a year. Because sewage in a pit takes decades or more to decompose in Vermont's climate, we are quickly running out of places to dig new pits.

Moldering Privy

An improvement upon this is the moldering privy. Most moldering privies in Vermont use an identical structure to a pit privy, placed on top of one of two adjacent "cribs"—essentially wooden boxes vented on all sides to admit air. A container of wood shavings is provided, and users are asked to add a cup of wood shavings after each use. When one crib fills, the privy is simply slid over on to the other crib. In the time it takes the second crib to fill, the moist mixture of waste and shavings in the first crib will have decomposed into pathologically neutral organic soil. The privy



Behind Battell Shelter Privy

is then moved back to its original location and the process starts over.

Urine is exposed to air and rendered harmless as it trickles down through the pile and soaks into the biologically active layer

Sewage in a pit takes decades or more to decompose in Vermont's climate

of soil, so unlike other privy systems, it's OK to pee in a moldering privy. In fact, without urine the pile is apt to become too dry, and stop composting. The pile in a moldering privy does not become hot, but competition with and predation by aerobic (air loving) microorganisms kill pathogens, given enough time.

Moldering privies work well in most locations, and eventually they will eclipse the antiquated system of pit privies. Some sites, however, may have too much use even for moldering privies with large cribs, and the decomposition process can be unable to keep up with the volume of waste. In such cases a third type of privy may be installed: the batch-bin composter.

Batch-Bin Composter

Each batch-bin composter, commonly called a composting privy, has a seventy-gallon plastic container called a catcher below the seat. Ideally users add a cup of bark mulch, a byproduct of lumber milling, with each use. Typically the mulch and sewage mixture is removed and emptied weekly, although the interval may vary depending on use.

The sewage is transferred into large trash cans using a dedicated "poop shovel." A four-to six-inch layer of previously composted waste is then added to the empty catcher. This composted waste is called drying rack material, for reasons that will become obvious momentarily. The catcher is then slid back beneath the toilet seat.

Sewage is stored in the cans for a while before being shoveled into a 210 gallon waterproof bin. The first composting run, or batch, of the year typically uses waste left over from the year before. The amount of sewage transferred to the bin is highly dependent on the water content, which rises if users urinate in the privy.

If the material is too wet, drying rack material is added to soak up excess moisture, decreasing the amount of sewage that will fit in the run. More bark mulch is gradually mixed in and stirred thoroughly, making sure to break up any solids. The drying rack material introduces microbes that drive the composting process. Compost starter is added to provide even more microbes and ensure a speedy run.

Now the compost sits undisturbed for two weeks, heating in the interior as decomposition takes place. While two people are required to start a run, one caretaker can manage the rest of the process. The caretaker should stir the run every week, which will take ten to forty-five minutes, depending on how decomposed it is. Ideally, stirring moves material from the outside of the bin to the center, to expose it to the heat of accelerated decomposition.

In four to six weeks the compost should become a mixture of organic soil and partially decomposed bark mulch. The final step is shoveling the contents into the drying rack, a small, well-ventilated lean-to with a wooden floor. Here the material dries completely, ready to start further composting runs and to line the bottom of the catcher. Excess compost will eventually be dispersed into the forest as pathologically neutral organic soil.

Limitations of Batch-Bin Privies

Short of physically removing human waste from the backcountry, batch-bin composting is the highest volume backcountry sanitation system available. But it has downsides. Batch-bin composters require a lot of maintenance compared with moldering privies. They must be attended to every two weeks at minimum, so they must be close to a staffed caretaker site. Proximity to a trailhead is another consideration, because field staff or volunteers must pack in about 600 pounds of bark mulch each season for each site.

Additionally, visitors must be encouraged not to urinate in batch-bin composting privies. Excess moisture is problematic, and urine in particular tends to kill the microbes needed for a successful compost run. One solution to this is the Beyond the Bin (BTB) system. BTBs have a permeable surface installed in the bottom of the catcher. It allows liquid to flow down while solid waste remains on top. Urine flows through piping to a barrel with layered Geo-Tex cloth, coal, and stone. Tiny holes in the bottom of the barrel allow the neutralized liquid to leach out

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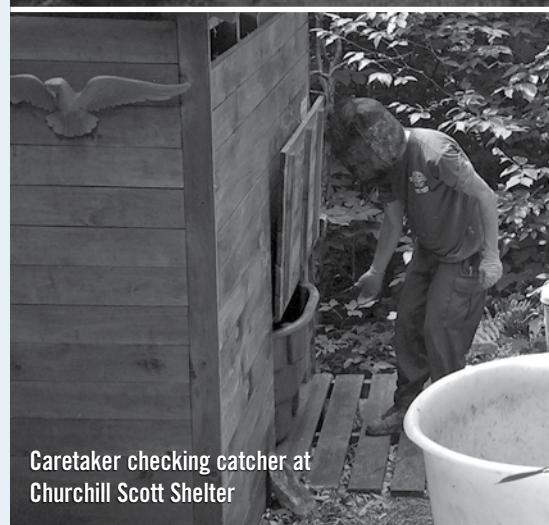
Field Supervisor Ilana Copel dispersing composted material from the Stratton Pond privy drying rack



Caretaker Ben Cowan sweeping Spruce Ledge Camp moldering privy



Caretaker Julie Higgins starting a compost run at the Peru Peak Shelter privy



Caretaker checking catcher at Churchill Scott Shelter

into a nearby well-drained patch of forest soil. It's effective, but it greatly reduces the useful volume of the catcher, often requiring the caretaker to empty the catcher more than once a week.

Other challenges are that bears sometimes knock over trash cans, and humans occasionally try to throw garbage into them. Disgusted by the contents, curious hikers don't always bother to reclose them, which admits rain water and creates a sort of synthetic diarrhea. Similarly, people regularly throw trash into the catcher that eventually must be picked out of the drying rack. One of the worst offenders is underwear, whose elastic bands can create a genuine biohazard as they slingshot sewage about when a bin is being stirred.

So, there it is—everything you might have wanted to know about backcountry sanitation but were too horrified to ask. Next time a caretaker asks you for \$5 to stay at a fee site you'll know why. And remember: Pee *inside* a moldering privy and *outside* a composting privy!

—JUSTIN TOWERS, GMC CONSTRUCTION CREW



Pit privy at Winturri Shelter on AT



Illustration by Emily Benning

Backcountry Waste Management by the Numbers

- GMC field staff and volunteers work to maintain 74 backcountry privies on the Long Trail and Appalachian Trail; there are 32 moldering privies, 22 pit privies, and 20 composting privies.
- An estimated 200,000 people hike on the Long Trail System annually, producing an average of 6,000 gallons of sewage in the backcountry. This is enough to fill a typical backyard above ground swimming pool.
- An estimated 5,000 of the 6,000 gallons of sewage are managed by GMC staff and volunteers annually.
- The cost to employ one caretaker for a full season is \$16,000 or \$96 per day; managing privies is one of their main responsibilities.
- \$5.00 fees are collected at 9 overnight sites on the Long Trail System. The total collection covers only one-third of the cost of the caretaker program.



Composting privy at Churchill Scott Shelter



Moldering privy at Greenwall Shelter

INN AT LONG TRAIL

McGraths Celebrate 40 YEARS at Sherburne Pass

On an early fall afternoon, two hikers in bright Gore-Tex scurried across busy U.S. Route 4, shed their packs by the door of the Inn at Long Trail with sighs of relief, and headed inside for well deserved and long anticipated pints of Guinness. Their visit was typical. Today's Long Trail and Appalachian Trail hikers, aided by GPS and social media, are well aware of such oases. Though the trail no longer passes directly by the Inn, few hikers mind the extra steps.

The Green Mountain Club built today's inn in 1938 as a winter annex to its headquarters, which was on the south side of the road and called the Green Mountain Club House (later the Long Trail Lodge). When the Pico Mountain Ski Area opened just a quarter mile down the road and installed the country's first T-bar lift, GMC saw an opportunity to serve the increasing number of skiers coming north on ski trains from Boston and New York. With the help of Mortimer Proctor and a \$25,000 loan, the club built the winter annex, named it Deer Leap Lodge, and opened it to the public in 1939 as the second ski lodge in Vermont. It could accommodate forty guests who paid seventy-five cents a night for rooms or three dollars for the American Plan (room plus meals). The third floor, called the Ski-Squire Dormitory, was for men only.

Deer Leap Lodge advertised a lounge and recreation room with table tennis for evening amusement, a sunny open terrace along the front, and a half-mile ski trail from the door to the Pico lift. Its interior décor matched the traditional rustic woodland architecture of the Long Trail Lodge, with log rafters, burlled-birch paneling, and a large open fireplace.

The Long Trail Lodge burned in 1968, after the property had changed hands several times. By 1970 the annex, still operated only in winter, had suffered a few questionable renovations. When Kyran and Rosemary McGrath bought it forty years ago in 1977, they set about returning it to its rustic roots. They promptly ripped out the turquoise and chrome fittings transplanted from a New Jersey cocktail lounge

by a previous owner, and replaced them with a rough-cut wood bar and tables cut from tree trunks.

"We rebuilt and repaired a lot of the original furniture," said Murray McGrath, who, with his wife, Patty, took over operation of the inn from his folks. Many original pieces had been crafted by Grover Wright, using native birch logs.

"We enclosed the open terrace and added parking and the office area," he added. But the couple carefully maintained touches that remind visitors of the inn's history. Just as in the original GMC headquarters, natural features were embraced rather than removed—look no further than the large boulders incorporated in the bar and dining room.

These days the Inn at Long Trail is open all year, with a pot of Guinness stew bubbling on the stove and fiddle and bodhran melodies spilling from McGrath's Irish Pub on weekends. Murray estimates 800 to 900 hikers pass through every year, taking breaks from their Long Trail or Appalachian Trail treks.

"Last year was the biggest ever, probably due to the Redford movie and 'Wild,'" said Murray. "More people just wanted to get out in the woods. This year has been slower. The bad weather early on I think made a lot of hikers give up. We returned a lot of mail drops."

But with the unseasonably warm weather in September, hiker traffic picked up again, notably a large number of AT end-to-enders who had jumped ahead to hit the White Mountains and Maine before harsh conditions set in, then returned for the gentler Vermont stretch.

As with any old structure, maintenance is a constant struggle, as is keeping up with the times. "They all come in looking for a place to charge their iPhones now," said Murray with a laugh. But for the McGraths it's a labor of love. And now their son Brogan, the third generation, has returned to the inn, ensuring that this important piece of trail history will continue for future generations of hikers.

—SUE THOMAS, KILLINGTON SECTION



Original Deer Leap Lodge



Inn at Long Trail today

A FORTRESS, A TREE HOUSE

The Long Trail Lodge in the 1950s



Visiting Long Trail Lodge, GMC's first club house built in 1923 at Sherburne Pass, was an adventure for suburban kids in the 1950s. It was a fortress, a tree house, a Robinson Crusoe retreat created from the forest itself. Books, cowboy movies, and trips to Frontierland had prepared our imaginations for exploration and fun.

Through lofty trees along the path from the parking lot we first spied a high rustic structure of log posts and beams, with boarded walls and high windows, anchored by unmortared stonework on massive boulders and ledges. The scent of the woods, wisps of

wood smoke, and the faint aroma of food suggested a campsite in an old forest.

We climbed stone steps into a cavernous entrance. Hand-painted maps on the wall showed buildings, trails, cliffs, and caves awaiting discovery in the surrounding acreage. From the staircase with half-log treads, we emerged onto a broad porch set with rustic furniture beneath the logs of its rafters. Here we paused a moment to watch darting humming birds, and to take in the glory of sunlight on the cliffs of Deer Leap across the highway.

We entered a rustic interior of tree-trunk posts, log beams, and mortarless stonework. A welcoming clerk behind the counter on the left asked us to sign the guest register. A massive stone fireplace on the right rose past balconies draped with Navajo rugs to the roof. From a shaggy golden birch log by the perpetual fire hung a hickory swing big enough for two or three. As we relaxed in a gentle rhythm we realized we were being watched—by a crouching mounted bobcat on the spacious stone mantel.

The big room provided plenty to do while waiting for lunch. In the back corner, by the door with the white Long Trail blaze on its door post (the trail ran right through the building!), were two hand-painted electric board games to test our knowledge of birds, animals, plants, and flowers. We grabbed a varnished wand and touched it to the brass button next to the portrait of the chipmunk. With another wand we touched a button on the list of names. If we were correct, the light went on! A quick check behind the board found a tangle of wires connected to a dry cell battery.

A staircase in another corner beckoned to the second floor. At the landing, a friendly looking bear cub scaling a tree in the shadow of the stairwell surprised us. At the top, a glass-paned door led onto a wide deck—the roof of the porch below. The gnarly head of a wild pig glowered down on us from high on the wall as we noticed another door with a trail blaze leading outside to a log bridge spanning a chasm. After a peek at the adults below, reading magazines or choosing post cards at the registration desk, we headed back downstairs.

A doorway in the stone rear wall revealed a gift shop with stone shelves displaying handmade moccasins, maple sugar candy, birch bark model canoes and teepees, ladies' clothing, wooden bowls, Swiss chocolate, and deerskin vests.

On our way to the dining room we passed a row of writing desks for "Wish you were here!" postcards and letters home.



Swing and Navajo rugs in Lodge



Long Trail Lodge Dining Room

Boulders and ledges blended into another fireplace. Inverted yellow-birch branches hanging from the high sloping ceiling held amber bulbs in birchbark shades in the spacious dining room. We gazed up at the chandeliers illuminating tree trunks and rafters reaching to the shadowy ceiling peak: the effect was magical. In a corner, grasses, large ferns, and other forest plants covered a huge ledge, watered by a streamlet from a hidden pipe. Lunch was delicious and filling, and we were ready for more exploring—outdoors.

A colorful map at the main entrance showed the way to many sites around the lodge. Paths led to a dozen cabins, each with its own quaint character. Peeking into the oldest ones, which were built into rocks and ledges, we saw stone fireplaces and benches and built-in beds and furniture crafted from twigs and branches. Newer cabins had woven rugs, hickory furniture, and more comfortable looking beds. Highest on the hill behind the lodge were Spartan one-room cabins for hikers fresh off the trail, thankful for hot meals, metal cots, and a shared bathroom.

The map also showed the Nature Trail and the Bog Garden created by naturalists Maurice and Irma Broun, who for several summers in the thirties came here from their Hawk Mountain Bird Sanctuary along the Appalachian Trail in southeastern Pennsylvania. In less than a mile the Nature Trail looped up



Long Trail Lodge Ledges Cabin

the hillside behind the lodge, past Pulpit Rock, a glacial erratic boulder, through a rockfall stone bridge, and up to Adirondack Lookout, with its views of distant mountains to the west. Small wooden signs painted by Irma Broun and placed along the trail each summer identified plants and animals we might see.

Back at the lodge as the afternoon lengthened, we enjoyed a swing by the fire and looked forward to another day, when we would summon the nerve to climb Deer Leap, up through the cave route to the dome above the cliffs, and back down before dark.

—DAVID WRIGHT

Lodge Ruins

A visitor to the Long Trail Lodge site today sees at first little more than the terrain where the lodge stood. Trees and undergrowth hide the remains of foundations, and cover obscure paths and trails nearly forgotten fifty years after the catastrophic fire in November, 1968. Yet the broken roofs of a few of the cabins still stand, and help to locate the remains of others. Below the lodge site one can use old photos and copies of the hand-painted maps to find the stone walls of Woodfin cabin, the arid remains of the Bog Garden, and the driveway and paths that led to the main entrance.

The scale of the main lodge becomes apparent from the boulders where the massive fireplace once stood and where the dining room rock garden flourished. At the corner of the foundation, where the Long Trail entered the lobby through the white-blazed doorway, one can find the stone steps to the upper cabins and the beginning of the Nature Trail. Bushwacking up past cabin sites and the foundation of the water tower, a careful seeker soon locates Pulpit Rock. From there, over a ridge and near

ledgy cliffs, are the remains of the rustic bench at Adirondack Lookout. An old timer may follow a hazily remembered route downhill along the Undercliff Trail back to the starting point.

The Future of the Lodge

With the cooperation of the current landowner and the help of experts from the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, the Long Trail Lodge site could be added to the Vermont State Register of Historic Places.

The lodge and grounds are well-documented in GMC literature, in *Vermont* magazine articles, through photographs, and postcards. These documents and images could be used to create interpretive panels and signs to orient and direct visitors through the site.

With the leadership of GMC, grant funding, and financial support by the membership, preservation is not only possible but would be well worthwhile.

—DAVID WRIGHT



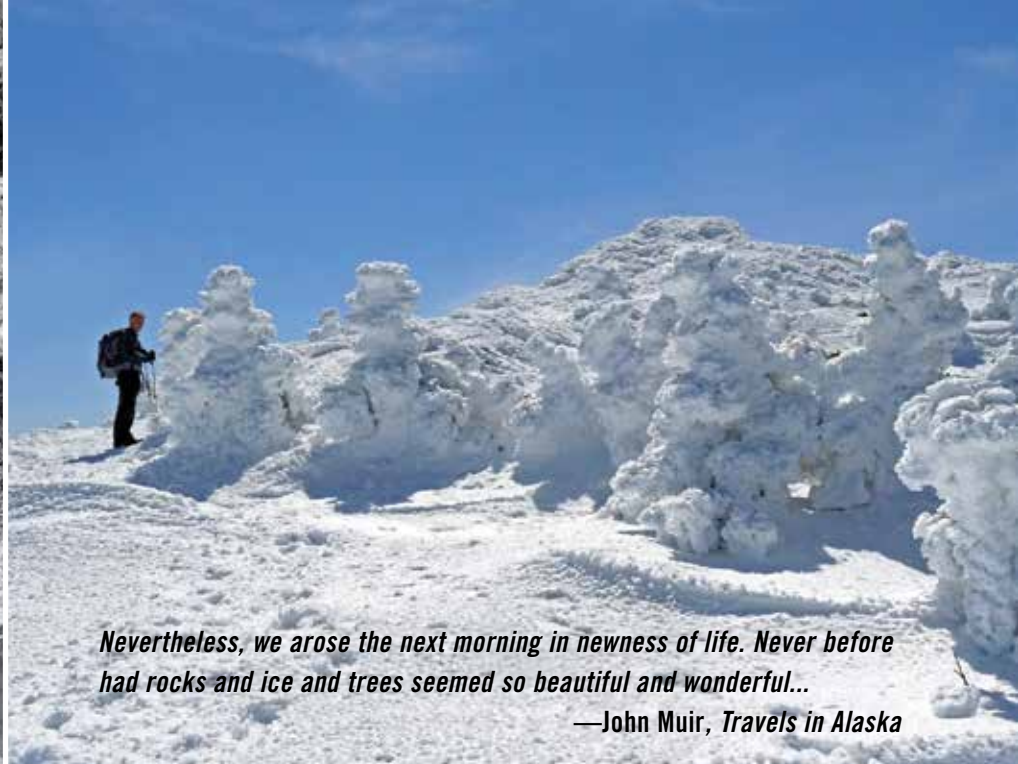
Long Trail Lodge ruins



Old stone steps

Winter Travels





Nevertheless, we arose the next morning in newness of life. Never before had rocks and ice and trees seemed so beautiful and wonderful...
—John Muir, *Travels in Alaska*





A rainy and chilly summer didn't stop the field staff from enjoying the woods and summits this year.

Caretakers

Serving four summits, four ponds, and nine overnight sites on the Long Trail System, caretakers:

Spoke with thousands of hikers. They explained Leave No Trace principles, and described the fragility of alpine ecosystems and pond shorelines. They answered questions about the mountains, trails, shelters, and surrounding landscape. And they told hikers how to avoid trouble with wildlife, especially bears, and how to store food properly.

Maintained privies. This was a big job, with seventeen batch-bin composting, twelve moldering, and six pit privies attended weekly. Field assistants and many volunteers helped maintain the other thirty-nine privies on the Long Trail System and Vermont AT.

Construction Crew

Working all over the state, and at all elevations, the construction crew:

Renovated historic Butler Lodge. With airlifted materials, they rebuilt the front porch and replaced the roof and rotted front log courses.

Began restoration of historic Bolton Lodge. They stabilized crumbling lower stone walls, replaced the rotted floor, and added new sheathing. They also replaced failed roofing shingles with architectural shingles matching those installed when the

lodge was built in 1928. In late fall the crew finished the interior, and built a wood shed and a composting privy. The lodge should be open for public rental this winter.

Converted Seth Warner's pit privy to moldering. Usage is now too high at this site for a pit privy.

Dismantled temporary tent platforms at Taft Lodge. Platforms were built in 2016 to house Mount Mansfield field staff while the Stone Hut was being restored after a fire. The Long Trail Patrol will use the platform lumber for new puncheon (bog bridges) on Mount Mansfield in 2018.

Installed a trailhead information kiosk at the Bald Mountain Trail. The project was part of substantially improved access to the trail. The crew also built a tread ladder at the base of the trail to control erosion.

Installed a bigger wood stove and supplied firewood at Bryant Camp. The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation improved the road to the cabin, so supplying firewood is now easier.

Long Trail Patrol

One summer and one fall Long Trail Patrol:

Completed rockwork on the Long Trail between Tillotson Camp and Belvidere Mountain. This hardened the treadway and improved drainage.

Completed the new East Dorset Trail. The trail, which connects East Dorset village to the Long Trail/Appalachian Trail in Mad Tom

Notch via the scenic Mad Tom Brook ravine, was destroyed in the 1970s by a flood. The crew constructed functional river crossings and stabilized steep sections prone to erosion.

Continued work on the Burrows Trail and the Monroe Trail on Camel's Hump. The crew returned to these heavily used trails to improve erosion control and reinforce stone-work and waterbars.

Improved Frost Trail on Mount Mansfield. The crew used lumber airlifted to the site in 2016 to build steps and a ladder on severely eroded sections of the trail.

Continued to reroute the Long Trail in Smugglers' Notch. In 2013 the patrol cut a rough relocation to return the trail to its original route past Barnes Camp Visitor Center. This fall Timber & Stone, LLC, built an ADA accessible boardwalk through the Notch Brook wetlands to complete the new route, which will open next year.

Reclaimed and maintained Appalachian Trail open areas near Woodstock. The crew removed invasive species, released apple and cherry trees, and mowed meadows.

Volunteer Long Trail Patrol

Five volunteer crews, over five weeks, worked on the Long Trail/Appalachian Trail this season to:

Relocate a stretch of the Branch Pond Trail. Volunteers from as near as Rutland and as far as China also replaced failed puncheon on the south end of the trail.

—ILANA COPEL, FIELD SUPERVISOR



Butler Lodge



Thank you, Ridgeline Society!

Every year many Green Mountain Club Ridgeline Society members (those who contribute \$1,000 or more annually to GMC) gather for a hike and reception to celebrate the club's accomplishments. This year members from as far away as California and Ohio rode the gondola to the north summit of Stratton Mountain, and walked the ridge to visit long-time GMC summit caretakers Hugh and Jeanne Joudry.

Passing through spruce, balsam, and occasional fog, we crossed bog bridges recently completed on a service trip led by Lorne Currier, GMC's AmeriCorps Outreach and Field Coordinator. At the old fire tower, Hugh and Jeanne shared the history of the area and described their experiences, first as fire observers and then as caretakers, for more than forty years. They also gave small groups special tours of their cabin.

Individual giving supports our caretaker program, so we especially appreciate our Ridgeline donors who make this program possible. Without their financial support, our mountains and trail would suffer.

Society members spent the day connecting over our shared interest in the Long Trail, Vermont's Appalachian Trail, and the Northeast Kingdom Trails while swapping hiking stories and enjoying fall foliage.

At a reception after the hike, GMC President John Page and Executive Director Mike DeBonis summarized the work of the club and the value of contributions by members of the Ridgeline Society to Vermont's most popular trails. Land Stewardship Coordinator Mollie Flanigan described the special challenges of managing



PHOTO BY KRISTIN McLANE

lands the club owns or on which it holds easements. Lorne Currier and Membership and Communications Coordinator Kristin McLane stood by to answer questions and talk about their roles at the club.

The Ridgeline Society is a group worth celebrating. The society was formed in 2010, and today has more than ninety people. Last year contributions from society members exceeded \$170,000. That's ten percent of our annual budget, and 43 percent of our individual giving.

We are grateful to these individuals for supporting Vermont's premier trails at such generous levels. As we all know, trails don't just happen; they need constant care and attention. Ridgeline Society donations enable us to maintain and protect our trails at an internationally recognized standard of excellence.

—ALICIA DiCocco
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Monthly Giving

By becoming a monthly donor, you will join a special group of members dedicated to helping the Long Trail, the Vermont Appalachian Trail, the Northeast Kingdom Trails, and our side trails.

Why join?

- **Your membership is always current.** This means we spend less time (and paper) on renewal notices and processing gifts, so more of your money can go directly to our programs.
- **It's easy.** Your gift will be processed automatically every month and we'll send you your new membership card and year end giving statement each January.
- **You get to hike!** Each year monthly donors will be invited on a special hike with GMC staff.

Wondering how much to give?

Give what you can, but know that your monthly gifts will add up and make a big difference. Consider giving \$10, \$20 or \$30 a month (\$85 a month will make you eligible to become a \$1,000 Ridgeline Society member).

With your help, we can protect and maintain the Long Trail for future generations.

Join today!

Greenmountainclub.org/monthly

If you would like to support the Long Trail and Vermont's Appalachian Trail by becoming a Ridgeline Society Member, email Alicia DiCocco at adicocco@greenmountainclub.org or give her a call, (802) 241-8322.

The Ridgeline Society represents the importance that I feel for preservation and development of the Green Mountain Club trails and its other activities. Being a consistent and substantial donor to the club is my way of participating in this important effort.

—STEVE KLEIN, RIDGELINE SOCIETY MEMBER AND GMC TREASURER



New Volunteers Monitor the Jay Tracts

Green Mountain Club volunteer corridor monitors help to protect the Long Trail, the Appalachian Trail, and the diverse wildlife habitat of the Green Mountains, all while exploring remote areas in Vermont.

Along the Long Trail, volunteers adopt properties that the club has protected, either by purchase or by holding conservation easements. These properties form a corridor of land of varying width, which the trail traverses. Corridor monitors visit their properties at least twice a year, monitor them to make sure the terms of the conservation easement are being followed, and maintain boundary lines.

Two new sets of volunteers recently joined our corridor monitor team: Dan Potter and his partner Amy, GMC's Visitor Center manager; and Hannah Hutchinson and her partner Lenny, GMC's database manager. Dan and Amy will monitor the Big Jay tract, and Hannah and Lenny will monitor the Jay Peak tract. Our new volunteers walked their properties with Land Stewardship Coordinator Mollie Flanagan this fall and shared their experiences.

Walking Big Jay

BY DAN POTTER

As an avid outdoor recreation enthusiast, I believe we should all be stewards of the places we love, but I have only recently started walking the walk. Literally.

Club membership is a great method of support, but Amy and I recently took it to the next level and volunteered as corridor monitors. I hope our involvement will help ease the pressure on our resources as outdoor recreation continues to grow in popularity.

We chose to monitor the Big Jay parcel; the tract is surrounded by land conserved and owned by the State of Vermont and GMC. Neighboring parcels include the 3,764-acre Black Falls Basin (protected in 2001 and the largest land acquisition project ever undertaken by

GMC), and Jay Peak, which is owned by the state and hosts some of Jay Peak Resort's ski trails.

The Big Jay parcel is 1,572 acres, and stretches from Route 242 to the western flanks of Big and Little Jay peaks. It hosts half a mile of the Long Trail and Jay Camp Shelter.

On our visits we will ensure that the terms of the conservation easement are being met; locate, walk, and mark the boundaries; and assess usage. On our first visit this fall with Mollie, we took the tram to the summit of Jay Peak and hiked to Big Jay. The trail to Big Jay evolved through repeated use, and it is not a designated trail. Big Jay is, however, on the *AMC New England Hundred Highest* peak-bagging list, so the trail sees a fair amount of traffic. It winds through dense spruce-fir forest along the ridge between Jay and Big Jay.

On our walk with Mollie, we went to see the "scar" on the eastern flank of the mountain, which made headlines in 2007 when two people illegally cut more than 750 trees along a swath of forest approximately 2,000 feet long in the glacial cirque between Jay and Big Jay

for backcountry skiing. A backcountry skier myself, this was of special interest to me. One of our main duties will be to visit this area to monitor for any further illegal cutting.

Near the top of Big Jay we looked for, but failed to find, the boundary line. We were not too surprised, because the last boundary maintenance had been done decades ago. Hoping for better luck, we traveled to the Long Trail at Route 242 to search for the pin marking that corner of the property. It was hard to find, even with a GPS and a survey map of the property. But after thrashing around in the woods a while we found it. We then bushwhacked through the woods to flag and repaint that boundary.

Amy and I are grateful for the chance to learn new skills, engage with the landscape in a deeper way, and visit a place we probably would not visit otherwise (OK, maybe when there is enough snow!). It feels good to give back to a community and an organization that has protected many of the places I cherish in Vermont, especially in such a rewarding and adventurous way.



Dan and Amy Potter monitoring the Big Jay Tract

PHOTO BY MOLLIE FLANIGAN

Navigating Jay Peak

BY HANNAH HUTCHINSON

If you just looked at the sky, you might have imagined it was August—a bluebird day, as it's affectionately known. And, unlike most mid-winter days in Vermont, there was no wind. The silence was remarkable considering that Lenny and I had traveled only half a mile into the woods away from the flurry of activity at the summit of Jay Peak Resort.

Fresh fluffy snow covered the trees and forest floor. As we made our way around the woods, passing the well-known Beaver Pond Glades, we did so more for the quiet of the winter woods and the adventure of unmarked terrain than the thrill of long carves. We were exploring, excited to check out the Jay Peak tract—corridor land that we had recently volunteered to monitor for GMC.

The next September Lenny and I headed back for official training with Mollie.

Mollie told us that a three-way land swap among GMC, Jay Peak Resort, and the State of Vermont had resulted in the

Jay Peak tract, protecting two miles of the Long Trail and 166 acres of alpine forest. Our job would be maintaining the boundaries of the tract and alerting the club of encroachments, such as the cutting of trees to create glades or ski trails.

On this outing, we carried compasses and orange paint. We learned how to use—really use—a compass off trail as we followed official survey maps, quadrant bearings, and orange blazes on trees. Mollie explained that only licensed surveyors could legally establish the boundary line markings we followed, but volunteers can repaint them. Surveyors blaze trees with axes, making flat spots by peeling off bark and a little wood, then paint the blazes orange. They also set metal rods at the corners of the property.

The three of us set out to find the short metal rods. Once we found them and got our bearings we got to work repainting faded blazes, and replacing old flagging (fluorescent-colored plastic tape commonly used by land managers). We compared what we saw with what we had studied

in the Jay Peak tract baseline documentation report—the club's official document containing the history, policies, and needs of the tract.

Lenny and I are elated to be able to monitor a corridor surrounding Jay Peak's summit. We ski and splitboard at Jay most winter weekends, and our now twice-yearly outings for GMC not only give us the chance to be stewards of the land, but the opportunity to scout promising backcountry to ski.

After our day with Mollie we went home covered with scratches and mud—exactly how all good adventures should end.

If corridor monitoring sounds like a rewarding volunteer opportunity to you, contact Land Stewardship Coordinator **Mollie Flanigan** at mflanigan@greenmountainclub.org or (802) 241-8217 to learn more. Properties are available along the Long Trail in the north, and the AT in the Upper Valley.

Meet The Staff

And check out GMC clothing available in the GMC Visitor Center and online store. Stop by headquarters in Waterbury Center, visit the web (greenmountainclub.org), or call (802) 244-7037 to purchase any of these items. When you do, you will be supporting our work to protect and maintain the Long Trail. Members receive a 20% discount on all GMC merchandise.



JASON BUSS is GMC's director of finance. He manages our budget, accounting, and information technology needs. Before joining GMC Jason was director of finance and technology for the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps. He has a B.A. in environmental science and policy and a certificate in nonprofit management from Marlboro College. Jason moved to Vermont at age four, and now lives in Burlington.

To escape numbers and computer screens Jason spends free time hiking and canoeing throughout Vermont.

Wearing: Men's Long Trail T-shirt. Color: Olive green.

Price: \$21.95.

ILANA COPEL became field supervisor this spring. A 2009 transplant from New York, she studied natural resource ecology at the University of Vermont's Rubenstein School. Though she grew up hiking, Ilana discovered trail work at Griffith Lake while on a Vermont Youth Conservation Corps Wilderness Crew in 2010. That inspired her 2011 Long Trail hike, which further inspired her to become a GMC caretaker in 2012. When she's not hiking, she can be found on a chairlift, at a concert, or in one of Northern Vermont's many delightful breakfast establishments.



Wearing: Long sleeve performance shirt. Men's and women's styles. Men's color: Green. Women's colors: Green or red.

Price: \$25.95.



LENNY CRISOSTOMO manages the club's extensive database. He did similar work for the Appalachian Mountain Club before coming to GMC. Tired of driving from the city to the mountains to play, he and his wife Hannah left Boston for Vermont in 2015. Lenny is an avid snowboarder, and is looking forward to another winter of exploring Vermont's backcountry. The rest of the year Lenny regu-

larly seeks the hiking trails and waterways of New England.

Wearing: Men's quarter zip long sleeve. Color: Charcoal gray.

Price: \$39.95.

LORNE CURRIER serves as GMC's group outreach and field coordinator, an AmeriCorps position funded by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. A Maine native and veteran of the Appalachian Mountain Club's hut system, Lorne began his first term of service with GMC in March, and is excited to remain for a second term. Lorne's favorite hobbies include exploring Lake Champlain by sailboat, baking bread in his Burlington kitchen, or struggling immensely with the crossword puzzle of the local paper.



Wearing: Trucker hat. Color: Emerald green. **Price:** \$18.95.

MIKE DEBONIS returned to his home state to become GMC's executive director in 2014. Before that he was executive director of the Forest Guild, a national organization of professional foresters. Mike is an Appalachian Trail thru-hiker and a two-time Long Trail end-to-end. An inveterate tinkerer, he is learning the art of blacksmithing and trying to turn pieces of scrap metal found around the house into something useful. Mike, his wife Jennifer, and their two dogs live in Moretown.

Wearing: NEW! Men's fleece jacket. Color: Black. *Price: \$49.95.*



DAVE HARDY has been maintaining trails since the 1970s, starting in New Hampshire's White Mountains. He joined GMC as southern field assistant in 1992, and has been director of trail programs since 1999. A lifelong hiker, he thru-hiked the Long Trail in 1982, and has bagged countless peaks throughout the Northeast. He has been employed as an engineer, cook, and baker, and is renowned for his fine homebrewed beer.

Wearing: Baseball cap. Colors: Blue, green, or stone. *Price: \$18.95.*



ALICIA DICOCCO joined the staff as director of development in 2014. She got her start in development at Boston University while volunteering with their community service center. She spent several years doing trail and conservation work out West before finding her way to Vermont by way of Massachusetts, Texas, California, and Colorado with her husband Shay five years ago. She loves living in the Green Mountains and exploring the

Long Trail with her two young children, Lane and Hugh.

Wearing: Women's long sleeve Long Trail shirt. Color: Iris. *Price: \$25.95.*



Following a Long Trail thru-hike in 2010 **JOCELYN HEBERT** left a twenty-year career as a real estate appraiser behind. This September she began her seventh year with GMC, serving as *Long Trail News* editor for the last five years. Now a three-time Long Trail end-to-end, she's decided it's time to explore the side trails. Always with a camera in hand, Jocelyn's goal is to capture the beauty of Vermont's mountains and share it with others who may not find their way

into the woods. Jocelyn is a Vermont native and lives in Calais.

Wearing: Women's Long Trail T-shirt. Color: Sage green. *Price: \$21.95;* Baseball cap. Colors: Blue, green or stone. *Price: \$18.95.*

As land stewardship coordinator, **MOLLIE FLANIGAN** oversees management of GMC-conserved lands, coordinates the land protection effort to conserve the last few miles of unprotected Long Trail, and manages GMC's Camps Program. She has a B.S. in environmental studies from the University of Vermont; her minor was in plant biology. Before joining the staff, Mollie did land stewardship and invasive species management work at the Vermont Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and UVM Extension. Mollie enjoys making music, art, and gardening as well as hiking.

Wearing: Wind proof vest with GMC logo. Men's and women's styles. Color: Black. *Price: \$44.95.*



MATT KREBS manages GMC's operations and publications. Beginning at GMC in 2009, he has been an information specialist in the Visitor Center, stewardship assistant, interim business manager, and editor of the *Long Trail Guide*. As a father of three he has a passion for getting kids out on the trail. He loves great adventures, and his have included thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail and the Long Trail. These days Matt may be found reading books and playing pirates with his three children. Matt and his family live in Craftsbury.

Wearing: Performance T-shirt. Men's and women's styles. Color: Charcoal gray. *Price: \$21.95.* Baseball cap. Colors: Blue, green, or stone. *Price: \$18.95.*



Meet The Staff (continued)



KRISTIN MCLANE is a transplant to Vermont, happy to be in the Green Mountain State after living mostly in the more crowded Philadelphia area. An avid hiker, she first hiked on the Long Trail during a 2013 Appalachian Trail thru-hike. After experiencing many other hikes and adventures, Kristin decided to leave her previous career and focus on the trails that she loves. As GMC's

membership and communications coordinator, she is thrilled to be able to inspire more people to become involved with GMC.

Wearing: Women's quarter-zip long sleeve shirt. Color: Iris. Price: \$39.95. GMC logo buff. Price: \$25.00.

KURT MELIN has worked seasonally at GMC since 2008. He began as an intern, and today is foreman of the backcountry construction crew. Kurt grew up near Indianapolis but fell in love with Vermont after hiking the Long Trail in 2007. He met his wife Mari at GMC when she was employed as the director of membership and volunteers. They now live in Jericho with Twiggy, their overweight cat. Look for Kurt this winter at Mad River Glen, where he will be working and, of course, skiing.

Wearing: Winter beanie with GMC logo. Color: Black. Price: \$18.95.



While earning a degree in animal science from the University of Vermont, **AMY POTTER** discovered a love of the outdoors. She has since become an enthusiastic hiker, climber, and backpacker. She, her husband Dan, and their two adventure dogs, Mika and Lucy, completed a 2015 Long Trail thru-hike. As the Visitor Center manager, Amy values her position because it enables her to share her knowledge of and

passion for the Long Trail with the public.

Wearing: Toboggan beanie with GMC logo. Colors: Black or green. Price: \$25.95; T-shirt with "Along this Skyline" across back. Men's and women's styles. Color: Heather or stone. Price: \$21.95.

Volunteering and outdoor education have guided **ROB RIVES'** life decisions since his formative years in the Piedmont of North Carolina. Rob believes that a strong and passionate volunteer base is necessary to maintain recreational resources, and is eager to continue and expand the club's tradition of volunteerism as our education and volunteer coordinator. Rob completed the first recorded thru-run of the Cohos Trail in New Hampshire, and has summited the New Hampshire four-thousand-footers in winter. An endurance athlete, he can usually be found training for his next ultramarathon or climbing the nearest rock.

Wearing: Men's long sleeve Long Trail shirt. Color: Pacific blue. Price: \$25.95.



Winter Travels Photo Credits

Left Page

Top: Jay Peak by Brenda Buckbee

Middle, left: Sun setting through trees on Laraway Mountain by Brenda Buckbee

Middle, right: Handstand on the Stowe Pinnacle by Jocelyn Hebert

Bottom, left: Skiing through Bolton backcountry by Sheri Larsen

Right Page

Top, left: Hikers entering the woods from clearing on Camel's Hump by Jocelyn Hebert

Top, right: April hike up Camel's Hump by Sheri Larsen

Middle, left: Stowe Pinnacle summit by Jocelyn Hebert

Middle, right: Ice formation on way to Laraway Lookout by Jocelyn Hebert

Bottom, left: Sunset Ridge Trail on Mount Mansfield by Jocelyn Hebert

Back Cover: Mount Mansfield by Tom Anderson



The GMC Board met on September 10 at club headquarters in Waterbury Center for a full day of business, including officer and staff reports; a review of current year finances; the fiscal year 2017 auditor's report; and discussion of the club's strategic plan.

Executive Director Mike DeBonis reported that income and expenses were tracking close to budget. Brett Hodgdon of Davis & Hodgdon Associates presented the results of the accounting firm's audit of the club's financial records for fiscal year 2017, which ended April 30. For the second year in a row, the club received a clean audit, and Brett complimented staff members on the improvements they had made to financial systems and controls.

After two years of interactive and iterative discussions among club staff, board, standing committees, and members, the

board reviewed and then unanimously approved the final draft of the 2018-2022 GMC Strategic Plan. The plan is an aspirational and living document that includes goals, outcomes and strategies for each of four themes: protecting and managing the trail resource; operational excellence; engagement and inclusion; and strengthening our sections' membership and volunteers. The board briefly discussed its fiscal implications, and will review it in more detail during GMC's annual budget development at the January board meeting.

President John Page provided an overview of the Bromley Observation Tower replacement, a project proposed by the Manchester Section. After discussion, the board voted unanimously that the project should move forward.

Land Stewardship Coordinator Mollie Flanigan explained how the club is using

geographic information systems technology to monitor hundreds of miles of boundaries of trail corridor lands under GMC management.

The board unanimously approved the roster of committees and committee chairs for 2018 proposed by John Page.

Mike DeBonis announced that the 2018 annual meeting will be hosted by the Ottauquechee Section in Fairlee, June 1-3, 2018.

Dates for future board meetings are: January 6, 2018; March 17, 2018; June 2, 2018; and September 22, 2018. All Green Mountain Club members are welcome to attend. Locations vary; inquire at the club as dates approach.

The meeting adjourned just before 1:00 p.m. so board members could join the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic.

—LEE ALLEN, SECRETARY

A Century of Long Trail Guidebooks: A Retrospective

In *A Century of Long Trail Guidebooks: A Retrospective*, Reidun Nuquist masterfully weaves the twenty-eight Long Trail guidebook editions together, incorporating the characteristics of Green Mountain Club's finest editors, illustrators, cartographers, and trail builders.

A Century of Long Trail Guidebooks is a comprehensive volume embracing GMC's rich one hundred years of guidebook publishing.

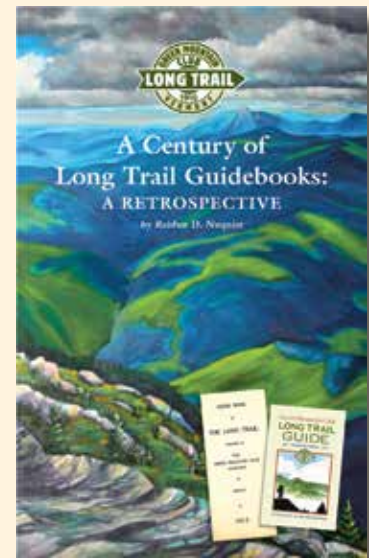
From the introduction by former Executive Director Ben Rose:

"The history of the *Long Trail Guide* is a wonderful lens through which to view the history of the Long Trail itself. There is nobody better to bring that history to life than Reidun Nuquist.

"I thought of Reidun and her husband Andrew as the very heart of GMC, epitomizing the best of GMC volunteers. They were understated,

relentlessly cheerful, indefatigable, and startlingly witty. When Andrew was GMC President, Reidun was the Montpelier Section President and on the GMC Board of Directors, but she also cranked out a series of contributions to the *Long Trail News* which brought the cultural history of the Long Trail into sharp focus. Drawing on her professional skills as a librarian and researcher, she explicated stories of the Long Trail and its builders and stewards, culminating in "A Century of Change – And Growth," the chapter Reidun contributed to GMC's centennial publication, *A Century in the Mountains*.

"In *A Century of Long Trail Guidebooks*, Reidun has done it once again. The topic may sound slightly dry or arcane, but you will see: in Reidun's hands, it is not! This is a book of good stories, and it is full of joy, beauty, and humor—just like its author."



A Century of Long Trail Guidebooks: A Retrospective, available at our Visitor Center and online store, store.greenmountainclub.org.
Price: \$9.95

Or purchase your limited-edition collector's set, including both the retrospective and 100th anniversary edition of the *Long Trail Guide*.
Price: \$26.91.

Members receive 20% discount on all GMC publications and merchandise.

Green Mountain Club Outdoor Programs

At GMC we are always looking for ways to help you have fun, be safe, and learn more about the outdoors. Educational workshops are added to our website all year, so be sure to visit greenmountainclub.org periodically to sign up. Workshop full? Ask to be added to the waiting list. Here are a few of our current offerings:

Adirondack Pack Basket Workshop

Dates: Winter 2018
GMC Visitor Center,
Waterbury Center

Take part in one of the most ancient crafting traditions: basketry. Andy Paonessa is a craftsman, naturalist, and farmer from northern Vermont who has been making Adirondack style pack baskets and teaching workshops for more than ten years. In this two-day workshop participants will build pack baskets from start to finish, complete with cedar skids and canvas straps. The cost includes all materials. Please check Green Mountain Club's education page on the website for dates and times.

Instructor: Andy Paonessa. Limit: 10. Fee: \$200. Rain or shine. Register at least two weeks in advance.

Ice Climbing with Petra Cliffs

Date: Winter 2018
9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Smugglers' Notch State Park,
Stowe

Learn the exhilarating sport of ice climbing! Join the Green Mountain Club and Petra Cliffs for a full day of climbing in beautiful Smugglers' Notch. You will learn how to move over easy to moderate terrain while ascending frozen waterfalls. No climbing experience is necessary. American Mountain Guides Association certified ice instructor. Technical climbing equipment rental included. The group will meet in the morning at Green Mountain Club Headquarters in Waterbury Center for boot fitting, harness sizing, and an introduction.

Instructor: Petra Cliffs Mountaineering School. GMC Members \$100. Non-members \$125. Limit: 6. Register at least two weeks in advance.

Introduction to Cold Weather Trekking

Evening Portion:

Wednesday, January 24, 2018, 6 p.m.–8 p.m.

Day Hike:

Saturday, January 27, 2018, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

GMC Visitor Center,
Waterbury Center

Whether you plan a winter backcountry trip of one day or several, you need to know the fundamentals of safe winter travel. This workshop provides hands-on instruction on what to wear and what gear to use. We

will discuss food, base layers, mid layers, shells, socks, snowshoes, hats, handwarmers, hydration, boots, traction, and more! If you don't own winter traction devices or have never worn the ones you have, this workshop is for you. The evening session is required for participation in the day hike.

Instructor: GMC Education Staff. Limit: 25 for the evening class, 10 for the day hike. Fee: \$35 for the evening class. Additional \$10 for the day hike (spots are reserved for the first ten registrants). GMC members receive 20 percent off. Snow or shine. Register at least one week in advance.

Full Moon Snowshoe Walks

Wednesday, January 31, 6:30 p.m.–8 p.m. and
Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 6:30 p.m.–8 p.m.
GMC Visitor Center,
Waterbury Center

Strap on a pair of snowshoes and enjoy a winter walk under the full moon. We will explore meadows and woods around the GMC's Waterbury Center campus as we learn about winter wildlife and winter astronomy (weather permitting). Afterward we will enjoy hot chocolate in our cozy Visitor Center. This family-friendly outing is for all ages. Bring your snowshoes or rent a pair for an additional fee.

Instructor: GMC Education Staff. Limit: 20. Fee: \$25 (\$45 with snowshoe rental). GMC members receive 20 percent off. Snow or shine. Register at least one week in advance.





Beatrice Bonetti (left)

On the afternoon of June 29, 2017, a commuter bus stopped at the Mount Tabor Country Store in Mount Tabor. Beatrice Bonetti, nineteen, stepped off and stood on Vermont soil. It was her first visit to the United States.

From her home near Bologna, Italy, Beatrice had researched summer volunteer programs organized by Volunteers for Peace (VFP), which connects volunteers

with work programs all over the world. VFP has helped the Green Mountain Club find international volunteers for the Volunteer Long Trail Patrol (VLTP) for several years. Most people join the patrol for a week or two, but Beatrice decided to register for the whole 2017 season: five weeks on projects along the Branch Pond Trail in the southern portion of the Green Mountain National Forest.

As Beatrice worked alongside other volunteers and VLTP staff in July, she learned about backcountry living, puncheon building, and trail relocation. Other volunteers came and went, but Beatrice stayed, helping staff restock supplies between work sessions and becoming a close friend of Mary Beth Herbert, the patrol's leader. She learned operations so well that she effectively became an additional GMC staff member, guiding new volunteers each week.

When told early in the season that her stint in the patrol was exceptionally long, Beatrice seemed puzzled: "Why wouldn't I come for all five weeks?" This expressed the essence of her volunteer spirit: though she could have worked just a week, she chose to dedicate most of her summer to maintaining trails in Vermont, a place she had never been.

The point of the Volunteer Long Trail Patrol is not merely trail maintenance. At its core the patrol joins volunteers in a celebration of community. It offers a chance for all of us to take time out of ordinary life to work together, create and strengthen friendships, and contribute to the Long Trail System. We thank Beatrice for joining the Volunteer Long Trail Patrol, becoming a part of our trail community, and leaving her imprint on the Branch Pond Trail.

Group of the Year: Vermont ATV Sportsman's Association

Anyone who has carried building materials into or out of the woods knows how taxing and time-consuming shelter and trail maintenance can be. The network of more than sixty shelters and miles of puncheon that constitute the Long Trail and the Vermont Appalachian Trail systems can't be maintained practically without motorized help. Sometimes we hire helicopters, but they are too expensive to use often. Fortunately, the Vermont ATV Sportsman's Association (VASA) has stepped in to lighten our load.

In the last two field seasons VASA has provided vehicles and drivers to move material. Projects that would otherwise have taken many days of human power have become one- or two-day jobs. In June, 2016, VASA moved lumber for fourteen new lengths of puncheon to Stamford Meadows. In October, 2016, they helped transport two large loads of lumber uphill to Bryant Camp, and removed all scrap metal from the site. In 2017, VASA made more trips to Stamford Meadows with puncheon lumber and moved almost a



VASA members receiving Group of the Year award

cord of firewood into Bryant Camp.

It is essential for outdoor groups to work together for our common goal: to protect and conserve recreational and natural resources. We thank VASA

members for helping the Vermont hiking community, and we look forward to cooperating with them on future projects.

—ROB RIVES
EDUCATION AND VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Section Directory

Bennington

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

Brattleboro

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

Bread Loaf

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

Burlington

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

Connecticut

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

Killington

Location: Rutland area
Maintenance: Vt. 140 to Maine Junction
President: Barry Griffith, (802) 492-3573
E-mail: bgriffithvt@gmail.com
Website: gmckillington.org

Laraway

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

Manchester

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

Montpelier

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

Northeast Kingdom

Maintenance: Willoughby and Darling State Forests and the Kingdom Heritage Lands
President: Cathi Brooks, (802) 626-8742
E-mail: cathibrooks@aol.com
Website: nekngmc.org

Northern Frontier

Location: Montgomery
Maintenance: Hazen's Notch to Canada
President: Jane Williams, (802) 827-3879
Website: gmcnorthernfrontier.org

Ottawaquechee

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

Sterling

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

Worcester

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



Sections

What's a GMC Section?

If you're new to the Green Mountain Club, you may have heard of GMC "sections" and wondered, "What the heck is a section?"

Simply put, sections are membership chapters. They are the key building blocks of the Green Mountain Club, and are essential to the club's mission "to make the Vermont mountains play a larger part in the life of the people."

The sections are the foundation of the volunteer workforce that maintains the Long Trail, Appalachian Trail in Vermont, Kingdom Heritage Trails, and all the side trails the club manages. Approximately 3,500 of GMC's 9,500 members belong to sections.

Section members are geographically dispersed ambassadors who promote GMC's mission, support its goals financially, and provide organizational focus for members in Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. Healthy and robust sections are critical to a healthy and robust future for the Green Mountain Club.

Today fourteen sections maintain more than 200 miles of trail; organize hiking, cycling, kayaking, snowshoeing, Nordic skiing, backpacking, and high adventure trips; and promote the goals of the Green Mountain Club by providing organizational leadership and hosting training and educational events.

As part of GMC's strategic planning effort, an ad-hoc committee was formed in March, 2017, to develop recommendations to strengthen sections and ensure their long-term vitality. With representatives from most sections, the committee met several times to discuss opportunity areas, including leadership development, membership, outreach, and collaboration among sections.

Three basic recommendations resulted, with supporting sub-tier recommendations:

1 Form a standing committee to establish, promote, and coordinate best practices for trail maintenance and section operation, health, recruitment, and leadership development.

2 Compare GMC's membership model with others from similar organizations, and identify potential improvements. Our model has served the club well, but membership has leveled off in the past few years. Increasing usage of our trails represents an opportunity to better engage the trail community and reinvigorate section membership with new energy.

3 Improve GMC communication, both internally and externally. While we have redesigned the main club's section web page and vigorously employed social media tools like Facebook and MeetUp, many of these advances have not propagated to the section level.

These three recommendations are now in the club's five-year strategic plan.

So, how can you take advantage of opportunities in your local section or join it? It's easy. Check the GMC website under "Members" for a list of sections, key contacts, and information on joining. Review the online calendar for recreational and trail maintenance outings, and head for the trail. Read the *Long Trail News* to find activities you'd like. When you join a section, you'll get its newsletter and activities schedule too.

Joining a section is a great way to make new friends, enjoy the outdoors in Vermont and beyond, and, most importantly, to experience the satisfaction of helping to maintain the oldest long-distance hiking trail system in the country.

—JIM FRITZ, SECTION WORKING GROUP
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN



New Killington Section Board Member: CYNTHIA TAYLOR-MILLER

Cindy Taylor-Miller recently became the new Killington Section member of the GMC Board of Directors. I was the Killington Section director for the last six years, so Cindy and I got together for a Long Trail hike to Clarendon Gorge and Airport Lookout to talk about her new role.

Just a glance at Cindy tells you that she lives and breathes trails. She wore an Appalachian Trail-themed T-shirt emblazoned with “Hike your own hike,” “Flip Flop,” and “Springer Fever.” Her daypack bore a Green Mountain Club patch with three end-to-ender rocker patches, and an Appalachian Trail patch supplemented with “Lifetime Member,” “Trail Maintainer,” and three two-thousand-miler rocker patches. Even the custom license plate on her car is a tribute to the local mountains.

I’ve spent a lot of time with Cindy at Killington Section events, but during our walk I was impressed once again by her extensive hiking experience and her volunteer work for several other hiking organizations. Here are a few questions she answered for me:

What have you enjoyed so far about being on the Green Mountain Club Board of Directors, and what do you hope to contribute?

I have enjoyed getting to know the other board members and learning about their backgrounds. I’m waiting to find out what committees I’ll be invited to join. A sections working group was formed to address issues like how to strengthen the sections and improve communication between sections and the club staff, and board. Hopefully it will become a fully fledged committee soon, and I’ll have an opportunity to become a member.

What has surprised you?

The scope of the Green Mountain Club’s duties and responsibilities in Vermont. I was especially surprised by the number of partnerships we have with landowners, and the large amount of land the club owns or manages.



Cynthia Taylor-Miller

What other trail related organizations have you joined, and what have your roles been?

I’m a member of the Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association (ALDHA), which is made up of hikers and friends of trails, primarily the Appalachian Trail. Its goals are to promote and support the long-distance hiking community. We work to communicate trail related issues to current and potential hikers.

I am working on two publications for ALDHA and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC): *The Appalachian Trail Thru-Hikers’ Companion*, and *The Appalachian Trail Guide to New Hampshire-Vermont*. I was the editor of the thru-hikers’ companion guide in 2006 and 2007, and I am now one of the two Vermont field editors, and creator of the [data] tables for each section of the book. I have been editing the New Hampshire-Vermont guide since 2007. That guide and the corresponding ATC maps are updated every five years.

What challenges do you believe the Green Mountain Club will face in the near future?

Getting the message out to fellow Vermonters about the Green Mountain Club and the Long Trail. Many people don’t know the club exists, even if they are aware of their local hiking trails. As with all the organizations I belong to, our core membership is aging, and we need to continue to recruit new members so that the next generation can carry on the club’s mission and goals.

What future personal adventures do you hope to accomplish?

I have no big travel plans for the near future, but I do hope to finish the Continental Divide Trail someday. I’ve completed both ends, including New Mexico, Montana, and some of Idaho and Colorado. I’ve been section hiking this trail since 2009, and have about a thousand miles left to complete.

—ALLISON HENRY
FORMER KILLINGTON SECTION DIRECTOR

26th Annual James P. Taylor Outdoor Adventure Series

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-six years of the Taylor Series—a great way to spend an evening!

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

Please check the GMC website, greenmountainclub.org for full calendar, updates, and changes.

Outdoor Adventure Storytelling Night

Attending storytellers

Thursday, January 4, 7 p.m.
GMC Visitor Center,
Waterbury Center

Let's kick off this year's Taylor Series with stories told by YOU! Throw your name in the hat for a chance to get up and share your five- to six-minute adventure-related story at this National Public Radio Moth-like storytelling night. All stories should be true, first person accounts with a good story arc, including a beginning, a middle, and an end. Contact us for more storytelling tips!

Wool Knickers and White Blazes: A Retro Hike on the Long Trail

Mike DeBonis

Thursday, January 11, 7 p.m.
GMC Visitor Center,
Waterbury Center

Have you ever wondered what it was like to hike the Long Trail a hundred years ago? GMC Executive Director

Mike DeBonis will tell tales from his 2017 retro end-to-end hike, celebrating one hundred years of the *Long Trail Guidebook*. You'll enjoy the fun of hiking the trail in 1917 but without the wool, bugs, and canned fish.

Finding Traction and Vermont Trail Running Panel

Aliza LaPierre, Kasie Enman, Lindsay Simpson

Thursday, January 18, 7 p.m.
GMC Visitor Center,
Waterbury Center

Finding Traction is the inspirational story of ultrarunner Nikki Kimball's quest to become the fastest person to run America's oldest long-distance hiking trail, the 273-mile Long Trail. Through Nikki's incredible journey, racing towards a dream and against time, we gain a new perspective on what we all value in endurance and the human spirit. Join local ultrarunners Aliza LaPierre, Kasie Enman, and Lindsay Simpson for a panel discussion of Vermont trail and ultrarunning following the film.

Day Hiking and Other Adventures in Iceland

Sheri and Rich Larsen

Thursday, January 25, 7 p.m.
GMC Visitor Center,
Waterbury Center

Iceland has a lot to offer: great hiking, beautiful scenery, interesting geology, hot springs, good birding, lovely wildflowers, and lots of summer daylight. Rich and Sheri Larsen traveled to Iceland last summer and spent two weeks day hiking and sightseeing in the southwest part of the country. Join them to learn more about hiking and other activities in Iceland as well as enjoy photos from their trip.

Fourteen Days on the Walker's Haute Route: From Chamonix to Zermatt

Kevin Craft

Thursday, February 1, 7 p.m.
GMC Visitor Center,
Waterbury Center

What do you do when you receive a wedding invitation to Switzerland? You begin planning a hiking vacation--what else?! When Kevin and his wife, Guylaine, received an invitation to attend a wedding in Zermatt, it didn't take much to convince these two enthusiastic hikers to embark on a fourteen day excursion following the famed Haute Route from Chamonix to Zermatt. Join them as they recount their experience of hiking in the "tidy country."

History of the 10th Mountain Division

Brian Lindner

Thursday, February 15, 7 p.m.
GMC Visitor Center,
Waterbury Center

The famed 10th Mountain Division was America's ski troops during World War II, and key to defeating German forces in Italy. Many know the returning veterans from the 10th formed the backbone of America's ski industry, but fewer know that the division traces its roots to Vermont. Lindner's talk will recount the history of the 10th Mountain Division from its conception through its final victory in the Italian Campaign of 1945.

Walking the Coast to Coast Path

Deb Van Schaack & Nancy Custer Carroll

Wednesday, February 21, 7 p.m.
Champlain Valley Unitarian
Universalist Society, Middlebury
Sponsored by the Bread Loaf Section

Deb Van Schaack and Nancy Custer Carroll will share images and stories of their fifteen-day self-guided walk on the 192-mile, unmarked and unofficial coast to coast walk across England. Through three national parks from the Irish Sea to the North Sea, Deb and Nancy encountered sun, wind, rain, magnificent countryside, thousands of sheep, and some very fine folk with whom to walk and share a pint at the end of the day.

26th Annual Taylor Series Calendar

All shows at GMC Visitor Center in Waterbury Center unless otherwise noted.

Outdoor Adventure Storytelling Night Storytellers

Thursday, January 4, 7 p.m.

Wool Knickers and White Blazes: A Retro Hike on the Long Trail

MIKE DEBONIS

Thursday, January 11, 7 p.m.

Finding Traction and Vermont Trail Running Panel

Aliza LaPierre, Kasie Enman, Lindsay Simpson

Thursday, January 18, 7 p.m.

Day Hiking and Other Adventures in Iceland

Sheri and Rich Larsen

Thursday, January 25, 7 p.m.

14 Days on the Walker's Haute Route: From Chamonix to Zermatt

Kevin Craft

Thursday, February 1, 7 p.m.

History of the 10th Mountain Division

Brian Lindner

Thursday, February 15, 7 p.m.

Walking the Coast to Coast Path

Deb Van Schaack & Nancy Custer Carroll

Wednesday, February 21, 7 p.m.

Champlain Valley Unitarian Universalist Society, Middlebury

Lessons from the Arctic

Susan Koch

Thursday, February 22, 7 p.m.

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

Benjamin Kilham

Thursday, March 1, 7 p.m.

From Lisbon to Oslo by Bike

Mary Lou Recor

Thursday, March 8, 7 p.m.

The Salkantay Trek: The Other Inca Trail

Michelle Cournoyer

Thursday, March 15, 7 p.m.

Beyond Glamping: Hut-to-hut trekking in the High Tatras of Slovakia

Caitlin Cusack

Thursday, March 22, 7 p.m.

Finding Resilience on Scandinavia's Arctic Trail

Pavel Cenkl

Thursday, March 29, 7 p.m.



Haute Route

Lessons from the Arctic

Susan Koch

Thursday, February 22, 7 p.m.

GMC Visitor Center,
Waterbury Center

Join Grosvenor Teacher Fellow Susan Koch for an evening of Arctic exploration. Susan will share images, impressions, and lessons from an Arctic journey aboard the National Geographic Explorer to Svalbard, Norway. Come see images of polar ice, Arctic wildlife, and the impact of climate change on this remote and expansive part of our world. Susan is the 2016 Vermont Teacher of the Year, and teaches first grade in Montpelier.

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

Benjamin Kilham

Thursday, March 1, 7 p.m.

GMC Visitor Center,
Waterbury Center

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. Ben has been the focus of news articles and documentaries including National Geographic's *A Man Among Bears* and Animal Planet's *Papa Bear*. He is also co-author of the book *Among the Bears: Raising Orphaned Cubs in the Wild*.

From Lisbon to Oslo by Bike

Mary Lou Recor

Thursday, March 8, 7 p.m.

GMC Visitor Center,
Waterbury Center

In June 2017, Mary Lou Recor rolled her bike out of the Lisbon airport armed with five Michelin maps and faith in the kindness of strangers. No GPS, no cell phone, no tour guide, no mace. Two months, three thousand miles, and a hundred bakeries later she rolled into Oslo with the same five maps and faith in the kindness of strangers. She will entertain you with her stories and pictures from her unplanned route through the EU.



Iceland



From Lisbon to Oslo

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Searching for White Blazes

HIKING THE LONG TRAIL IN WINTER

How would you like to join an elite hiking group? A group that gives out no patches or certificates, keeps no records, and holds no induction ceremonies. A group so esoteric, no one except the members know who they are. And even they don't know the other members.

I am talking about people who have hiked the Long Trail in winter. Before you scoff, think about this: the number of people who have climbed Mount Everest and returned to give a PowerPoint presentation: More than 5,000. The number who have day hiked the Long Trail in winter: A handful. The number of winter thru-hikers: A really teeny-tiny handful.

But before you set your alarm for 4:00 a.m., there are some things you should know. First, you will need to recruit about a dozen friends—twenty would be even better—because you will run through them like AAA batteries. Many will join you for only one hike because once they see first-hand how wonderfully frustrating it is to search for white blazes in a bleached landscape, they will take up other hobbies. Like tweeting or fashioning grapevine wreaths.

Warning: According to the *Long Trail Guide*: the Long Trail and its shelters are not designed for winter use. If they were, the paint blazes would be the color of traffic cones, and the shelter roofs would be covered in solar panels. GMC, are you listening? If you know anyone who can operate a GPS unit in cold weather, be inordinately kind to them.

Further, you need to think of this as a long-term goal, like say thirteen years, two months and sixteen days. If you are in your eighties and have bad knees, it may not be for you.

Then, there's the 22.5-mile stretch over



Glastenbury Mountain. The U.S. Forest Service won't be much help. Their answer to most of your questions is "No." Is there a way to break up that stretch into shorter hikes? "No." Is there a convenient woods road that intersects the Long Trail? "No." Do you know any snowmobilers who offer shuttle services? "No." My advice: hold out for a low-snow winter; start early; bring a headlamp; eat plenty of chocolate. Not my advice: spend a frigid night shivering at Goddard Shelter wishing you were home fashioning grapevine wreaths.

Even with zealous precautions, you may still take a wrong turn. For example, imagine that you, four experienced hiker friends and two dogs, park at Middlebury Gap intending to climb Worth Mountain. When you reach the summit, you decide to continue south for a bit, and end up going all the way to Sucker Brook Shelter. After more consultation, you descend on the benign Sucker Brook Trail to Forest Road 67. Then it's an easy 3.8-mile snowshoe north to Vermont Route 125, a half-mile east of your cars at Middlebury Gap. A perfect loop.

Only you miss the Forest Road 67 junction, and wind up on the trails at Blueberry Hill Ski Center. No problem, you think, you'll find your way to the lodge, where you'll hitch a ride with an end-of-the-day skier. Except that when you get there, the place is deserted, like the body snatchers have come and gone. With no obvious other option, you all start walking north on the Ripton-Goshen Road hoping to hitch a ride with the next passing vehicle. This being rural Vermont, someone is bound to stop.

Only the first car swerves to avoid you. The next one—a big hulking suburban that could accommodate all of you plus the Middlebury Nordic Team—barely slows as the driver grumbles something mercifully unintelligible.

You pause in front of a house, and the residents turn out the lights when they see you coming up the drive. Did I mention that it is now nearly dark? You have no cell service, and it's ten cold miles back to your cars. WWJD?

Sound farfetched? Believe me, it can happen.

And finally, there is no glory in this endeavor. Most people you tell of your quest will give you that how-can-I-top-this-story look. Then, with a certain smugness, they will relate the tale of the legendary lumberjack Joe Bleau who thru-hiked the entire Long Trail back in the winter of 1856—when we had real winters—before there was even a trail, and while wearing scratchy underwear.

So if anyone asks you what you are up to this winter, tell them you're spending your free time watching cat videos. Then smile and set your alarm.

—SNOWBERRY

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