



Green Mountain Club  
2017 ANNUAL REPORT

It seems that hiking remains as popular as ever and it's easy to understand why. In Vermont, world-class trails are public assets that improve health and quality of life, and contribute to our local economy. With increased trail use comes increased responsibility. For us, this means having a professional staff to build sustainable trails and structures, educating and interacting with hikers, partnering with volunteers to maintain trails and conserved lands, and building a stronger GMC to manage the Long Trail system responsibly.

My appreciation of your involvement has grown over my last three years with the Green Mountain Club. Just as we need the right tools and training to maintain the Long Trail, we depend on your donations to support Green Mountain Club's programs and activities. You are vital to the long-term management of the Long Trail System and are helping us make the Vermont mountains play a larger part in the life of the people.

Fulfilling our mission translates into more than the miles of trails maintained, acres protected, and tons of human waste kept out of our streams, ponds, and campsites – it translates into lasting, meaningful, personal experiences in Vermont's forests and mountains. I am constantly hearing stories of how hiking or working on the Long Trail has had a profound, positive impact on one's life. There are so many examples of people overcoming physical and mental obstacles to reach a summit and groups learning to work together through service on the trail.

This report celebrates the work we did this year to care for the Long Trail. Thank you for your lasting and impactful support.

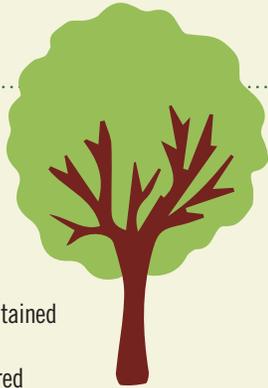


MICHAEL DEBONIS  
*Executive Director*





**9,620** Members



## Providing a World Class Hiking Experience

**420** miles of trail were monitored and maintained

**10,000** hours of service were volunteered

**25,000** acres of land were cared for through our land conservation program

**8** miles of boundary line were re-established along the Appalachian Trail

**5** acres of open area were reclaimed along the Appalachian Trail

## Connecting People to the Vermont Mountains

**247** registered End-to-Enders

**53,268** people visited Mount Mansfield

**21,070** people visited Camel's Hump

**200,000** people enjoyed the Long Trail System



## Serving the Trail Community

**317** people participated in our educational workshops and trainings

**17** service trips with **188** participants

**18** well attended James P. Taylor Series shows

**3,955** people visited our Visitor Center in Waterbury Center

# We Cared for the Trails and Mountains



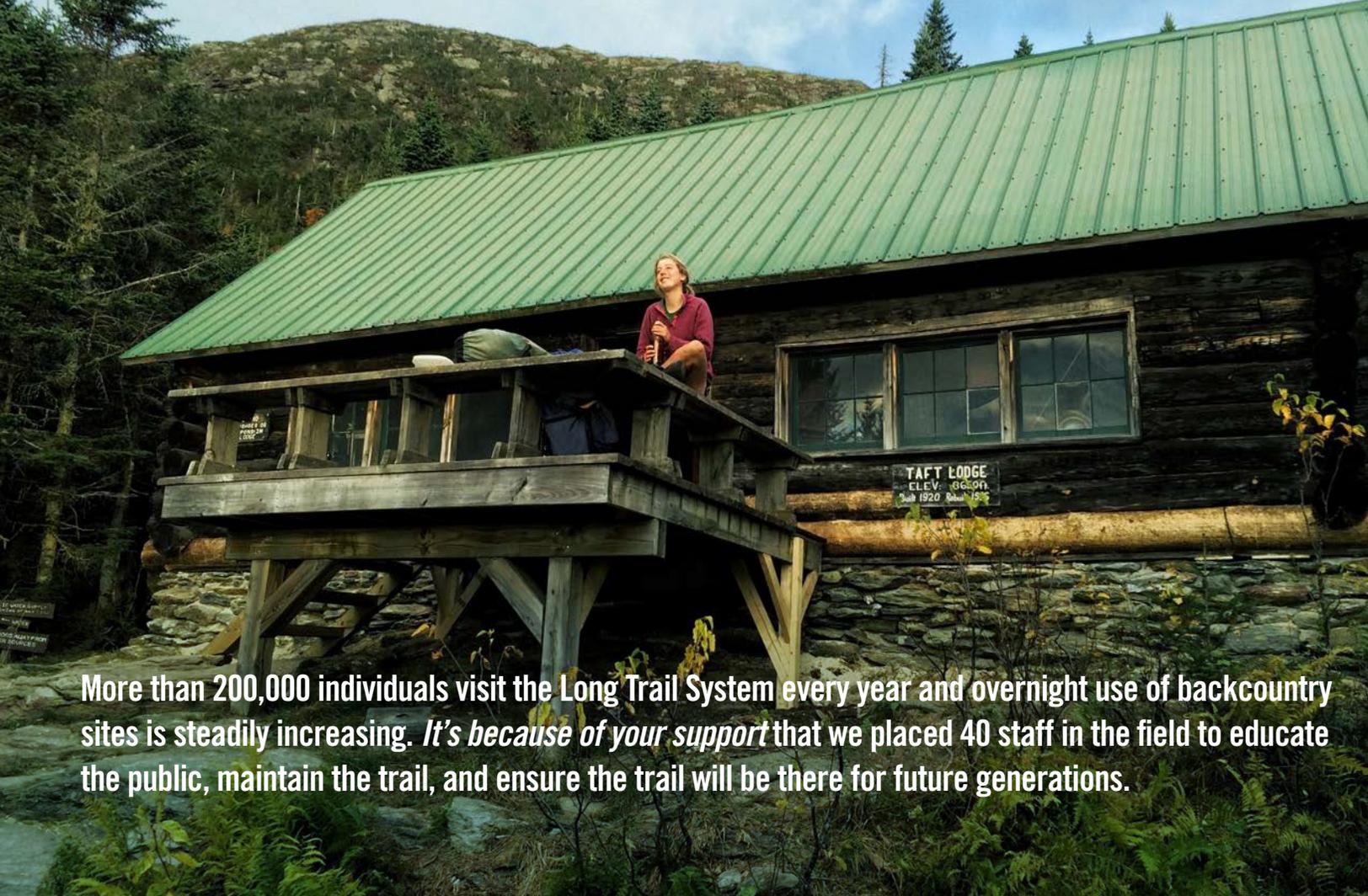
Our summit caretakers guided and educated **53,268** hikers on Mount Mansfield, **21,070** hikers on Camel's Hump, and **5,103** hikers on Mount Abraham. Our Long Trail/Appalachian Trail backcountry caretakers hosted 1,930 hikers at Stratton Pond, Griffith Lake, and Little Rock Pond, and a record-breaking 8,100 hikers made their way to the Stratton Mountain summit and fire tower.



Caretakers and volunteers managed 5,040 gallons of raw sewage, protecting the environment and creating sanitary and pleasant hiking conditions at high use areas. (Without your support, who would manage this waste?)

Our Long Trail Patrol was busy making improvements to trails throughout the state. Two major projects were dismantling condemned Hell Hollow Bridge in the Glastenbury Wilderness with the help of volunteers and draft horses, and building the East Dorset Trail, which opened Spring 2017.

Our construction crew did major restoration work on Mount Mansfield's historic Taft Lodge, which was made possible by a September airlift that flew in equipment and spruce logs from the Couching Lion Farm site on Camel's Hump. They also fully renovated Bryant Camp in Bolton and built a high capacity composting privy, allowing the camp to open for use during the 2016-17 winter.



More than 200,000 individuals visit the Long Trail System every year and overnight use of backcountry sites is steadily increasing. *It's because of your support* that we placed 40 staff in the field to educate the public, maintain the trail, and ensure the trail will be there for future generations.



**We are committed to responsibly managing GMC conservation lands and easements. Your support makes it possible for us to work with our neighbors and landowners to maintain a first-rate hiking experience across high mountain summits and working forest lands.**

# We Protected and Stewarded the Land

## Twin Brooks

We monitored and maintained 59 miles of boundaries on lands conserved by the Green Mountain Club along the Long Trail through our volunteer Corridor Monitoring Program.

We reclaimed and mowed 5-acres from overgrown native and non-native woody vegetation at Dupuis Hill in Pomfret, Howard Hill in Hartford, and Woodward Hill in Bridgewater. GMC manages 15 open areas along the Appalachian Trail between Route 12 and the Connecticut River – the largest concentration of open areas along the entire 2,189-mile Appalachian Trail.

We completed our seventh season of sustainable timber management on the Meltzer Tract in Lowell. We acquired 40 cords of log-length firewood to heat the visitor center, and Back Forty field staff housing and cabins.



# You Made a Difference through Volunteering

The Green Mountain Club began as a group of volunteers dedicated to protecting and maintaining the Long Trail for future generations. While we now have a professional staff that manage more than the Long Trail, it is our committed volunteers who keep us going. Volunteers were out maintaining trails and shelters, keeping backcountry privies running smoothly, sending out membership mailings, reaching out to new and potential supporters, and organizing member events and outings.

GMC volunteers gave over 10,000 hours of their time to support the trail, and for that we are so grateful.

More than 40 of you volunteered to regularly walk and mark protected trail corridor boundaries to ensure conservation restrictions were being upheld, and gathered valuable natural and recreational resource data.

More than 200 of you volunteered to be trail and shelter adopters that maintain

the footpath, and made small repairs to bridges and shelters throughout the Long Trail System. As always, our strong core of section volunteers spent time on the trail building water bars, removing blow downs, and caring for their portion of the trail.

We recognized Cindy Griffith and Ira Sollace as Volunteers of the Year for their leadership in running the Barnes Camp

Visitor Center, volunteering at membership events, participation on multiple GMC committees, and general enthusiasm for all things GMC. We also recognized all Barnes Camp Volunteers as Group of the Year for volunteering to staff Barnes Camp in Smuggler's Notch to greet and provide hiking information to thousands of visitors each hiking season.



**“Volunteering for GMC provides us with a concrete way to support their work to connect people with Vermont’s mountains. As native Vermonters, the Long Trail has brought us both endless joy and we are lucky to have such a beautiful natural resource. As a bonus, GMC makes us feel like family!”**

— CINDY GRIFFITH & IRA SOLLACE



# We Fostered Stewardship through Education

We worked throughout the year to foster the stewardship of Vermont's hiking trails and mountains. With a dedicated Volunteer & Education Coordinator, we were able to begin expanding our educational program.

This year 188 volunteers worked on 17 service projects across the state. They helped to care for the Long Trail System by working

on trails, moving lumber, stacking wood, and clearing water bars.

We had over 300 participants in programs and workshops, including the End-to-Enders' Panel, Intro to Backpacking for Women, Wilderness First Aid, Map and Compass, and Leave No Trace.

Our annual Winter Trails Day was held

at Long Trail Brewing, where more than 100 people explored the woods of Vermont on hikes throughout the Bridgewater area, and participated in workshops such as animal tracking and geocaching. The single digit temperature made for great learning opportunities!

# We Shared Our Hiking Knowledge & Your Stories

Throughout the year, our visitor center staff welcomed visitors, providing hiking information from local day hikes to planning end-to-end hikes of the Long Trail, and connecting hikers with mentors to plan their adventures. They served as a resource for trail updates, workshops, club events, and rental cabins.

At the Visitor Center you can find our 18 books and maps with information about hiking and backpacking in Vermont. We worked on multiple publications this year with release dates planned for 2018. We had a major revision of the centennial edition (28th) of the *Long Trail Guide*. Other undertakings included new editions of *The Long Trail End-to-End's Guide* and *Mount Mansfield and the Worcester Range Hiking Trail Map*. We began production of *A Century of Long Trail Guidebooks: A*

*Retrospective*, which walks readers through the 100-year history of GMC's *Long Trail Guide*.

The *Long Trail News* print magazine has long been the primary method to communicate our work to the membership and public. This year, a total of 30,000 copies were sent to more than 6,600 member households. We also grew our online communications to share stories and hiking information through our weekly blog posts, monthly emails, and regular radio program and social media posts. (Follow us! Facebook & Instagram @GreenMountainClub; Twitter @greenmtclub)



“Dear Amy (at the Visitor Center), We had a great hike along the Long Trail using the Old Job Trail... My sincere thanks to you and the Green Mountain Club.”

— JAY LAWRENCE



# Your Memberships & Donations Supported the Trail

The Green Mountain Club by nature is a membership club, which means it's your club. For over a century, members and donors like you have shared our vision and made our work possible. Without your support, we would not be able to care for the trails and land. We are continually amazed by the generosity of our donors, who are committed to protecting Vermont's celebrated trails and mountains. We had more than 5,000 individuals recognize the value of their hiking experience with a

financial contribution.

GMC's fourteen sections had a busy year leading hikes and outings, hosting member events, and maintaining their section of trail. Volunteers from sections make it possible for us to maintain the Long Trail System. We want to thank the Northeast Kingdom Section for their hard work hosting the annual meeting. This year, we had over 9,600 voting members who supported the mission of the Green Mountain Club.



# Fiscal Year 2017 Financial Report



The Green Mountain Club fiscal year ended April 30, 2017, with continued growth in total net assets. With the Board's decision two years ago to pay off an outstanding mortgage, we retain our relatively unusual position of virtually no liabilities. Total net assets increased by 2 percent to \$11.3 million. This was largely due to the value of our endowment increasing from \$4.0 million to \$4.4 million, as a result of investment returns and contributions exceeding withdrawals.

Total assets consist of endowment funds, \$4.4 million (39 percent); net property and equipment including the headquarters, field housing, the Lamoille River bridge, and the Winooski River bridge, \$3.4 million (29 percent); Long Trail land and easements, \$2.8 million (26 percent); and pledges receivable, cash, accounts receivable, prepaid expenses, and inventory accounting for the remainder, (6 percent). Total assets were \$11.3 million, offset by liabilities of \$33,747.

Total revenue and support as compared to total expenses before non-operating activity showed a shortfall of \$242,966, which was offset by net

non-operating activity of \$489,709. Total contributions and program income decreased by 2.8 percent, while total expenses were \$1,754,322 or \$198,000 above FY 2016.

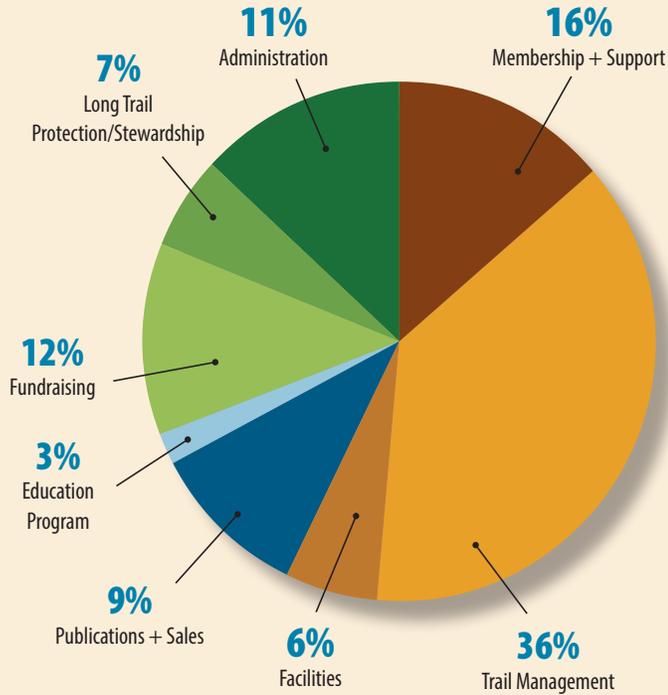
In fiscal year 2017, 76% of the club's operating expenditures were in direct support of the Long Trail System, Northeast Kingdom Trails, member education, and member services. General administration and fundraising account for the rest. This is an increase from FY 2016 where 74% went to direct support.

The Club finished fiscal year 2017 on a sound financial footing. This financial position also creates a strong base for our move toward comprehensive strategic planning to guide us in the years ahead.

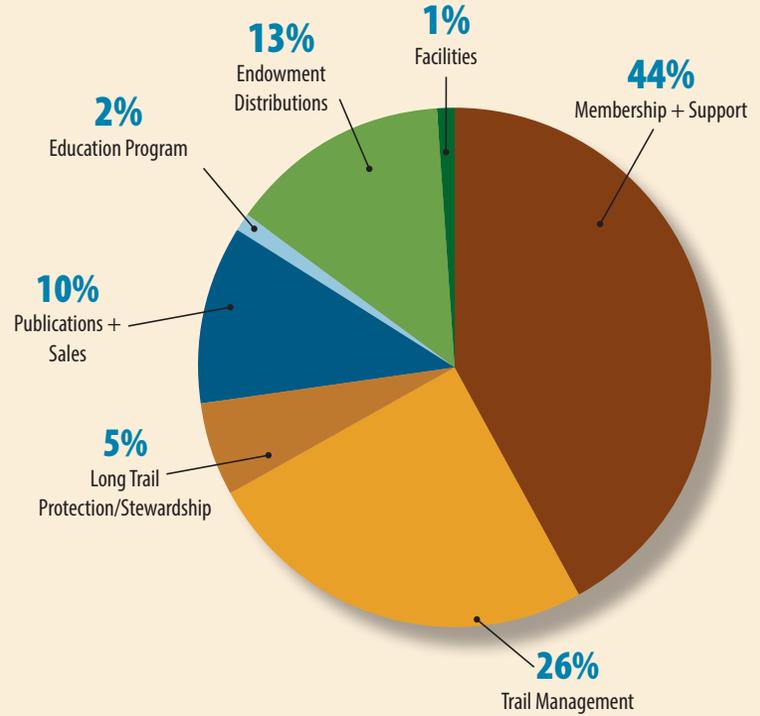
As always, contributions from our members, donors, and organizational grants continue to be critical sources of revenue to improve our trails and conserve our Green mountains that we cherish. Thanks to the many members and other supporters who made this work possible!

—STEPHEN KLEIN, *Treasurer*

## Fiscal Year 2017 EXPENSES



## Fiscal Year 2017 REVENUES + SUPPORT





# GMC Board

## OFFICERS

John Page, *President*  
Tom Candon, *Vice President*  
Stephen Klein, *Treasurer*  
Lee Allen, *Secretary*



## DIRECTORS

Lars Botzjoorns, *General*  
Faith Brown, *General*  
Michelle Connor, *Burlington*  
Hope Crifo, *General*  
Marge Fish, *Manchester*  
James Fritz, *Connecticut*  
Russ Ford, *Northern Frontier*  
Jean Haigh, *Northeast Kingdom*  
Allison Henry, *Killington*  
Peter Hope, *Ottaquechee*  
Paul Houchens, *General*  
Anne Janeway, *General*  
Wayne Krevetski, *General*  
Sheri Larsen, *General*  
Ron Lucier, *Sterling*  
Doug McKain, *Bread Loaf*  
Ed O'Leary, *General*  
John Oliva, *Worcester*  
Ira Sollace, *General*  
Martha Stitelman, *Bennington*  
Dann Van Der Vliet, *General*  
Howard VanBenthuyssen, *Northern Frontier*  
Michael Wetherell, *Montpelier*  
Matt Wels, *Brattleboro*  
John Zaber, *General*



# Staff

Jason Buss, *Business Manager*  
Ilana Copel, *Field Supervisor*  
Lenny Crisostomo, *Database Manager*  
Lorne Currier, *Group Outreach Specialist*  
Michael DeBonis, *Executive Director*  
Alicia DiCocco, *Director of Development*  
Dave Hardy, *Director of Trail Programs*  
Jocelyn Hebert, *Long Trail News Editor*  
Mollie Flanigan, *Land Stewardship Coordinator*

Matt Krebs, *Operations and Publications Coordinator*  
Kristin McLane, *Membership & Communications Coordinator*  
Caitlin Miller, *Group Outreach Specialist\**  
Jenny Montagne, *Membership Coordinator\**  
Amy Potter, *Visitor Center Manager*  
Matt Shea, *Field Supervisor\**

*\*Departed FY 2017*

**12** PERMANENT STAFF  
*(Full-time, year round)*

**46** SEASONAL EMPLOYEES

**6** INTERNS

**GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB**

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Waterbury Center, Vermont 05677

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

