REMEMBERING

Dave Hardy
Champion of the Woods
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.

Features
6 / Remembering Dave Hardy: Champion of the Woods
12 / Dave Hardy: Guardian of the Trail – A photo essay

Departments
3 / From the President
4 / Mountain Views
5 / Celebration of Life Held for Dave Hardy
14 / Trail Mix
18 / Groups
21 / James P. Taylor Outdoor Series
22 / Annual Meeting
24 / Board Report
25 / General Election
26 / Sections
28 / GMC Outdoor Programs
29 / Annual Meeting Registration
31 / Journey’s End
The Green Mountain Club mourns the loss of Director of Trail Programs, Dave Hardy, who passed away last November following an illness with cancer. Since his death I’ve heard expressions of grief from every corner of our community.

As hundreds of GMC volunteers and staff know, Dave was the heart and soul of the complex organization that maintains the Long Trail System, the Vermont Appalachian Trail, and our Northeast Kingdom Trails; every decision it takes to maintain 500 miles of hiking trails and 66 overnight facilities went through Dave at some point. His vision and mastery of the system was prodigious.

Dave had personal relationships with hundreds of volunteer trail maintainers, section leaders, and shelter adopters and every spring and summer for two decades he recruited, trained, and led our field staff. Perhaps most importantly, he was GMC’s liaison with our public partners. To all of this he brought a keen intelligence, a dry wit, and his unique “thought bubbles.”

This issue of the Long Trail News is a tribute to Dave and the profound influence he had on the club and its trails. Certainly no other “Trails and Shelters” leader at GMC has had as much impact on the Long Trail since Roy Buchanan relinquished the reins of the Long Trail Patrol in the 1960s. But Dave’s place at GMC went beyond his stellar work as director of trail programs. Our most lasting memories of him will be as a friend, mentor, leader, role model, and congenial colleague.

I spent many hours with Dave in meetings and work sessions at GMC headquarters. He was always a professional who could lead from behind by steering the discussion towards the best outcome without people realizing they had been steered. Many times, I made a suggestion to Dave, but quickly realized that he had already considered the idea and either rejected it for good reason or was three steps ahead. He was very intelligent and generally knew more about the Long Trail than anyone else in the room but didn’t let it show.

My best memories of Dave, though, are of the times I spent with him in the woods. Often this was on official visits to sites on the trail where problems needed addressing, but I was also fortunate enough to do a lot of pleasure hiking with him. I recall one particularly epic winter traverse of the Willoughby State Forest where we broke trail in waist-deep snow. He was a great hiking companion with a penchant for leaving the trail to take “shortcuts” that sometimes got us (semi) lost.

Organizationally we may feel semi lost, like we’re bushwhacking in the woods for a while, but we will find our way and the mission of the club will continue to be served. Each of us who knew Dave will keep his memory alive in our own way, and we’re all richer and better for having his many years among us.

Eventually we will find an appropriate and permanent way to formally recognize Dave’s contributions to the Long Trail and the Green Mountain Club. Dave will be remembered, and his passion and vision for the Long Trail will continue.

—JOHN PAGE, PRESIDENT
The Green Mountain Club received an outpouring of heartfelt messages after hearing about the passing of our longtime Director of Trail Programs Dave Hardy. We wanted to share excerpts, some edited for length, from a few of them in this special edition, dedicated to Dave’s life work on the Long Trail.

The full impact of Dave’s death hit me as I was out doing trail work. There was sadness, but as I worked along, I thought about Dave’s easy shuffle as he hiked, his calm way of imparting humor and wisdom, and expressions that I will carry always: about hung-up limbs: “I’d leave it. Just don’t have lunch under it.” About clearing tread with a “flick stick”: “You don’t have to bend down, and it’s mildly entertaining.” About dealing with difficult problems with partners: “I’ll just have a quiet conversation with them.” Such people are gifts.

—BOB HAGEN

Upper Valley–Ottauquechee Section

Thanks for letting us at the Waterman Fund know this very sad news about Dave Hardy. Guy and I met him years ago. It must have been in the 1970s. We always had the feeling about Dave that if you were talking about trails (the Long Trail!) what he was telling you was The Answer. He knew, from a boots-on-the-ground perspective. And that is the best kind of knowledge. In fact, for a trail worker, there is no other kind. It’s an understatement to say how much he’ll be missed.

—LAURA WATERMAN

The Friends of Bolton Valley Nordic and Backcountry, and future users of Bolton Lodge and Bryant Camp, will be forever indebted to Dave Hardy. When Dave and Jean Haigh suggested working with GMC to restore those camps, the Friends of Bolton had recently formed, and we had no idea what to do with them. It felt like we had just been handed a gift from on high.

GMC spearheaded nearly two years of grant writing, negotiating regulations (especially for Bryant Camp’s privy), and fundraising before building could begin. Knowledgeable and wonderful to work with, Dave stuck with us through an often frustratingly slow process. I knew he would always give me straight talk, without embellishments, and what he said came from the voice of experience.

Dave saw the completion of Bryant Camp, and knew that Bolton Lodge was well on its way to completion, before he left us. I am grateful to Dave for all he did, not only for the camps, but for the Friends of Bolton and the state forest land we preserved. He left a wonderful legacy for us all, and will be truly missed.

—ANN GOTHAM, PRESIDENT OF FRIENDS OF BOLTON VALLEY NORDIC AND BACKCOUNTRY
A celebration of life for late Director of Trail Programs Dave Hardy took place January 6 at the Zenbarn in Waterbury Center. A warm hearted, standing-room-only crowd of Dave’s family and trail community friends gathered on the frigid day to hear speakers recall what Dave had meant to them, and to describe his Long Trail legacy, which extends beyond Vermont’s trails throughout New England.

A Hardy Party (as end-of-season field staff parties have been called) continued the celebration at GMC headquarters. Attendees shared stories over drinks and a potluck and watched a photo presentation showing Dave’s career from a young hiker through his final year with the club. Hardy souls ventured into the subzero night to light a bonfire, just as Dave had wanted.

We are forever indebted to Dave for his extraordinary 25-year commitment to the Green Mountain Club, the Long Trail, the Appalachian Trail in Vermont, and Northeast Kingdom trails. While out hiking this season, pause for a moment to honor and remember this remarkable woodsman.

—Mike DeBonis and the GMC staff

Dave was a brilliant explainer. As we know, even if the public doesn’t, the Long Trail is very complex, with many moving parts. Dave had an uncanny ability to zoom in on salient facts and issues. He helped us understand what was needed and what action should follow. He nudged discussions along constructive paths. I always felt as if I had a keen insider’s view after Dave explained some byzantine parcel-management issue. He would somehow boil months of scouting, landowner negotiations, and meetings with town officers down to a fascinating, technically accurate, and often humorous report. Dave was a gift to us all, and will be missed.

—Ted Albers
Burlington Section President

Dave was a great champion of the trail. Many staff from Vermont Youth Conservation Corps learned from him—we all took inspiration in his uncompromising advocacy for his beloved Green Mountains. Vermont is a better place thanks to Dave.

—Breck Knauft

We are so honored to have been friends of Dave’s over the 21 years we have been GMC caretakers on Stratton Mountain. In Dave’s years at the club he built an extraordinary and unmatched field program consisting of site caretakers, ridge runners, trail crews, supervisors, and assistants. We soon discovered that Dave was mentor to all. Dave was a real master at this—using both his engineering and communication skills to get jobs done well, and not done without fun, too.

Dave kept reshaping and refining the GMC Caretaker Program to make it what it is today! We continue to meet many caretakers and field staff who tell us that working with Dave was a life changing experience for them. Dave liked to think of himself as a bit curmudgeonly, but everyone saw through that pretty fast. He was kind, very funny, and ever insightful. We looked forward every season to the time when Dave and his wife, Carol, would visit us on Stratton. Dave would have a beer and relax on the trail he loved so much. Over the years all who worked with Dave for the club hold precious memories of their experiences with him.

—Jeanne and Hugh Joudry
He Grew Up in a Hiking Family

By Sue Hardy  
Dave’s mother

Gerry and I welcomed David Joseph Hardy to our family on June 3, 1959. Three children followed: Mary Anne in 1960, Charlie (Chuck) in 1963, and Patricia (Patty) in 1965. David and Mary Anne were the “big kids,” while Chuck and Patty were the “little kids.”

With young children and little money, tent camping was our only travel option. This suited us just fine as we enjoyed being outdoors. We ventured from our home in Connecticut to Mount Chocorua in New Hampshire in 1968. It was our first taste of the White Mountains, and we loved it. The same year we camped and hiked on Mount Desert Island in Maine. We continued to camp and hike, exploring Canadian national parks yearly until 1972, when we drove to the Everglades and Disney World. We hiked most weekends, often staying with relatives in the White Mountains. David was our most enthusiastic young hiker.

At AMC August Camp in 1973 we hiked every Katahdin trail, including the Knife Edge. The same summer we camped in New Hampshire and Gerry, David, and I completed the 4,000-footers there. David was 14 years old.

Our first Long Trail backpacking trip, starting at the Canadian border in 1974, was cut short, but David returned and thru-hiked the LT in 1982. The following year Gerry, David (now 16), and I completed the New England 4,000-footers.

Gerry and I began editing the first edition of 50 Hikes in Connecticut in 1977, so while David worked summer jobs we spent vacations hiking in-state. David took over the guide for the fourth and fifth editions, and 40 years later Mary Anne is finishing the sixth edition, due in 2019.

David, Gerry, and I co-led an AMC trip to Newfoundland in 1979, including a five-day backpack from Western Brook Pond to Gros Morne—terrific map-and-compass stuff.

On a long Paris weekend in 1979, David and I walked and walked, but he made sure to take a nap every afternoon. He always said you shouldn’t stand if you could sit, or sit if you could lie down, and he practiced what he preached.

In the ‘80s, David organized short backpacking trips in Vermont with family and friends, including Memorial Day weekends, while I finished the Long Trail. Despite black flies and rain we had fun wearing cagoules and bug netting, and drank evening beers David carried in.

David, Gerry, and I co-led a Canadian Rockies trip in 1980, and David and I co-led our last distant excursion to Bryce and Zion National Parks in 1990.

David was an encyclopedia of Vermont trails and trail work. He was extremely intelligent, earning high grades in school with little apparent effort and a unique sense of humor. When exasperated, his geometry teacher would say, “Do you think I’m up here teaching math for my health?” One evening David wrote a proof in standard geometry format concluding that she was indeed up there for her health. Mrs. Cowing was so impressed she saved the proof in 1975, and gave it to me few years ago!

At AMC August Camp in 1973 we hiked every Katahdin trail, including the Knife Edge. The same summer we camped in New Hampshire, and Gerry, David and I completed the 4,000-footers there. David was 14 years old.

David studied forestry at the University of New Hampshire but switched to mechanical engineering when he realized most forestry jobs would be with logging companies. He worked about three years as a civilian with the U.S. Navy on air conditioning systems in nuclear submarines at Portsmouth Navy Shipyard. While he worked with the Navy, he volunteered...
in the New Hampshire Chapter of the AMC leading hikes and doing trail work.

Eventually David decided what he really wanted was a career connected to the woods and saved enough money to pursue this dream for five years; if it didn’t work he could always return to engineering. He became a cook for the AMC at Cardigan Lodge and at Mountain Gate in the Catskills, and was the winter caretaker at the Randolph Mountain Club cabin for a season. Then he began working at GMC, first seasonally and ultimately as director of trail programs, a role he kept and loved until just weeks before his passing.

He Followed His Passion

By Pete Antos-Ketcham
Former Director of Land and Facilities Management

Dave joined the GMC field program in the late summer of 1992 as southern field assistant, and I was hired the next spring as caretaker at Skyline Lodge in the Breadloaf Wilderness.

While pretending to have a broken leg during the required pre-season Wilderness First Aid training, I accidentally kicked the person sitting next to me in the head. I apologized and introduced myself. The man looked sternly at me, adjusted his hat, and said, “Hi, I’m Dave. I’m your boss.” I was mortified. But despite that inauspicious introduction, we started a working relationship and friendship that would span the next 25 years.

As a young man whose own attraction to the woods, mountains, and an alternative lifestyle was strong, I was in awe of Dave’s ease in the wilderness. From his knowledge of natural history, trail design and tool use, and his ability to cook, to the way he hoisted his backpack over his head in one fluid motion so it landed perfectly on his shoulders—I was always impressed.

Whenever I had a chance to work with Dave on special projects, I took it. I admired how he had woven his work life into his personal life, and made it work. I wanted to do this someday too, and it was clear I could learn a lot from him. In those days, he was more than a boss—he was a mentor.

I worked in the Whites for a couple of years but returned to GMC. By 2008 I had worked my way up to stewardship coordinator and facilities manager, and Dave had worked his way to director of field programs. We worked closely together to balance the needs of trails, trail lands, and the headquarters campus. When Dave needed to be a boss, he could be the boss. When he needed to be your friend, he could be your friend. He was really good at being both. It was one of his gifts.

The land and people of Vermont made it easy for Dave, and me, to choose the Green Mountains. As I think back on those 25 years and the life that Dave created after leaving the conventional work world, I realize how strongly his example influenced me.

I am reminded of Robert Frost’s poem, The Road Not Taken, about two roads diverging in the woods. In a world where most people follow the main road, Dave had the courage to follow his passion, and that made all the difference for him.

He Was an Old Soul

By Ben Rose
Executive Director, 1998 to 2011

Dave was working as a field supervisor when I became executive director in June, 1998. About a year later, Director of Field Programs, Lars Botzojorns, left GMC to become executive director of another nonprofit. When Lars announced his departure at a Trail Management Committee meeting, Chair Pete Richardson took me aside and came right to the point: “So, Lars is leaving. Big shoes to fill. You’re going to promote Dave Hardy, right?” Dave and I both revered Pete as a wise man. As soon as he said that, I realized it was the obvious thing to do. I answered, “Um... yes, yes of course...”

As the new director of field programs and the new executive director, Dave and I learned our jobs together. We made many road trips to attend long meetings in the windowless conference room at Green...
As a trail manager, Dave saw his job through a hiker’s eyes. He managed with a light touch, honoring continuity, disinclined to fix things unless they were truly broken. He was a protector.

I loved to hear Dave’s laugh—a hearty, wheezing belly chuckle that invited others to laugh along. He carried large loads. He made great beers. He saw the big picture. He lived his life well. His spirit will always watch over the Long Trail.

### He Valued Volunteers

**By Jean Haigh**

**GMC President, 2012 to 2015**

Dave was much more than an expert on trail maintenance. He had a genius for guiding and supporting GMC’s multitude of volunteers, whether section or general members.

Dave had a wonderful and positive way of carefully and thoughtfully listening with genuine interest, understanding that each GMC section or individual trail adopter was working on a distinctive area of the trail, with its particular needs.

Dave communicated his perspective in a manner volunteers understood and appreciated, demonstrating great patience working through differences of opinion while respecting all opinions. He had a talent for finding common ground.

One day many years ago the Long Trail Patrol was working to restore the Shrewsbury Peak Trail, moving big boulders and crafting puncheon with lumber that had been carried in. A volunteer who had never before done trail work joined us. It was a hot day, complete with pesky black flies. The lumber needed to be adzed, but with some quick training and encouragement from Dave, the new volunteer was able to pitch right in. That volunteer was then Lieutenant Governor Phil Scott, now governor of the State of Vermont.

The lieutenant governor and Dave struck up a meaningful and valuable conversation about maintenance on the Long Trail and the need for its continued support. The lieutenant governor enjoyed his time so much that he stayed into the afternoon to work on the Bucklin Trail and saw firsthand the damage from Tropical Storm Irene. Dave always had a plan with an end in mind.

Over the years I learned that Dave respected volunteers, recognized the importance of their work, and believed that they were invaluable to the Long Trail, Appalachian Trail, and all of Vermont’s other hiking trails. The respect was mutual. Solid friendships formed between volunteers and Dave in their time together in the woods, and many volunteers became extensions of Dave’s family outside of GMC.

Dave was a perceptive individual with a quiet brilliance, who kept his sense of humor through it all. Oh, how he will be missed.

### He Welcomed All

**By Kathryn Wrigley**

**Field Supervisor, 2011 to 2013**

I joined the GMC field staff in 2008 and worked for the club until 2013. As field supervisor for three of the five years,
Dave welcomed every person he worked with into the Green Mountain Club fold—including generations of trail workers, caretakers, and construction crews. He accepted people as they were...

Dave took a chance in hiring me. I doubt he imagined at the time that the woman limping around the Back Forty field staff housing area, with quarter-sized heel blisters and puffy knees just a few weeks into her season, would one day become his trusty field supervisor. But he let me keep coming back, and there I was one winter, poking my head into his office to tell him my grand plan for organizing the field supervisor’s office.

Dave welcomed every person he worked with into the Green Mountain Club fold—including generations of trail workers, caretakers, and construction crews. He accepted people as they were and didn’t try to fit them into a prescribed box. He focused on their strengths and allowed them to shine, standing by to help guide them if needed.

Dave pioneered in historic preservation, despite occasional frustration. He was especially startled to find structures—from the 1960s, for heaven’s sake!—were potentially “historic.”

By inviting everyone to participate and always making sure there was a place at the table for those with opposing views, Dave knew that the Long Trail and Appalachian Trail management process would only be strengthened.

His inclusive practices are why the loss of him ripples so widely through the trail community. By engaging people on hard topics and encouraging them to show up as their authentic selves, he created an extended trail family and an enduring legacy, based on the love of both a community of people and a physical place—the Long Trail.

I worked closely with Dave to, as we used to say, herd cats, put out fires, and manage chaos.

He Shared His Wisdom
By Jennifer Wright
Forest Service Recreation Specialist

I met Dave when I began working for the Green Mountain National Forest in 2010. With little experience managing trails, I was eager to learn from and with the trail community.

Dave welcomed me, teaching me the history and vision of the GMC, its committees, and other important partnerships. He was patient, willing to revisit a site repeatedly to make sure the time was right for a project. Or to wait for hot-button issues to cool.

Dave was a great synthesizer, listening to all and then crafting a compromise. He was a walking index of people and players in every agency, town, and GMC section. At the Forest Service we joked that meeting with Dave really meant meeting with a full crew of people.

He was collaborative, making sure all interested and affected parties were involved. One day he told me that he wanted to chair the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council so he could better work with all-terrain vehicle enthusiasts. He was always willing to help provide opportunities for other trail users while protecting the Long Trail.

Dave appreciated the importance of historic preservation, despite occasional frustration. He was especially startled to find structures—from the 1960s, for heaven’s sake!—were potentially “historic.”

And maybe most importantly, Dave was a good friend. He always treated me and my Forest Service colleagues with respect, and lightened challenging situations with his humor. Even after I left the Green Mountain National Forest he kept me informed, and invited me to projects he knew I was interested in.

Recently I spotted a man wearing an orange tuque, and immediately thought of Dave. I’m sure whenever I see an orange tuque or a purple or orange hoodie, I will think of him again. I am honored to have worked with and learned from such a knowledgeable, kind, and influential man.
He Left a Legacy
By Lars Botzojorns
Director of Field Programs, 1992-1999
Dave Hardy’s Green Mountain Club legacy is multifaceted. When I hired him as southern field assistant in 1992, he already understood the interplay of the elements of trailwork: soil, rock, water, wood, footsteps. As years passed he became adept at anticipating and balancing myriad issues affecting trail systems, and he built an encyclopedic knowledge of our system and its challenges.

Dave supervised an overhaul of the Long Trail’s overnight sites. He sought volunteer leadership and skills for these projects as the club always has, and he made sure historical context guided renovation or replacement of any structure. The recent restorations of Bolton Lodge and Bryant Camp are but the latest examples.

Other flagship projects Dave handled were the Winooski and Lamoille River bridges; major relocations of the Long Trail at Smugglers’ Notch and Sherburne Pass to skirt Killington and Pico Resort development; and relocation of the Appalachian Trail at Thundering Falls in Killington, including the 900-foot universally accessible boardwalk.

Dave also took on expansion of GMC’s maintenance responsibility to include the entire Appalachian Trail in Vermont and a network of new trails in the Northeast Kingdom. Every initiative proved Dave’s ability to plan and get things done.

Arguably still more important were Dave’s efforts to address his concern for human impact in three areas of ecological stewardship.

One, unglamorous but essential as visitation grew, was sanitation. Dave worked with volunteer Dick Andrews and staff member Pete Antos-Ketcham to improve disposal of human waste. Publication of the ATC’s Backcountry Sanitation Manual, now the go-to resource for the greater trail community, was an outgrowth of that effort.

Dave led the charge to change most overnight sites from pit privies to moldering, batch-bin, and beyond-the-bin privies, depending on the level of use, including the creation and coordination of a small army of porters to ferry wood shavings and bark mulch to backcountry sites. GMC’s caretakers tend to not call themselves sanitation workers, but this aspect of their duties is crucial.

Second, Dave was a tireless advocate for the caretaker program. He gently but firmly encouraged our public and private management partners to support positions, not just caretakers at marquee sites, but also wilderness monitors and the Coolidge Range ridgerunner. He inspired caretakers to teach the club’s mission and the ethics of Leave No Trace to a diverse public, goals as vital as backcountry sanitation.

The third area Dave felt strongly about was sprawl, which you may not associate with trail management, but affects the hiking experience and the life cycles of the many lifeforms with which we share the woods. The Long Trail remains a primitive respite from a technology-driven world, a place where we should “leave only footprints,” and in the words of the Wilderness Act of 1964, where man is a visitor who does not remain.

Dave paid close attention to popular but ecologically sensitive sites near water on the southern part of the LT/AT: Stratton Pond, Little Rock Pond, and Griffith Lake. He worked to consolidate impacts away from shorelines if possible, and to leave parts of the ponds’ surroundings trail-free so natural processes could recover unimpaired.

Dave was pragmatic, recognizing that new uses of trails like endurance events could be accepted if they minimized adverse impacts on other users and the land. He accommodated new organizations seeking trails for mountain bikes, all-terrain vehicles and backcountry skiing, and forged relationships with those that shared GMC’s concern for responsible stewardship of the backcountry.

Finally, Dave spent countless hours of his own time helping revise various guidebooks, and enjoying the camaraderie of GMC staff and volunteers on the trail and around the region. It is in this spirit I remember my friend and former colleague as we carry on his ideals as thoughtful stewards of hiking trails.
DAVE HARDY
Guardian of the Trail

...the Long Trail as we know it today is a reflection of Dave's vision and life work.

—JOHN PAGE

Improved the Trail experience. Long Trail.

Protected fragile shorelines. Little Rock Pond.

Made the LT accessible. Smugglers' Notch Boardwalk.

Managed backcountry waste. Battell Privy.
Improved access to AT. Thundering Falls Boardwalk.

Preserved historic shelters. Butler Lodge.

Expanded hiking opportunities. Unknown Pond in Northeast Kingdom.

Protected the alpine zone. Mount Mansfield.

Built bridges. Winooski River Footbridge.

Led generations of field staff. Tillotson Camp.

Preserved historic shelters. Butler Lodge.
Historic Bolton Lodge Open

On December 15, President John Page and former President Jean Haigh cut orange tape spanning the entrance to Bolton Lodge and pushed the door inward, signaling the official opening of the historic shelter. Many enthusiastic supporters, including members from the Burlington Section, which had built the lodge in 1928 to replace deteriorating Dunsmore Lodge, were there to applaud the GMC construction crew’s latest success.

Bolton Lodge was a respite for backcountry hikers and Nordic skiers for decades, but like Dunsmore, fell into disrepair. The GMC and partners worked together to obtain permits and funds before restoration could begin. Then the construction crew carefully followed historic preservation guidelines to restore the lodge, keeping its rustic character and charm while bolstering it to withstand decades of hikers and backcountry skiers to come.

Today GMC manages rentals of the lodge for the State of Vermont between July 1 and March 31. Demand is high in winter, and renters are encouraged to book on the day reservations open for the following season. (Check greenmountainclub.org/cabins to learn more about this and other GMC rental cabins.)

—Jocelyn Hebert, *Long Trail News Editor*

Cowles Cove Shelter & Privy Up for Improvements

The Green Mountain Club is seeking funding to send our construction crew to Cowles Cove Shelter this field season. Located a few miles south of Burnt Rock, the shelter is a key staging point for hikers traversing the difficult stretch to Camel’s Hump and the Monroe Skyline.

Built in 1956, Cowles Cove has none of the rot or roofing problems that have kept us busy elsewhere in the last few years, however, the trampoline-like floor has too few joists and badly needs replacement. Shelter adopters and field staff have patched the growing number of holes with wood, sheet metal, and, occasionally, generous quantities of duct tape, but they can no longer keep up. The crew plans to replace the floor and add joists to make it more durable, with less bounce.

Cowles Cove privy will be improved too. The open-air chum platform with a seat, while regarded by some GMC field staff members with tongue in cheek affection as the “privy with a view,” is not appreciated by all. We suspect hikers will happily accept a limited view for a privacy screen that will shield them from the glances of shelter guests and passing hikers. Today’s inverted-trash can riser will be replaced with a sturdier hard plastic throne to help make the privy experience safer, and more enjoyable.

Finally, a tent platform will be built near the shelter to improve overnight capacity, opening the site to organized groups hiking Camel’s Hump and the Monroe Skyline. Birch Glen Lodge to the south and Montclair Glen Lodge to the north are overused and shifting group use to Cowles Cove will help balance use on that section of the Long Trail.

—Kevin Hudnell, Field Assistant
Tucker Johnson Shelter Replacement

Thanks to a generous donor, the Green Mountain Club plans to build a new Tucker Johnson Shelter. The shelter was located on the Long Trail north of Route 4 near Willard Gap in the Green Mountain National Forest, and lost to a fire in 2011. A new shelter and moldering privy in this area of high hiker traffic will reestablish overnight lodging and waste management, relieving pressure on other sites near Sherburne Pass and the Appalachian Trail.

The original Fred Tucker Lodge was built in 1938 as a memorial to early Board of Trustees member Fred H. Tucker. In 1969, the Long Trail Patrol, Louis “Sandy” Stare, and Killington Section members built Tucker Johnson Shelter to replace the aging and dilapidated lodge, this time honoring Tucker and Otto Johnson of Proctor, who bequeathed funds for its construction. Tucker Johnson Shelter lasted forty-two years until it burned.

Working with the Green Mountain National Forest, GMC proposed to build the new shelter 100 feet south of the original site, creating a larger buffer between it and the brook. The new shelter will replicate the previous Tucker Johnson Shelter, designed by 1970s GMC President George Pearlstein. The shelter will be wood frame with double decker bunks on each side and a table in the middle. A liberal roof overhang will provide good protection from wind and rain. A benefit of this design and construction is that much of the material can be precut and prepared off site, and then transported and assembled on site.

Following final approval by the Green Mountain National Forest, construction will begin this summer so the shelter can be opened this fall.

—Mike DeBonis, Executive Director

2,692-Acre Rolston Rest Tract Conserved

The Trust for Public Land recently acquired 2,692 acres of land in Chittenden, Killington, and Mendon, including Rolston Rest Shelter and 3.2 miles of the Long Trail. In addition to conserving portions of the Long Trail, two miles of the Catamount Trail will be conserved.

A four-season log house located on the property that was planned to be adapted as part of the new backcountry hut system in Vermont burned to the ground on January 16 in a suspicious fire. At press time, The Trust for Public Land and partners were weighing options to determine whether to replace the structure or not.

The land, the largest private inholding in the Green Mountain National Forest, will be conveyed to the national forest. The protection of 11 miles of headwater streams and 97 acres of wetlands will help maintain the health of the popular recreational fisheries in Lefferts Pond and Chittenden Reservoir, as well as the flood resilience of Rutland County. Preservation of this parcel will also protect the viewshed from the Appalachian Trail, just a mile to the south.

—Mike DeBonis, Executive Director

Mud Season Celebration and Egg Hunt with Laughing Moon Chocolates

Saturday, March 31, 10:00 a.m. – Noon
GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center

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

After the hunt, head to Laughing Moon Chocolates in Stowe to meet the Easter Bunny.

FREE. Open to the public.
Smugglers’ Notch Boardwalk Open: Long Trail Relocation in Notch Complete

Hikers and tourists have a new reason to visit Smuggler’s Notch: to walk the one-eighth mile universally accessible boardwalk that is now part of the Long Trail.

Constructed by the trail designers and builders of Timber and Stone, LLC of East Montpelier, the boardwalk minimizes hikers’ impact on an ecologically sensitive wetland north of the Barnes Camp Visitor Center. The five-foot-wide boardwalk ends at a viewing platform providing magnificent new views of the Notch.

An opening celebration in October, 2017, drew Governor Phil Scott, Congressman Peter Welch, a representative of Senator Bernie Sanders, leaders from project partners, and strong GMC staff and member turnout.

After comments by project leaders and government officials in the visitor center, the crowd went into the crisp autumn air to cut a ribbon and christen the boardwalk. Waves of pleased participants made their way onto the deck, some stopping at wheelchair turnouts to read interpretive panels, enjoy views, and catch up with old friends and colleagues.

Completion of the boardwalk marks the final stage of a multi-year Long Trail relocation in the Notch. This summer, northbound hikers can take the new trail down Mount Mansfield, cross Vermont Route 108, meander through the woods, walk the boardwalk, and take a break at Barnes Camp. They can return to the trail behind the visitor center building and continue north to Sterling Pond and beyond.

Barnes Camp Visitor Center is staffed in summer by knowledgeable volunteers who provide trail and other area information, sell GMC maps, and point the way to restrooms.

We thank the Lamoille County Planning Commission, which managed the boardwalk project; the Vermont Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation; and Spruce Peak Resort Association, the landowners, for working with GMC to enhance the Long Trail in this popular destination area.

We are also grateful to Senator Sanders for obtaining a Federal Highway Administration appropriation that funded about 80 percent of the boardwalk construction costs.

And, of course, we are proud of the Long Trail Patrol crews and volunteers, led by our late Director of Trail Programs, Dave Hardy, who worked hard to scout, flag, and build the trail.

—Jocelyn Hebert, Long Trail News Editor

Support the Long Trail: Other Ways to Give

If you are 70½ or older, you can donate part or all of your IRA required minimum distribution directly to the Green Mountain Club.

Here’s how it works: Essentially, you would not receive the distribution yourself, you would not be taxed on the distribution, and the money would go directly to supporting the Green Mountain Club.

For a retiree in the 25% tax bracket, an IRA charitable contribution of $5,000 could reduce the federal income tax bill by $1,250. This may reduce your income tax liability if the total of your deductible expenditures would be less than the standard deduction. Under the new federal income tax law, this option might be more advantageous to more people than it was in the past, because the standard deduction has increased.

We recommend consulting your financial advisor before setting up any such transfer or donation.

—Alicia DiCocco
Director of Development
Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative

Many of us live in Vermont because its natural landscape and diverse outdoor recreation opportunities add so much to our quality of life. But our recreational infrastructure is also a big part of the economy, with direct spending for outdoor recreation equipment and experiences totaling more than $2.5 billion in Vermont.

Trails managed by the Green Mountain Club and three other organizational members of the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council bring in more than $30 million in total spending, support 365 jobs, and create $2 million in tax revenue annually. In short, trail-based recreation is big business in Vermont, and people are paying attention.

Governor Phil Scott created the Vermont Outdoor Recreation Economic Collaborative (VOREC) in June, 2017, and appointed a 12-member steering committee representing outdoor businesses, nonprofits, conservation organizations, service providers, and user groups. The Green Mountain Club has a seat on the committee.

The purpose of VOREC is to:

1. Promote business opportunities.
2. Increase participation opportunities.
3. Strengthen the quality and extent of our recreational resources.
4. Strengthen the stewardship of our recreational resources.

In the last six months the collaborative hosted seven public listening sessions, launched an online survey, and held four meetings and a kick off conference in Grafton. The collaborative received thousands of comments and suggestions to promote and strengthen Vermont’s recreation economy and resources. Public input was analyzed, and supported a series of recommendations presented to the governor in December.

As a member of the steering committee, I have been impressed with the vision shared among businesses, nonprofits, service providers, and stakeholders to develop action to strengthen our recreation economy while not degrading or losing what makes Vermont’s recreation resources special.

Please visit the following website to learn more about VOREC and its work: fpr.vermont.gov/VOREC.

—Mike DeBonis, Executive Director

Beaver Dam Camp Update

Nestled in the heart of the Northeast Kingdom on the shore of Wheeler Pond are GMC’s two rustic rental cabins, Hadsel-Mares and Beaver Dam. The cabins have hosted countless adventures and celebrations in the 14 years we have owned them.

The camps came to GMC through Chris Hadsel and Bill Mares, club members who graciously donated the camps in 2004. Hundreds of people have since enjoyed the serenity of the pond, stunning mountain views, and nearby hiking trails on their visits.

Ironically, the beavers for which Beaver Dam Camp is named raised the level of Wheeler Pond and the cabin’s foundation posts began to slowly tilt toward the water. In the spring of 2016 the cabin was deemed unsafe and was closed.

The GMC Camps Committee, with help from Land Stewardship Coordinator Mollie Flanigan, decided after much discussion that building a new cabin would be the best use of resources. The GMC Board approved replacing the cabin at its January meeting.

Committee members Matt Wels and Chad Forcier donated their building and architectural expertise to design and estimate costs for a simple cabin that will fit the landscape nicely. Once Beaver Dam Camp is taken down and removed, the new cabin will be rebuilt further from the shoreline, just behind the site of the old camp.

The club is pleased to be moving forward with this project, and will begin a fundraising campaign soon.

—Jean Haigh, Camps Committee Chair

To help rebuild Beaver Dam Camp visit: greenmountainclub.org/special-projects/
Two Decades of Group Outreach on the Long Trail

Green Mountain Club Caretaker Pete Ketcham manned his post outside the visitor center at the top of the Mount Mansfield Toll Road in 1997. His group feedback forms provided striking insight about the way many groups hiked the Long Trail twenty years ago. For you alpine-loving, solitude-seeking Green Mountain Club members, his comments call for a warning: may cause emotional distress.

Very noisy & foul-mouthed. Found some litter and cigarette butts. These folks had a group size that was too large and not enough leaders for kids. Too much vulgarity being heard by others...
Pete’s sighting of a 45-person high school group hiking across the alpine summit was not unprecedented. More than twenty years later, summer camps, colleges, outdoor guides, Scout troops, and schools still use the Long Trail. But there is a big difference: today we have a Group Outreach Coordinator.

Group Use before the Group Outreach Coordinator

The Long Trail has attracted organized group hikes since its inception in 1910. In fact, a group actually led to its founding. Vermont Academy Assistant Headmaster James P. Taylor’s frustration with limited hiking opportunities as he led students on bushwalks in the Green Mountains reportedly inspired his Long Trail vision.

If you have ever spent more than a couple of days on the Long Trail you probably have encountered a youth group from Farm and Wilderness Camps, a freshman orientation trip from Harvard, or even a Green Mountain Club section.

Groups presented few problems during the first 60 or so years of the trail’s existence. In the mid-1930s a group could cut all the firewood they wanted and tramp straight across alpine zones with minimal visible effect. The hiking population was so small that impacts were dispersed, and ecological communities were resilient enough to absorb them, even with high-impact practices.

That changed with the backpacking boom of the 1960s and ’70s. After World War II, higher incomes, more leisure, and improvements in transportation brought masses of people to the mountains to enjoy their independence and the freedom of the woods.

Very noisy & foul-mouthed. Found some litter and cigarette butts. These folks had a group size that was too large and not enough leaders for kids. Too much vulgarity being heard by others...

The intense educational effort was largely successful with individual hikers but fell short in addressing the challenges of group use which can cause a disproportionate amount of adverse impact on natural resources and affect the recreational experience of others. Groups at small campsites can destroy vegetation and wildlife habitat, tempting future campers to cook or tent in the enlarged area. Overwhelmed leaders and under educated participants may lead to improper disposal of food and human waste, contaminating water and attracting nuisance wildlife.

Group size isn’t the only factor. According to Jeff Marion, U.S.G.S. Recreation Geologist and a founding member of the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, “The specific behavior, high versus low impact, is likely a much stronger determinant of resource and social impact than size of a group.” In other words, fifty Leave No Trace Master Educators could complete the Long Trail with less impact than a group of eight novice Scouts on an overnight. So, GMC set out to instill proper group practices.

How it Was Done

Tim Sullivan walked into his office on June 1, 1998, to find a box on his desk containing all the elements of group outreach
management. Little did he know it would be his Pandora's Box.

Tim was the first GMC Group Outreach Coordinator, filling a 20 hour a week internship position funded at the time by grants from the Appalachian Trail Conference and the Windham Foundation. The position was created as a direct response to Pete Ketcham's disturbing feedback form.

The group outreach job was a big one, but Director of Field Programs Lars Botzojorns, Education Coordinator Karen Sharpwolf, Field Supervisor Dave Hardy, and others had established good strategies and techniques, and had collected useful information to help Tim succeed. A group contact database already had 300 entries (which grew to 785 by 2005) of information for every group known to have used the Long Trail.

Summit and site caretakers had begun recording group encounters, good or bad, on detailed forms in 1997. The 192 forms submitted that year included trip leader and contact information, as well as caretaker comments and ratings of leadership, preparedness, impact knowledge, and behavior. Tim could now begin earnest education efforts to prevent adverse impacts.

He mailed letters, postcards, information packets, and brochures to group program directors and trip leaders, impressing upon them the importance of group size limits, Leave No Trace practices, and pertinent trail information. Included was a list of designated overnight group sites, the result of a systematic evaluation of the Long Trail in 1995. The list would help prevent overcrowding at small, ecologically fragile sites such as Montclair Glen Lodge on popular Camel's Hump.

Group leaders were urged to take part in free workshops at GMC covering Leave No Trace, alpine ecology, and group preparedness. In his first season Tim ran seven Leave No Trace and Backpacking for Groups workshops, reaching 300 people. One session was with 75 leaders from Harvard University's Freshman Orientation Program prior to their departure to hike on the Long Trail and in the White Mountains. The feedback forms were positive, showing Tim's workshops were helping.

Overcrowding of shelters and tenting areas would be hard to eliminate but establishing designated group sites was a good first step. The second step was launching a voluntary notification system, created to prevent two, three, or more groups at a site at once.

Tim received itineraries from program directors and entered them on a spreadsheet that enabled him to become a trail traffic controller of group use, suggesting adjustments to avoid conflicts. By 2017 there were 492 registered group overnight.

Instilling an ethic of stewardship, respect, and understanding in group users would help enormously. For decades GMC has welcomed schools, colleges, summer camps, and Scout troops that wanted to volunteer for service projects on the Long Trail/Appalachian Trail. In the late 1990s GMC expanded service project opportunities to include new groups to give them a chance to learn and give back to the trail. This improved relationships with problem groups such as the one Pete Ketcham had encountered on Mount Mansfield.

In other words, fifty Leave No Trace Master Educators could complete the Long Trail with less impact than a group of eight novice Scouts on an overnight.

More than Coordinators
The 1998 all-star staff laid a solid foundation for the Group Outreach Program, which has been largely consistent and successful for more than 20 years. The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board has funded GMC's AmeriCorps group outreach position since 2000, allowing thirteen individuals to enhance the program and leave a unique mark.

Tim Sullivan pioneered, shaping the program and working out initial kinks. Matt Larson helped build the half-mile Short Trail behind the GMC Visitor Center, where today youth groups come to learn about the Long Trail. Thorin Markison used his superb graphic design skills on the second edition of the ATC's Backcountry Sanitation Manual, which educates groups of all ages. Jenna Whitson and Nika Meyers worked to build the Long Trail Bound website, developing an education curriculum and gathering helpful tools and resources for people hiking with children on the trail. And, that's just a few of the valuable contributions made so far.

As I near the finish of my first year of service with AmeriCorps, I have been thinking about my own contributions to GMC. I haven't built an interpretive trail, and my graphic design skills dead-end at PowerPoint. But in addition to working with an ever-growing number of groups on the Long Trail, I am helping transition the field programs during a time of enormous change as the club evolves without Director of Trail Programs Dave Hardy. And that is a unique position to be in.

—LORNE CURRIER, VHCB AmeriCorps Outreach and Field Coordinator
Five Reasons We Love Questing
By the 2017 Long Trail Questers

The Farm & Wilderness Questers Program is headquartered at Saltash Mountain, one of eight summer camps operated by the Farm & Wilderness Foundation in the area around Plymouth. In the Questers Program teens go backpacking, canoeing, rock climbing, or on service trips. A Long Trail hike is one of the more ambitious adventures offered. Indian Brook Camp, Timber Lake Camp, Flying Cloud Camp, and Barn Day Camp are some of the other Farm & Wilderness camps.

This year two groups of Long Trail Questers hiked 272 miles northbound from Massachusetts to Canada. During our 36 days on the trail we focused on becoming better leaders and learning about ourselves. Here are five things we love about the Questers program.

Making Lifelong Friendships
Hiking the Long Trail brought us closer as a group and community. “We were all friends by the end, we supported each other in hard times, and celebrated in the awesome moments, making lifelong bonds,” said Eva Clews (Indian Brook 2011-2013, Saltash Mountain 2015-2016, Questers 2017).

Gaining Confidence in our Outdoor Skills
Most of each Long Trail Questers trip is led by campers. They take turns collecting water, hanging food in bear bags, setting up tents, cooking with a backpacking stove or campfire, and doing other chores. By the end of our trip each camper had mastered the skills for each chore, and skills such as basic first aid and Leave No Trace practices. “The skills I gained on my Long Trail quest gave me the confidence to survive in the wilderness, made me feel more self-sufficient, and I’ve gained the desire to take on future outdoor adventures,” said Jessie Cali (Indian Brook 2011-2013, Saltash Mountain 2014-2015, Questers 2017).

Living Unplugged and Remote
Hiking the Long Trail surrounded by nature is an amazing experience. “As I was hiking down the trail through trees, rocks, and bushes I became one with the wilderness around me,” said Zev Breen (Barn Day Camp 2010-2012, Saltash Mountain 2013-2016, Questers 2017). “Being isolated deep in the forest of Vermont is a wonderful place to discover yourself.”

Overcoming Adversity
On our journey we faced biting insects, blisters, rain, hot humid days, and conflicts that can come with sharing close quarters, limited food, and long hiking days. Each of us learned a lot about compassion and equity, helping each other, and working in community to achieve our goals as a group. We learned to ask for help, listen to each other, and solve challenges using consensus.

Experiencing, in many ways, a rite of passage into adulthood
For Emmett Miller (Timberlake 2013-2014, Flying Cloud 2015-2016, Saltash Mountain 2016, Questers 2017), the trek “was a chance to prove that we were ready for the rights and responsibilities of adulthood.”

GMC encourages all groups to use the Group Notification Calendar found on our website. greenmountainclub.org/groups/
26th Annual James P. Taylor Outdoor Adventure Series

Join us for inspiring presentations that will transport you to mountains and waterways near and far—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.

The Salkantay Trek: The Other Inca Trail
Michelle Cournoyer
Thursday, March 15, 7 p.m.
GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center

The Salkantay Inca Trail is a less traveled trekking route to Machu Picchu that encompasses nine bio-zones, including the Cordillera Vilcabamba, a spectacular Andean mountain range; forested canyons; and cloudforest. Michelle Cournoyer from Boundless Journeys will share her experience hiking this remote and largely unknown trail past towering peaks, glacial lakes, Salkantay Mountain, and banana, avocado, and coffee plantations, while enjoying the comfortable mountain lodges, fireside pisco sours, and gourmet meals. She will discuss the itinerary, terrain, accommodations, altitude and Quechua culture.

Beyond Glamping: Hut-to-Hut Trekking in the High Tatras of Slovakia
Caitlin Cusack
Thursday, March 22, 7 p.m.
GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center

To truly embrace the experience of trekking in Slovakia you must end your day with a beer and a healthy helping of sausages or dumplings. Join Caitlin as she recounts her recent adventure navigating the cuisine, culture, and breathtaking landscape of the High Tatra Mountains of Slovakia. Caitlin and her husband Matt spent six days hiking hut-to-hut through the highest part of the Carpathian Mountain Range. There they found the endangered tatra chamoix, turquoise mountain lakes, sawtoothed ridges, and a land steeped in a rich cultural and natural history.

Finding Resilience on Scandinavia’s Arctic Trail
Pavel Cenkl
Thursday, March 29, 7 p.m.
GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center

Join Pavel as he shares photos, videos, and stories from his eight-day, 360-kilometer run along the Arctic Trail in Norway and Sweden in August, 2017. His run was part of a project to explore, record, and share evidence of a rapidly changing climate and its effects on local communities, Sami culture, and mountain environments in the north. An experienced ultramarathon runner, teacher, and writer, Pavel will share stories and insights from northern landscapes including Svalbard—which, at 80 degrees north latitude, is one of the northernmost archipelagos in the world.

A Mountaineering Life in Deed and Word
Bob Hauptman
Friday, April 6, 7 p.m.
Manchester Community Library, Manchester

Join author and mountaineer Bob Hauptman for a presentation of his adventures climbing mountains and researching mountaineering books, including Deadly Peaks: Mountaineering’s Greatest Triumphs and Tragedies. Bob has traveled in 40 countries, and has reached the highest points in 45 states. He will display specialized mountaineering equipment and unique images of mountain terrain. Admission is free, but donations to help build a new observation tower on Bromley Mountain will be welcomed.
The 108th Green Mountain Club Annual Meeting, hosted by the Upper Valley–Ottauquechee Section, will take place at the beautiful Hulbert Outdoor Center on Lake Morey in Fairlee. We have exclusive use of the camp, so there will be plenty of space! You may reserve cabin or tent space for Friday or Saturday night or both.

Load the car with your boots, pack, tent, bike, kayak, camp chair, and favorite campfire clothes (but please not your dog, who is not allowed), and enjoy a fun filled summer weekend with friends. It will be a wonderful opportunity for GMC members to share stories and club news, and to celebrate our year’s accomplishments.

Registration will begin at 4:30 p.m. on Friday. If you are not attending the work hike or board meeting, please do not arrive before then. Lifeguards will not be on duty, so swimming and boat access from the camp will not be permitted, but there is public access nearby.

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 1**

10:00 a.m.  
**Work hike** at a location near Hulbert Outdoor Center TBD (check website for details). Meet at Hulbert Outdoor Center at 10 a.m. to carpool to trailhead. Bring lunch, liquids, work gloves, and bug repellent, and dress for the weather; tools will be provided or bring your own favorites. Contact gmc@greenmountainclub.org by May 30 to sign up.

3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
Board of directors meeting.

4:30 p.m.  
Registration begins.

6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
Registration and welcoming reception with pizza, salad, and refreshments, followed by storytelling. Bring your favorite adventure stories to share.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 2**

6:15 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.  
**Birding walk.**

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.  
**Trail run.** Join Education and Volunteer Coordinator Rob Rives for a three- to five-mile run.

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.  
**Registration and complimentary breakfast.** Sign up for afternoon activities.

9:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  
**Annual meeting.**

9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
**Kids’ activities.** Arts and crafts and games will be provided all day for children. There are also outdoor play spaces. Supervision will not be provided.

11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
**Bag lunch buffet.** By reservation only.

11:45 a.m.  
**Silent auction** to benefit GMC begins.

1:00 p.m.  
**Afternoon outings** begin (some longer hikes may start earlier – check the schedule posted at the meeting).

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
**Yoga.** Some mats will be provided. Please bring your own if possible.

6:00 p.m.  
**Dinner.** By reservation only.

6:45 p.m.  
**Silent auction** ends.

7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
**Speaker, photographer, and adventurer Stephen Gorman:** “Expedition to Ultima Thule.”

9:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.  
**Bonfire and social hour.** Play guitar, banjo, mandolin...the spoons? Bring them along—you never know when an impromptu jam session will start.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 3**

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.  
**Breakfast.** By reservation only.

8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.  
**Trail maintenance workshop.** We’ll cover topics such as pruning and clipping, blazing and erosion control. No prior experience is necessary. Tools will be provided. This is valuable for new trail adopters, and will take place on the Appalachian Trail. Meet in the Hulbert parking lot.

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
**Section communications workshop.** Learn from other sections their best practices for communicating with members via newsletters, social media, and other online options.

**SEE PAGE 29 FOR REGISTRATION FORM**
EVENING PRESENTATION: Expedition to Ultima Thule

Last winter photographer and author Stephen Gorman made a three week dogsled expedition over sea ice with the Inughuit, or Polar Eskimos—the northernmost people in the world and one of the last true hunter-gatherer communities in Greenland.

For centuries the Inughuit have lived in northwest Greenland, and even by Arctic standards their settlements are remote and their culture unique. Until “discovered” by Sir John Ross in 1818, they believed they were the only people on earth. Inughuit provided Robert Peary with the dogs, sleds, and expertise to reach the North Pole in 1909.

The Inughuit still hunt seals, walrus, narwhal, and polar bears on sea ice for subsistence. In summer they hunt narwhal using kayaks and hand-thrown harpoons. Numbering no more than 1,000, they use only ice-age technology to preserve their culture.

Globalization and climate change threaten their way of life, language, and traditions, which may disappear. If they do disappear a rich body of knowledge will be lost.

Stephen Gorman

Stephen Gorman has photographed and written five large-format books and dozens of articles for national magazines focused on understanding the connections between nature and humanity: how we depend on the ecosystems around us to sustain our material and spiritual lives, how we adapt to and modify the landscapes in which we live and work, and how our ideas of nature shape our relationships with the world.

From an early age Stephen longed to explore and understand his native land and people, and he offers a unique perspective on the conservation issues of our time. He holds a Master’s Degree in Environmental Studies from Yale University, where he studied biophilia—nature’s role in human health, productivity, and wellbeing, and helped found the program in environmental communications.

Steve lives in Vermont with his wife Mary and their dog Josie. He is an avid downhill, backcountry, and cross country skier, a long distance trail runner, a road cyclist, a whitewater kayaker and expedition canoer, and a competitive ice hockey player. Find him online at stephengorman.com.
Members of the Green Mountain Club Board of Directors met Saturday, January 6, at GMC Headquarters in Waterbury Center. For once, almost everyone appreciated being indoors, given the breezy subzero weather.

Executive Director Mike DeBonis highlighted several recent accomplishments including: income and expenses tracking close to the fiscal year 2018 budget; reopening Bolton Lodge; revising and updating the club’s personnel policies; developing a Business and Corporate Sponsorship Program; and planning for the 2018 GMC Annual Meeting, to be hosted by the Ottauquechee Section at the Hulbert Outdoor Center on Lake Morey in Fairlee.

Staff reported on potential revenue sources and expected expenditures for fiscal year 2019 and beyond, and gave an update of a consultant’s analysis of the club’s fundraising capacity. A detailed fiscal 2019 budget is now being prepared for board review and approval at the March board meeting.

The board approved a motion to rebuild Beaver Dam Cabin on Wheeler Pond in Barton in the Northeast Kingdom, a GMC rental property that had been deemed unsound and closed in 2016. Deconstruction of the old camp will take place this summer.

Making progress on the club’s strategic plan goal of improving operational efficiency, the board unanimously approved the purchase of its leased solar panels, to be financed by a loan from unrestricted endowment funds.

Moving toward the strategic plan goal of becoming an employer of choice, the board unanimously approved a revised set of personnel policies.

Nominating Committee Chair Lee Allen reported that board members Hope Crifo and Lars Botzojorns have expressed interest in serving second three-year terms. The committee is nominating Nancy McClellan and Amy Kelsey to fill Board vacancies (see page 25 for candidate list and bios).

The board approved changes to the Ottauquechee Section’s bylaws, including renaming the section to the Upper Valley-Ottauquechee Section to better reflect its location in the Upper Valley of the Connecticut River.

The board adjourned shortly after noon so members could participate in a celebration of life ceremony for late Director of Trail Programs Dave Hardy at Zenbarn in Waterbury Center.

—Lee Allen, Secretary

Mud Season Reminder

The Green Mountain Club reminds hikers and trip leaders that spring mud season runs from snowmelt until the trails are dry, generally around Memorial Day weekend.

Some trails are closed, and hikers are urged to stay off all wet trails during this time. This will allow the trails to dry and reduce erosion and maintenance needs. Please use your best judgment, and avoid trails in high elevation spruce-fir forests.

Look for spring hikes at lower elevations on trails with southern exposure on forested hardwood slopes. Be aware that while these soils dry out fastest, they also have the highest fire danger.

Consider walking on mountain roads (for instance, Ascutney, Burke, Okemo, Smugglers’ Notch), closed to vehicles in spring, but mud free with nice views. For information on spring hiking alternatives, please visit greenmountainclub.org.

Thanks for helping protect Vermont’s hiking trails!

How to Vote:

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

E-mail your vote to gmc@greenmountainclub.org, with “Voting for General Directors” in the subject line. Please be sure to include your member number, located on your membership card. Ballots must be received by April 1.
Lars Botzojorns grew up in Massachusetts, but came to know the Green Mountains in his youth as he pursued climbing the New England 4,000-footers. After working in the Appalachian Mountain Club hut system in the White Mountains of New Hampshire in the 1980s he moved to Vermont with his wife.

Lars has a master’s degree in natural resources planning. In 1992 he joined the GMC staff as director of field programs, and became intimately familiar with the Long Trail System and the Appalachian Trail in Vermont. During his tenure with GMC he worked closely with the club’s sections and management partners.

Lars was GMC’s interim executive director for six months. He left the club’s staff in 1999 to work as executive director of Keeping Track, a regional organization devoted to wildlife conservation planning and education. In 2004 his passion for education took hold, and he began teaching fourth grade in Jericho, where he teaches his students about forest ecology and Vermonter’s interaction with the land.

Lars is a member of the Bolton Conservation Commission, and in the last ten years he has led efforts to protect and manage the town’s 400-acre Preston Pond Conservation Area, which includes a trail system adjacent to the Long Trail.

Hope Crifo was elected to the GMC board in 2016, and chairs the GMC Endowment Committee. She also serves on the Budget and Finance and Camps committees.

Hope received her BA from Hunter College, City University of New York, and an MA from Yonsei University, in Seoul, Korea. She is employed by Community Bank and is a Chartered Financial Analyst. Hope volunteers with the Chartered Financial Analyst Institute; Everybody Wins! (a literacy mentoring program); and the National Ski Patrol. She also serves on the board of directors of The Friends of Bolton Valley Nordic and Backcountry, and the board of Community Capital of Vermont.

Preferring medium length trails, Hope has completed the Long Trail, the Northville-Placid Trail, the West Coast Trail, and most of the Ozark Highlands Trail. In the winter she primarily backcountry skis at Bolton Valley. Hope lives in Middlesex with her spouse and three largish dogs.
End-To-End Again

2013

Along this toilsome trail, alas!
Once and only once I pass,
Through the rains that never cease,
Through heat and bugs with no relief.
A heavy pack and painful feet
The best laid plans may well defeat.
"Tis stubbornness alone, my friend,
That drives me to the northern end.
I shall not pass this way again.

2017

Yes, four years ago that was my mantra of endurance—"I shall not pass this way again." So what was I thinking, following this white-blazed trail, all 272 miles of it, from Massachusetts to Canada yet again?

The great mystery of the Long Trail for my partner Alan and me is that we are drawn back to an experience so difficult (okay, painful) that at the time we swear we will never repeat it. “The greater the obstacle, the more glory in overcoming it” Molière said. Maybe at 66 we were just looking for bragging rights. Or maybe we needed a dose of hiking Zen. Who can worry about such mundane things as roof repairs and undersized Social Security checks when simply putting one foot ahead of the other takes all one’s mental and physical energy?

My favorite explanation, though, is the theory that when humans recall an event, we really aren’t capable of replaying the entire sequence of its moments; most are so trivial they don’t warrant brain cell space. Instead, our residual feeling is determined by its three predominating moments: the best, the worst, and the last.

Ah ha! Clearly the best LT moment is finishing (though beer, nachos, and a zero day at the Inn at Long Trail is a close second). And finishing, obviously, is also the last moment. So the unspeakable joy of reaching Journey’s End carries twice the emotional weight of any perceived worst moment. In fact, in hindsight, it’s hard to think of the bad times as anything but humorous.

It wasn’t that last summer’s trek had no challenges—some uncomfortably cold nights, four straight days of rain (courtesy of Hurricane Harvey), a stretch of weather too muggy for September. There were impossibly rough sections of trail, backaches, feet rubbed raw, unrelenting down-hill metatarsalgia pain, coccyx-bruising falls, the unexpected second visit to Emily Proctor Shelter after walking an hour in the wrong direction, a full pee jar knocked over in the tent, the frightening pre-dawn cry for help from a man lost in the woods...

But we soldiered on, still Pokey and Tag-Along, swapping trail names as we swapped the lead position, Canada bound. Once safely out of the woods, the aches and pains (mostly) healed, the mishaps seemed funnier with each retelling.

On the flip side we had some glorious hiking weather, beautiful views, Alan’s delicious ginger cookies and gourmet trail dinners, the pleasure of meeting many memorable people, and of course the immense satisfaction of rising to the challenge of a difficult trail (in two fewer days than last time, no less). We’ve heard it said that “If you can do the Long Trail you can do anything.” I like to think of that in a broader context than hiking; it’s nice to feel indomitable for a while, even if it’s only an illusion.

—Morgan Irons, Montpelier Section
**Vermont Town Highpoints**

What do you do after hiking the Long Trail, the Appalachian Trail, and the Northeast’s 4,000-footers?

A couple of years ago I saw a warning in the Adirondack 46er magazine: “You don’t stop climbing because you get older, you get older because you stop climbing.” Taking that to heart I decided to work on the Vermont 3,000-footers and the Vermont 200 highest.

Then, before finishing those lists, I found the Vermont town highpoint list, and decided to see how many of those I could reach. So far I have done 96, or 38 percent. I encountered posted property on three highpoints, and I suppose I may find more.

Several highpoints are on the Long Trail, and a few others are on or very near the Appalachian Trail between Killington and Norwich. Some are easy climbs on other trails, while many others are tough bushwhacks. Some highpoints are on property conserved by land trusts, but still may have no trails. A couple I plan to do this year are also on the Vermont 200 highest list, which is very helpful.

For a change of scenery, I occasionally head to New Hampshire for a town highpoint there. I’m up to 27 of their 235 highpoints. So I am never at a loss for a summit to climb.

—Tom Massoth

**Side-to-Side Trails**

I looked at my worn and crinkled Long Trail map one day and tallied the number of side trails I had completed over the years; I had hiked enough of them that I decided to work on finishing all 88 and becoming a “side-to-sider” (or a “blue blazer”, as I like to call it).

It’s been fun seeking out the trailheads, some in small towns I had never visited before. Vermonters may know about the 251 Club, another adventure challenge offered by historian Dr. Arthur Wallace Peach (1886-1956). In a 1954 edition of *Vermont Life Magazine*, Dr. Peach proposed “to organize a 251 Club to be made up of Vermonters and others who can show that they have visited, not merely driven through, the 251 towns in the state.” To me, this sounded like a fun goal too. What better way to not merely drive through a town than to hike in its mountains?

A Calais resident, it’s easier for me to get to the northern and central trails, so that’s where I’ve made most of my progress. I’ve checked off the Frank Post and Forrester trails and the town of Lowell; the Davis Neighborhood Trail and the town of Johnson; Beaver Meadow, Chilcoot Pass, and Whiteface trails and the town of Morristown. You get the idea.

I use an orange Sharpie to highlight the side trails on my Long Trail map, but now also keep track using GMC’s new spreadsheet, which lists the trails in each division and calculates your progress. According to my spreadsheet, I am 43.8% complete, with 93 of the 166 miles left to go.

I can see that I need to camp out down south this summer if I’m going to make any progress in divisions 1 through 4. But, I

—Jocelyn Hebert, Northeast Kingdom Section

**Adirondack 46**

After completing the Long Trail in 2007, my hiking partner Susan and I thought it would be fun to head across Lake Champlain and try hiking a peak in the Adirondacks. We decided to hike Mount Marcy. Why not go for the highest one first?!

Just after climbing Marcy I heard about the ADK 46, the peaks reaching 4,000 feet or higher, and thought they would be a great next hiking project. Well, eleven years later, I still haven’t finished my ADK challenge. This is partly because I’ve been distracted by other big hiking adventures, and partly because many of my remaining hikes are on “herd paths” (meaning there’s no official maintained trail) and I have been humbled by my last few hikes there. The terrain is rocky, rooty, and wild, and I’ve learned that it’s especially important to be well prepared for these expeditions.

But I’m feeling ready, and (fingers crossed) determined that 2018 will be the year that I reach my goal to become a 46’er!

—Deb Van Schaack

**If you are looking for a new hiking goal, try our side-to-side challenge and use GMC’s spreadsheet to track your progress. For more information and to download a spreadsheet visit greenmountainclub.org/s2s.**
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:

**SOLO Wilderness First Aid**
Saturday and Sunday
March 31–April 1, 9 a.m.—5 p.m.
GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center

Sign up early—this course fills fast! This 16-hour, hands-on course will prepare you for backcountry medical emergencies. Its focus is on the prevention, recognition, and treatment of injuries and illnesses. Wilderness First Aid (WFA) certification or Wilderness First Responder (WFR) recertification is provided upon completion.

**Instructors:** SOLO.
**Limit:** 30.
**Fee:** $190 Non-member, $170 GMC Member.

Contact GMC if you need WFR recertification and/or CPR (additional fees apply). Minimum age: 14. Register at least two weeks in advance.

**Introduction to Backpacking**
Thursday, April 19, 6—8 p.m.
GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center

Are you interested in backpacking, but not sure where to start? With so much information available about gear, food, shelters and more, it can be easy to feel lost before you even step outside. Learn how to hit the trail safely from the GMC’s experienced education staff. This workshop introduces the basics of backpacking—from gear and trip planning to first aid and nutrition. Please feel free to bring equipment you own or anything else you’d like advice on.

**Instructors:** GMC education staff.
**Limit:** 20.
**Fee:** $20 Non-member, $16 GMC Member.

Register at least one week in advance.

**End-To-Ender Panel**
Friday, May 4, 7—9 p.m.
GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center, and broadcast live through Orca Media

This is an informative question-and-answer, show-and-tell panel to provide good backpacking information to hikers aspiring to hike the whole Long Trail. Wondering about the best lightweight tent or how to avoid the monotony of PB&Js? Join in person or online to learn the ins and outs of a long-distance hike and get answers to your questions about food, equipment or planning.

**Instructors:** Panel of end-to-enders.
**Limit:** 50.
**Fee:** FREE.

**Never Too Old: Senior Backpacking**
Thursday, May 10, 6—8 p.m.
GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center

If thru-hiking the Long Trail is still on your bucket list, but you’re thinking maybe you should give it up at your age, think again. GMC members Alan Paschell and Morgan Irons did a Long Trail thru-hike in 2013, and again in 2017 at 62 and 66, and lived to tell the tale. “Pokey” and “Tag-Along” will share what they’ve learned about senior hiking, including its humorous side, and basic backpacking knowledge they’ve acquired through trial and error.

**Instructors:** Morgan Irons and Alan Paschell.
**Limit:** 30.
**Fee:** $10 Non-member, $8 GMC Member.

Register at least one week in advance.

**Wild Edibles of the Northeast**
Saturday, May 26, 9–12:30 p.m.
GMC Visitor Center, Waterbury Center

Are you intrigued by mushroom and plant foraging? Join Ari Rockland-Miller of The Mushroom Forager on a tour of late spring’s wild tastes and tonics. In May, the woods burst with a profusion of tender new greens and mushrooms. Our program begins with a colorful presentation introducing wildcrafting safety, strategy, and sustainability, along with highlighting species of wild greens and mushrooms. Then, enjoy a guided foray around the Green Mountain Club Visitor Center woods as we learn about the culinary and medicinal treasures of springtime. Stick around for a tasting after the hunt!

**Instructor:** Ari Rockland-Miller.
**Limit:** 20.
**Fee:** $40 Non-Member, $32 GMC Member.

Please register at least one week in advance.

**Introduction to Backpacking**

**End-To-Ender Panel**

**Never Too Old: Senior Backpacking**

**Wild Edibles of the Northeast**

---

*Images:*
- Introduction to Backpacking
- Never Too Old: Senior Backpacking
- Introduction to Backpacking
2018 GMC Annual Meeting Reservation

Annual Meeting is Friday–Sunday, June 1–3. Please register no later than Friday, May 18.

Name: ___________________________________________

Guest(s): _________________________________________

___________________________________________________

Section: ___________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________

___________________________________________________

Phone: ____________________________________________

E-mail: ____________________________________________

REGISTRATION (REQUIRED) _______@ $ 26.00_______

Includes Friday night reception and Saturday breakfast

FRIDAY RECEPTION
❑ Yes, I/we will attend the Friday evening reception

MEALS (CATERED BY HULBERT OUTDOOR CENTER)

Saturday Lunch: ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Meat _______@ $12.00

Saturday Dinner: ☐ Vegetarian ☐ Meat _______@ $25.00

Sunday Breakfast: ☐ _______@ $8.00

Total: $_______

LODGING (ON-SITE CABINS OR TENTING/RV SPACE)

Cabin have four bedrooms and two bathrooms each. Each bedroom has two sets of bunk beds; linens are not provided. Groups smaller than four may share a room with others.

You can pitch your own tent in a large open field on the property (vehicles can drop off gear but must return to the parking lot). Or, for the same price you can utilize one of the platform tents which each have four beds (linens not included). RVs can park in the parking lot, but no hookups are available.

Friday night cabin: _______@ $32.00/person

Saturday night cabin: _______@ $32.00/person

Friday night tenting or RV space: _______@ $15.00/person

Saturday night tenting or RV space: _______@ $15.00/person

Total: $_______

LODGING NEEDS
❑ I require wheelchair accessibility
❑ I cannot climb to a top bunkbed

Roommate Request: ___________________________________

WORKSHOPS
❑ Yes, I/we will attend the Sunday Trail Maintenance Workshop
❑ Yes, I/we will attend the Sunday Section Communications Workshop

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Green Mountain Club
❑ Check ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover

Card number: ___________________________ 3-digit security code: _______

Exp. date: ____________ Billing zip code: _______________________

Signature: _____________________________ Date: __________

To register online:
greenmountainclub.org/meeting

Mail payment and form by May 18 to:
Green Mountain Club, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Center, VT 05677

To register by phone:
Call GMC's membership coordinator (802) 241-8324 (M-F, 10am-5pm)

To register online:
greenmountainclub.org/meeting

Mail payment and form by May 18 to:
Green Mountain Club, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Center, VT 05677

To register by phone:
Call GMC's membership coordinator (802) 241-8324 (M-F, 10am-5pm)

Walk the Long Trail at Berlin Mall

From January 13 to April 22 the Berlin Mall welcomes walkers to experience an indoor version of the Long Trail and help raise funds for the Green Mountain Club. Mall owners (Heidenberg Properties Group) are donating funds to support The Long Trail based on miles logged. Walk a Division or two or three, or walk the entire trail!

Register online at www.theberlinmall.com/walk or onsite at the mall.

Walk the Long Trail at Berlin Mall

From January 13 to April 22 the Berlin Mall welcomes walkers to experience an indoor version of the Long Trail and help raise funds for the Green Mountain Club. Mall owners (Heidenberg Properties Group) are donating funds to support The Long Trail based on miles logged. Walk a Division or two or three, or walk the entire trail!

Register online at www.theberlinmall.com/walk or onsite at the mall.
Advertise in the Long Trail News
Call Jocelyn at 802-241-8215

Tiny House
Wood Storage
Sheds - Cabins

- FREE Shipping
  USA + Canada*
- 0% Financing
- Download FREE
  DIY plans Now

Jamaica Cottage Shop, Inc.
170 Winhall Station Rd
South Londonderry,
Vermont 05155

866.297.3760
JamaicaCottageShop.com
design@jamaicacottageshop.com
Getting Lost with Dave Hardy

It is no exaggeration to say that Dave Hardy knew more about the Long Trail System and the Vermont Appalachian Trail than anyone else. Every inch of trail, every boundary and every piece of conserved land, he knew as intimately as the back of his hand. Dave seemed to have every detail of the vast array of trail features—from sturdy rock staircases and well-built water bars to dozens of shelters and privies—committed to memory. It is unlikely there will ever be another person with the knowledge and familiarity Dave had with Vermont’s hiking trails.

Despite this, Dave and I routinely got lost together—haplessly, humorously, and quite often helplessly. This usually happened on a field scouting mission, tangled in the brush, looking for the “shortcut” Dave was sure lay just beyond the next corner. Or perhaps we were out in winter, with white blazes obscured and the footpath buried under snow. But it was unmistakable when it happened. “Rich,” Dave would say, “where is the trail?” “I thought you knew,” I would call out, in a slight panic.

Now I do not mean to suggest we were ever in any danger. Far from it: Dave and I shared a commitment to preparation and safety, with packs full of provisions and gear. And, this being Vermont after all, we were never really that far from a road. But more times than I can count, we found ourselves wandering aimlessly, laughing aloud and trying to navigate our way back to wherever it was we had come from.

In truth, we were never actually that lost. Getting temporarily lost often felt like part of the plan. In fact, it was at these times that I came to appreciate Dave the most. As well as a strong hiker with impressive skills, Dave was patient, kind, and caring. His somewhat gruff exterior gave way to a loving and generous spirit. His mellow, calm demeanor was reassuring under even the most challenging of circumstances. Dave was a quiet leader whose most impressive strength was inspiring others and bringing out the best in people. It is hard to explain, but you just felt safe in his presence. Dave Hardy was as solid as they come.

Dave was also one hell of a unique individual, never to be duplicated. He was offbeat, sarcastic, and a bit subversive, living life on his own terms and without much regret.

So when we inevitably found ourselves wandering about in search of a clue with which to extricate ourselves from whatever mountain or hollow we had stumbled into, I never worried. I knew that Dave would figure it out. He always did.

When Dave got sick with cancer, it quickly became clear that this was one situation from which he might not escape. Though strong in body and spirit, he knew that this was bigger than him. To the end, though, he faced his illness with courage and conviction. True to form, he passed away just as he lived, surrounded by friends and family, in a room full of hikers talking about trails and mountains.

It is difficult to conceive of the Long Trail without Dave Hardy. I will feel his loss for a very long time. But I know he will always be there in spirit, guiding me back to the trailhead, with his steady, shuffling gait leading the way. Whenever I am lost, either on the trail or elsewhere, I will always think of my friend. I know that when I reach the end of my journey, he will be there waiting for me, with beer in hand and a sarcastic remark about what took me so long to find my way back.

—Rich Windish, Brattleboro Section
Stay Connected with GMC!

Facebook Group: Long Trail Hiking – GMC Community

Long Trail News is printed using 0% VOC, Soy Based Inks, 100% Certified Renewable Energy and paper that is certified by Bureau Veritas to the FSC standards.

Other ways to stay connected:

Instagram: @GreenMountainClub
Twitter: @GreenMtnClub
YouTube: GreenMountainClub
Blog: greenmountainclub.org/blog/
Website: greenmountainclub.org