



Green Mountain Club
2018 ANNUAL REPORT

THERE IS NO BETTER WAY TO EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF THE LONG TRAIL SYSTEM than getting out on the trail. This year, I had the good fortune to do just that. I earned my end-to-end patch hiking northbound on the Long Trail in June. My time on the trail provided me with a deeper appreciation for the trail resource and the supporters whose gifts of time, knowledge, and funding enable the club to do its work. With each passing mile, I was struck by the sheer magnitude of work that goes into maintaining the Long Trail System. And I know that it's the support of our members and volunteers that make this massive undertaking possible each year.

During my hike, I was able to view the club's work and strategic priorities through the eyes of a hiker and trail user. I woke up each day and walked a new section of trail and was able to spend time with the diverse population of users. This time provided me with the firsthand knowledge I needed to focus on priorities of the club, see what we are doing well, and determine what improvements we can make.

I came off the trail feeling proud of the work that we had accomplished and energized to implement the actions necessary to meet our strategic goals and needs of the hikers.

This year, the GMC Board passed a five-year strategic plan that is progressive and aspirational with aims to achieve some big outcomes in four key areas: Protecting and Managing the Trail Resource, Operational Excellence, Engagement & Inclusion, and Strengthening our Sections, Membership, and Volunteers.

I hope you enjoy this report because it celebrates the impact that you, as a member and supporter, have on the trail and mountains of Vermont. It also serves as an update on our progress to the strategic goals mentioned above. Thank you for your lasting support.



MICHAEL DEBONIS
Executive Director





9,500 Members

Providing a World Class Hiking Experience

169.2 miles of trail were monitored and maintained

13,000 hours of service were volunteered

25,000 acres of land were cared for

110 miles of boundary line were maintained

10.7 acres of Open Areas were maintained along the Appalachian Trail



Connecting People to the Vermont Mountains

200,000 people enjoyed the Long Trail System

292 registered End-to-Enders

50,531 people visited Mount Mansfield

21,865 people visited Camel's Hump

1,400 people spent a night at one of GMC's three camp facilities:
Bolton Lodge, Bryant Camp, Hadsel-Mares Camp



Serving the Trail Community

400 people participated in our educational workshops and trainings

21 service trips with **171** participants

15 James P. Taylor Speaker Series shows

4,000 people visited the Gameroff Hiker Center in Waterbury Center

4,577 people visited the Barnes Camp Visitor Center in Stowe

PROTECTING AND MANAGING THE TRAIL RESOURCE



We Cared for the Trails

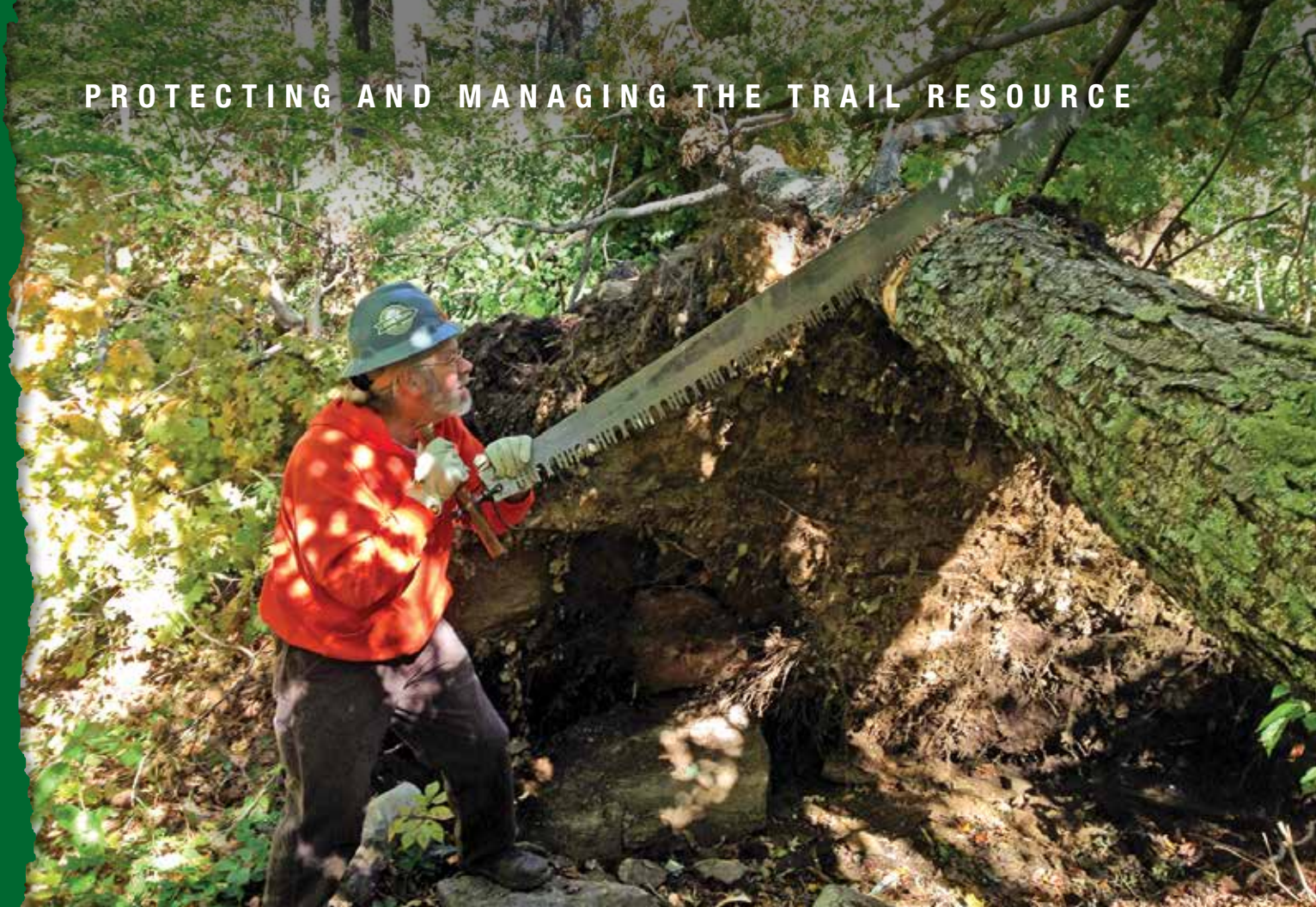
- Our summit caretakers guided and educated more than **50,531** hikers on Mount Mansfield, **21,865** hikers on Camel's Hump, and **4,111** hikers on Mt. Abraham. Our Long Trail/Appalachian Trail backcountry caretakers hosted **2,323** hikers at Stratton Pond, Griffith Lake and Little Rock Pond, and a **record-breaking 8,374** hikers made their way to the Stratton Mountain summit and fire tower.
- Caretakers and volunteers composted **2,560** 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 on trails throughout the state. Two major projects were building steps and ladders in the subalpine zone on Mount Mansfield's Frost Trail and finishing the Long Trail relocation in

Smugglers' Notch, which opened in spring 2018. They also spent five weeks improving drainage on Camel's Hump trails.

- Our Construction Crew replaced the roof and porch of Mount Mansfield's historic Butler Lodge, which was made possible by an August airlift that flew in equipment and building materials. They also fully renovated Bolton Lodge in Bolton Valley and built a new composting privy, allowing the camp to open for use during the 2017-18 winter.



PROTECTING AND MANAGING THE TRAIL RESOURCE



Remembering Dave

IN NOVEMBER, 2017, WE LOST LONG TIME GMC DIRECTOR OF TRAIL PROGRAMS DAVE HARDY after a year-long battle with cancer.

Dave grew up hiking with his family, so the trail was in his blood from an early age. He referred to his position at GMC as the greatest job in the world. To him, it wasn't really a job at all. It was a special opportunity to connect people with the natural world.

It is hard to think of anyone whose identity is more interwoven with the Long Trail and the community of trail stewards throughout New England than Dave's. Every mile of tread, shelter, bridge, privy, and waterbar on the 500-mile trail system is imprinted with his vision and unwavering passion.

Dave's passion for the trail remains a driving force for all of us at the club and it is an honor to build on Dave's twenty-five-year legacy.



PROTECTING AND MANAGING THE TRAIL RESOURCE

We Protected and Stewarded the Land

- We monitored and maintained 110 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 3.1 acres from overgrown native and non-native woody vegetation at Arms Hill in Pomfret and mowed 7.6 acres at Upper Lewis field in Woodstock and Merrill Hill in Pomfret that had been previously reclaimed. GMC continued to manage 15 open areas along the Appalachian Trail (AT) between Route 12 and the Connecticut River – the largest concentration of open areas along the entire AT.
- We completed our eighth season of sustainable timber management on the Meltzer Tract in Lowell. Firewood acquired through this management is used to heat GMC's visitor center and field staff housing and cabins.



We restored historic Bolton Lodge and Bryant Camp and opened them for public rental. These backcountry facilities offer world class recreation opportunities for hikers and skiers in Bolton Valley, Vermont.

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Fiscal Year 2018 Financial Report

THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB FISCAL YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2018, with another year of growth in total net assets. We also retained our relatively unusual position of virtually no external liabilities.

Total liabilities and net assets increased by 2.3 percent to \$11.55 million. This was largely due to the value of our endowment increasing from \$4.4 million to \$4.6 million, due to investment returns and contributions exceeding withdrawals. Total assets consist of endowment funds, \$4.6 million (40 percent); net property and equipment including the headquarters, field staff housing, the Lamoille River bridge, and the Winoski River bridge, \$3.3 million (29 percent); Long Trail lands and easements, \$2.8 million (26 percent); and pledges receivable, cash, accounts receivable, prepaid expenses and inventory accounting for the remainder (5 percent).

Total revenue and support as compared to total expenses before non-operating activity

showed a shortfall of \$186,789, which was offset by net non-operating activity of \$456,305. Total contributions and program income was \$1,644,045; an increase of \$132,719 or 9% percent, while total expenses were \$1,830,834; an increase of \$76,512 or 4% above FY 2017.

In fiscal year 2018, 76% of the club's operating expenditures were in direct support of the Long Trail System, trails in the Northeast Kingdom, member education, and member services. General administration and fundraising account for the rest. This is consistent with FY 2017.

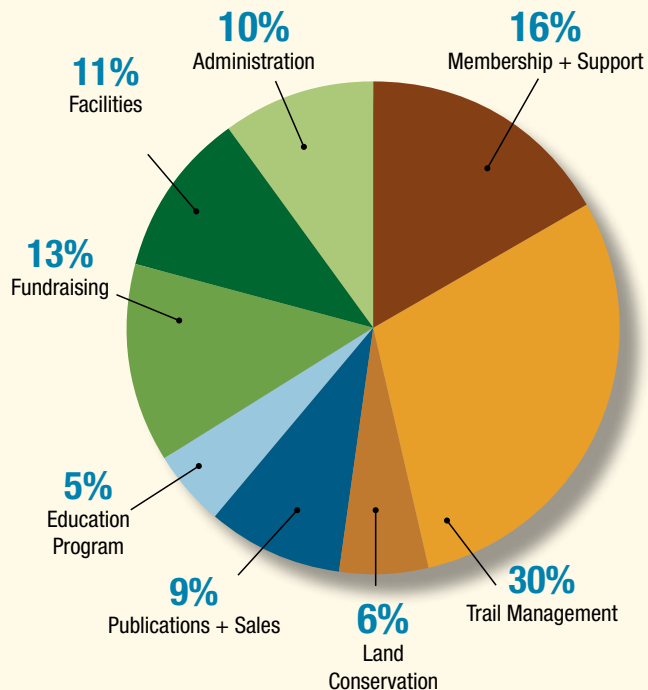
The Club finished fiscal year 2018 on sound financial footing. This financial position also creates a strong base as we complete our first year under our five-year strategic plan.

Contributions from our members, donors, and organizational grants are critical sources of revenue to improve our trails and conserve the Green Mountains we cherish. Thanks to all of you who made this possible.

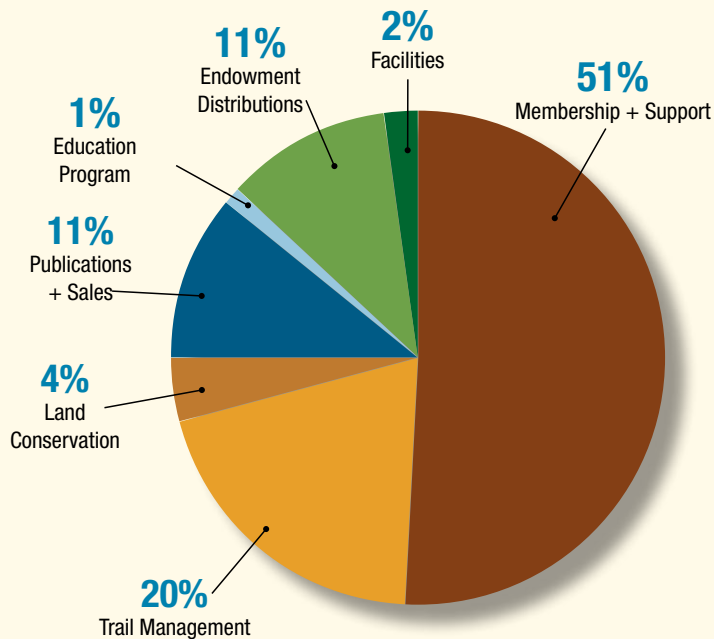
—Stephen Klein, Treasurer



Fiscal Year 2018 EXPENSES



Fiscal Year 2018 REVENUES + SUPPORT



OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Your Donations Make a Difference

EACH YEAR, THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB RELIES ON THE GENEROSITY OF DONORS AND FOUNDATIONS to support our work to protect and maintain the Long Trail. In fiscal year 2018:

- We had the unbelievable support of almost 8,000 individual gifts that contributed to the success of the work we completed on and off the trail.
- We received support from our corporate sponsors: 802 Toyota, 802 Honda, The Berlin Mall, Long Trail Brewing Company, and Twin City Subaru.
- We were the recipients of grants from the following foundations: Jane B. Cook 1992 Charitable Trust, Larsen Fund, The Lintilhac Foundation, Stark Mountain Foundation, The State of Vermont, Vermont Housing & Conservation Board, Waterman Fund, and the Windham Foundation.



“We want to “give back” to the Club for all that the GMC volunteers, GMC seasonal staff, the Long Trail and the Green Mountains did for us during our formative years as young adults in college. Our experiences as seasonal GMC employees had a huge impact on our career choices and subsequent successes. Working for the GMC on the Long Trail gave us confidence that we, as individuals, and collectively as part of the GMC team, could make a positive contribution.

We feel it is our responsibility to contribute to the well-being of the Club, the Long Trail, and the Green Mountains, today and for the future.”

—SUNNY & LEE ALLEN

ENGAGEMENT AND INCLUSION

We Engaged & Informed Trail Users

THE *LONG TRAIL NEWS* PRINT MAGAZINE has been the primary method to communicate to our members for 95 years. Through relevant articles and inspirational stories written by staff and volunteers, the publication remains as informative today as it was almost a century ago. Nearly 29,000 copies were distributed to our members and the public in FY18.

We covered events like the opening dedication of the universally accessible boardwalk and Long Trail relocation in Smugglers' Notch. We celebrated GMC milestones like our 100-year publishing history and 20 years of outreach efforts focused on group use of the Long Trail and their impact on the environment. We took a close look at backcountry sanitation work performed annually by our seasonal field staff and the positive effect it has on health and safety of both hikers and the ecosystem. We profiled new corridor monitors who stepped up to do their part to steward the land. And



we publicly praised the esteemed corps of volunteers who year after year reinforce all the work done to safeguard one of Vermont's most well-loved recreational resources.

The climax of our publishing milestone was the release of the 28th edition of the *Long Trail Guide*. Additionally, we released *A Century of Long Trail Guidebooks: A Retrospective*, which walks readers through the 100-year history of GMC's *Long Trail Guide*. Other publications produced this year include the 21st edition of *The Long Trail End to Ender's Guide* and the 4th edition of the *Mount Mansfield and Worcester Range Hiking Trail Map*.

GMC's publications program works with staff, volunteers, and contractors to produce high quality educational and stewardship guidebooks, maps, and associated products that support our mission. We currently have 19 publications in print and two eBooks with information about hiking, backpacking, nature, and GMC history.



ENGAGEMENT AND INCLUSION

We Fostered Stewardship through Education

WE WORKED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR TO FOSTER STEWARDSHIP OF VERMONT'S HIKING TRAILS AND MOUNTAINS. With a dedicated Education and Volunteer Coordinator, we were able to expand and institutionalize our educational program.

This year 171 volunteers worked on 21 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 400 participants in programs and workshops, including the End-to-Enders Panel, Intro to Backpacking for Women, Wilderness First Aid, Map and Compass, Wild Edibles, and Yoga for Hikers.

Our annual Winter Trails Day was held at GMC Headquarters, where more than 100 people explored the woods of Vermont on hikes throughout the Waterbury/Stowe area (including Camel's Hump) and participated in workshops such as animal tracking and mammalian winter adaptations.



We Connected People with the Mountains of Vermont

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, OUR VISITOR CENTER STAFF WELCOMED AROUND 4,000 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.

Along with the top-notch trail information, visitors were able to purchase books and maps with information about hiking and backpacking in Vermont. Merchandise like hats, shirts, and water bottles were also available to visitors wanting to support and represent the club.

Our other information hub, Barnes Camp, was open on the weekends during the summer and fall. Managed by GMC volunteers and conveniently located in Smugglers' Notch, it welcomed 4,577 visitors providing them with trail and hiking information as well as a place for hikers to dry off and recharge their batteries.

Between the two locations, GMC was able to assist thousands of people with their hiking adventures throughout Vermont.



“Dear Amy [Visitor Center Manager], Thank you so much for supporting me throughout my grad challenge project...Your help throughout planning the hike process was greatly appreciated.”

—CORTNEY ROY

STRENGTHENING OUR SECTIONS, MEMBERSHIP, AND VOLUNTEERS

You Made a Difference through Volunteering

THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB BEGAN AS A GROUP OF COMMITTED VOLUNTEERS dedicated to building, maintaining, and protecting the Long Trail for future generations. Working with a professional staff, it is our committed volunteers who keep the organization going. Volunteers up and down the state 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 13,000 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 250 of you volunteered to be trail and shelter adopters that maintained the footpath and made small repairs to bridges and shelters throughout the Long Trail, Appalachian Trail, and Northeast Kingdom trail systems.

We recognized Beatrice Bonetti as Volunteer of the Year for dedicating five weeks of her summer to the Volunteer Long Trail Patrol. Beatrice traveled from her home country of Italy to volunteer with VLTP during her first trip to the United States. She spent that time building puncheon, relocating trail, and eventually orienting new volunteers. Beatrice was the only volunteer to stay for the full VLTP season. We also recognized the Vermont ATV Sportsman's Association as Group of the Year for their repeated assistance in transporting materials to and from backcountry sites. With their borrowed

equipment and volunteer operators, several projects that would have taken a week or more were completed in a fraction of the time.



Beatrice Bonetti (far left)

Your Memberships Supported the Trail

FOR 108 YEARS, GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB MEMBERS LIKE YOU HAVE SHARED OUR VISION and supported GMC's work. Our members are the foundation of the GMC and the reason for our success. This year, we had nearly 9,500 voting members who supported the mission of the Green Mountain Club.

We have begun work on GMC's strategic plan goals related to engagement and inclusion by creating eight new summer events aimed at new and younger audiences, reaching over 300 people in addition to our outreach at traditional events such as Annual Meeting and Winter Trails Day. A Sections Working Group was created to explore ways to strengthen section membership and draft recommendations on how to keep sections vibrant.

GMC's fourteen sections had a busy year leading hikes and outings, and hosting member events. We want to thank the Bread Loaf Section for their hard work hosting the annual meeting. By section the membership numbers were: At Large, 5,820; Bennington, 142; Brattleboro, 141; Bread Loaf, 265; Burlington, 1,034; Connecticut, 198; Killington, 244; Laraway, 55; Manchester, 180; Montpelier, 527; Northeast Kingdom, 222; Northern Frontier, 54; Sterling, 137; Upper Valley Ottauquechee, 301; Worcester, 114.





GMC Board

OFFICERS

John Page, *President*

Tom Candon, *Vice President*

Stephen Klein, *Treasurer*

Lee Allen, *Secretary*



DIRECTORS

Robynn Albert, *General*

Lars Botzjorns, *General*

Michelle Connor, *Burlington*

Hope Crifo, *General*

Marge Fish, *Manchester*

James Fritz, *Connecticut*

Russ Ford, *Northern Frontier*

Jean Haigh, *Northeast Kingdom*

Peter Hope, *Upper Valley Ottauquechee*

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*

Cynthia Taylor-Miller, *Killington*

Dann Van Der Vliet, *General*

Howard VanBenthuyssen, *General*

Mike Wetherell, *Montpelier*

Matt Wels, *Brattleboro*

John Zaber, *General*



Staff

Jason Buss, *Director of Finance*

Ilana Copel, *Field Supervisor*

Lenny Crisostomo, *Database Manager*

Lorne Currier, *Outreach & Field Coordinator*

Michael DeBonis, *Executive Director*

Alicia DiCocco, *Director of Development*

Mollie Flanigan, *Land Stewardship Coordinator*

Dave Hardy, *Director of Trail Programs*

Jocelyn Hebert, *Long Trail News Editor*

Matt Krebs, *Operations & Publications*

Coordinator

Kristin McLane, *Membership &*

Communications Coordinator

Amy Potter, *Visitor Center Manager*

Robert Rives, *Education & Volunteer*

Coordinator



13 PERMANENT STAFF
(Full-time, year round)

36 SEASONAL
EMPLOYEES

4 INTERNS

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB

4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road
Waterbury Center, Vermont 05677
greenmountainclub.org

