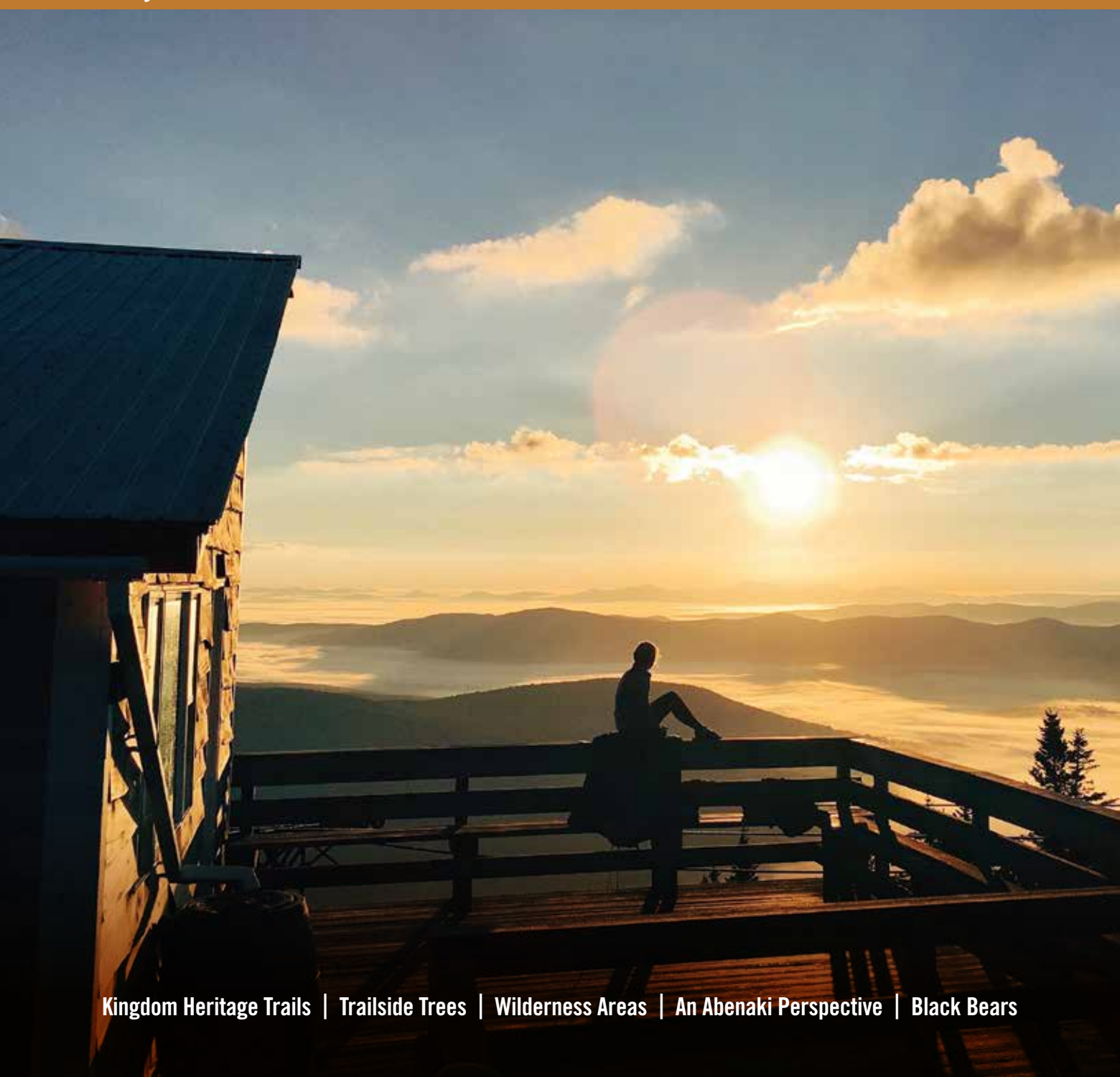


Long Trail NEWS



Quarterly of the Green Mountain Club

FALL 2019



Kingdom Heritage Trails | Trailside Trees | Wilderness Areas | An Abenaki Perspective | Black Bears

Long Trail

N E W S

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

Quarterly of the Green Mountain Club

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The *Long Trail News* is published by The Green Mountain Club, Inc., a nonprofit organization founded in 1910. In a 1971 Joint Resolution, the Vermont Legislature designated the Green Mountain Club the "founder, sponsor, defender and protector of the Long Trail System..."

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

The opinions expressed by *LTN* contributors and advertisers are not necessarily those of GMC. GMC reserves the right to refuse advertising that is not in keeping with the goals of the organization.

The *Long Trail News* (USPS 318-840) is published quarterly by The Green Mountain Club, Inc., 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Center, VT 05677. Periodicals postage paid at Waterbury Center, VT, and additional offices. Subscription is a benefit for GMC members. Approximately \$5 of each member's dues is used to publish the *Long Trail News*.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the *Long Trail News*, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Center, VT 05677.

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Cover: Early morning hiker at Stark's Nest. Photo by Ernesta McIntosh.



PHOTO BY JOCELYN HEBERT

Hiker in fall and fog on the northern Long Trail near Jay Pass.

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From the President

Volunteers are rightly called the backbone of the Green Mountain Club. There is no better proof of that than the celebration in June of the opening of the Kingdom Heritage Lands trails in the Northeast Kingdom.

The new 20-mile trail system, envisioned by a group of local hikers nearly 20 years ago, is the result of those volunteers working with unwavering dedication to build the trails that now expand the region's opportunities for time outdoors in the mountains and forests of northeastern Vermont.

The large and enthusiastic crowd I joined in Island Pond that day showed well-earned appreciation for GMC's Northeast Kingdom Section volunteers and the extensive group of committed partners, led by the Green Mountain Club, the NorthWoods Stewardship Center, and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation. They were joined by Weyerhaeuser Company, Sweet Tree Holdings LLC, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Town of Brighton, the Vermont Land Trust, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, LandVest Inc., and many others. This is a wonderful accomplishment and I congratulate everyone involved.

I've already hiked several of the new trails. The Unknown Pond Trail led me to a quiet, remote pond with gray jays fluttering about, signs of the moose often reported there, and abundant wildflowers. Other trails offer the same sense of remoteness I found at Unknown

Pond. I encourage anyone who finds themselves in the Kingdom to explore them.

The volunteers who turned a vision of a trail system in the Northeast Kingdom into a real trail system are not the only extraordinary volunteers in the Green Mountain Club. In a typical year 13,000 volunteer hours are spent supporting the club and its trails. As president, I had the privilege at this year's annual meeting of presenting President's Awards to **Hope Crifo** and **Melissa Reichert**, whose volunteer commitment merit special recognition.

Hope Crifo serves on the GMC Board and is chair of the endowment committee and a member of the budget and finance and camps committees. She uses her financial background and skills to help the club reach its financial goals. Hope led the endowment committee this year in a comprehensive review and modernization of the club's endowment policy.

Melissa Reichert, recently retired from the U.S. Forest Service, has been active on the GMC Trail Management Committee and has been the U.S. Forest Service representative to the board. Staff members and volunteers regularly work with partner representatives like Melissa to find solutions to problems and funding for trail work. Melissa provided information and historical memory when the club lost longtime Director of Trail Programs Dave Hardy to cancer. Her primary loyalty



Tom Candon

was properly with the Forest Service, but she has always been an outstanding supporter of GMC.

Many other volunteers also deserve recognition (see pages 36-37 for Honorary Life Membership Award winners) so I invite all of you who wish to honor them to our annual volunteer appreciation picnic after the September board meeting.

—TOM CANDON, PRESIDENT

Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

WHO('s Invited): GMC volunteers, and their family and friends

WHAT: A catered fall picnic with awards and music

WHERE: Green Mountain Club Headquarters

WHEN: Saturday, September 21, 1:30–4:00 p.m.

WHY: Because we couldn't do it without you!



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Memories of the Trail in the 1940s

I'm 97 years old, and have so enjoyed the *Long Trail News*. I was born in Chelsea and lived in Vermont until 1950.

In July 1945, my friend, Kathleen Little, and I (then Judith Gilman) hiked two sections of the Long Trail from Pico Peak to Middlebury Gap, and from Bolton to Mount Mansfield. We spent nights at Pico (open faced shelter with porcupine visitations), Tucker Shelter, Noyes Pond (nice cabin by the pond), Carmel Camp was blown down so on to Sunrise, Sucker Brook—steel camp that had just been made over but had no bunks or stove so we went on to Lake Pleiad, a nice cabin with springs on the bunks, and a stove with oven. We shared the cabin with an army corporal and his wife—essentially the only people we saw on the trail.

There was a lot of rain that weekend for which we had no equipment. We only had knapsacks with a two-blanket bed roll on top. So we took a few days off and picked up the trail at Bolton. We hiked up the Joiner Brook Trail past Bolton Lodge to Taylor Lodge. We spent a day exploring Mount Mansfield, a night at Butler Lodge, hiked to Stowe, and took the bus home.

The next three years—1945 to June 1948, while teaching at Hyde Park—I joined the Sterling Section of GMC, and helped build the Beaver Meadow Lodge.

Three of my California sons each spent a night at the Beaver Meadow Lodge. Dana and Steve in July 1973, on a hike from French Camp (Johnson) to Mount Mansfield, and David in September 2017, on his thru-hike. He continued on the Appalachian Trail to New York State. He just completed the Pacific Crest Trail in four sections

—JUDITH RENEAU, MILL VALLEY, CA

Summer LTN a Page Turner

Just wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed the current issue of *Long Trail News*. So many great photos. And especially enjoyed the "personal experience" stories. I read every page of the *News*, but this issue was a real page turner!

—JANE MARSHALL

Nigel and Alex to the Rescue

I would like to take this opportunity to thank GMC for its continued efforts to protect the mountains and support hikers. I was on the Long Trail between Mount Mansfield (the Chin) and the visitor center. As there was a heavy downpour, when I got to the visitor center I had developed signs of hypothermia and was not feeling well. Upon realizing my situation, Nigel and Alex, summer caretakers, helped me by Nigel taking me down the toll road to a nearby establishment where I could recover by resting. Alex offered hot water and cocoa to help improve my condition. I want to thank Nigel, Alex, and Miles for their kindness and help.

—HARI

Dear VLTP [Volunteer Long Trail Patrol]

I recently did trail work in Maine after doing work with you all in 2018. I wanted to let you know how well organized and thought out your trail crew program was for volunteers. I so loved what your program offered, and adored your leaders on and off trail. Big shout out to Rosalie Sharp and crew. I wish you all the best with the rest of the season. Thanks for all you do! Hope to reunite for the next season.

—MICHELLE HANNON

Blown Away by Beauty

Just finished a thru-hike of the Long Trail. And wanted to say: THANK YOU. Your trail is spectacular, and awe inspiring. Every day I was blown away by the beauty of the wilderness, and the ease of accessibility to shelters allowed me to enjoy it all without worrying about logistics like where to sleep, get water, or find a privy. Can't wait to explore more of your trails. Thanks again!

—MATTHEW LEBLANC





The average age of a Green Mountain Club member continues to rise. This is a frequent topic of concern, and our communications team is developing marketing methods and membership benefits to attract and retain younger members. You may see some of the results in coming months.

Meanwhile, our older members have a special opportunity to ensure the club's continued vitality. Many donors tell me they wish they could give more. If you share that wish, you can do so by including the club in your will. If you

typically contribute \$100 a year in dues and other donations, you can endow your membership beyond your lifetime by leaving a \$2,000 bequest to the Green Mountain Club.

As a rule of thumb, if you bequeath 20 times your annual gift, that will enable the club's endowment to supply your level of annual support indefinitely. How amazing is that? On a personal note, I never felt I had enough money to include a meaningful bequest in my will. But realizing I could endow my annual \$100 gift was powerful, and it changed the way

I understood the long-term impact I can have on the club's future.

Bequests are especially important as we deal with increasing use of the trail and its shelters, impacts from severe weather, and decreasing public funding.

Will you endow your membership by leaving a bequest to the Green Mountain Club? If you do, you will help secure the future of the trail.

—ALICIA DiCOCO
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT





HAIGH'S
HIGHWAY



Jean Haigh

Kingdom Heritage Trail System Finished

BY LUKE O'BRIEN

On June 22, more than a hundred enthusiastic and devoted supporters gathered in the sun in Island Pond to celebrate the official opening of the Kingdom Heritage Trail System, a remarkable collection of backcountry paths in some of the most remote and undeveloped forests in Vermont. Recalling the partnerships, the work, and the community support that led to the system, the crowd marked a historical turning point for a northern community embracing sustainable outdoor recreation in its future.

Since the controversial sale of Champion International Corporation's timberlands more than 20 years ago, Island Pond and the rest of the Northeast Kingdom have turned to conservation and recreation as major economic drivers supporting the region's working landscape, preserving its singular natural resources, and honoring its rural traditions.

Led by a group of proud, motivated, and ambitious residents, the Town of Brighton has worked to become a gateway for hikers seeking adventure in the Northern Forest.

The Green Mountain Club, respected for its steady management of the Long Trail System, has gained a presence in the Northeast Kingdom as the designated corridor manager for hiking trails on former Champion lands, and through its camps at Wheeler Pond and its local trail adopter program.

The NorthWoods Stewardship Center, whose crews constructed most of the new trails, has grown. Its fledgling Conservation Corps program—initially comprised entirely of youth from Island Pond—has become a respected professional education and trail service organization.

The area's large landowners—the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Weyerhaeuser Company; Sweet Tree Holdings; the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation; and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department—have provided stability as partners in trail building and as models of diverse land management balancing a variety of interests.

In May 1999, I set out to walk the

untracked forests of the Bluff Mountain ridgeline, inspired by recent work on the Bluff Mountain Community Trail in Island Pond and reports of an old trail on Gore Mountain to the north. I was attracted by the rugged terrain, and I wanted to explore one of the largest undeveloped forest blocks in Vermont. It was an arduous bushwhack over peaks and through beech forests, thick young growth, and wide open timber cuts full of berry cane. I saw late winter snow with fresh muddy bear tracks, crossed two woods roads, and finally came to the height of land above Unknown Pond where, descending to the shore, I was greeted by a pair of loons paddling over to see who I was.

The land was primitive and idyllic.

And now we have a trail on the Bluff Mountain Ridge, connecting forested peaks and narrow tracks at Gore Mountain, Middle Mountain, and Unknown Pond.

I don't think this trail system compromises the wilderness character or deep woods experience of the area. I believe it honors it.

As others may attest, the sale and subsequent conservation of the Champion

timberlands has changed the economic and social calculus for the region, perhaps bringing a greater balance of activities and opportunities.

The Kingdom Heritage Trails are rugged and new. And while some—many—have carped that the trails lack views, there are other features: beaver ponds, streams, wetlands, mixed forests, notable rocks, and mountaintops. All places to seek, explore, discover, and learn. On-trail, off-trail; winter, summer, fall.

As is so often essential, be smart, prepared, respectful. Practice stewardship, immerse yourself, appreciate. Enjoy. 🌿

Luke O'Brien worked at NorthWoods Stewardship Center for many years before becoming a recreation specialist with Forest, Parks and Recreation. He was instrumental in building this trail system, and by Jean Haigh's side exploring and bushwhacking trails from the beginning.



Jean Haigh

Jean Haigh is the constant spirit who drove this project with emotional, inspirational, and dogged leadership. In 2000 she began exploring these hills in earnest, following old trails and finding new ways through the forest.



One of our first outings was a long walk up Pine Brook Road, then a bushwhack to find the ridge summit on Bluff. We never made the summit, but it was a memorable outing—the first of many. Part of that ridge known as the Magic Mile is now also named Haigh's Highway. It is dedicated to the tremendous effort Jean contributed to this trail, its foundational partnerships, and the Northeast Kingdom.

Trailside Trees

BY SAM PERRON



Yellow Birch Tree with Metal Arrow in Nebraska Notch

Just thinking about a trail evokes a sense of movement, of covering ground, seeing what's around the next bend. Spending a lifetime on the Long Trail without moving is inconceivable for us hikers, but such is the life of a trailside tree.

Thousands (maybe millions) of trees line the Long Trail corridor guiding hikers, moose, bears, and other trail users down the path. Most go unnoticed as they blend into the wooded landscape, but some are memorable. One distinctive tree, living in Nebraska Notch not far from Taylor Lodge, stands out because of a white metal arrow mounted on it.

Stopping to look at this historic artifact, used in the early years of the Long Trail to reassure hikers they were headed in the right direction, a hiker might take further notice of this tree. It is a yellow birch perched atop a moss-covered boulder near the bottom of a forested slope. Nearby a trickle of a stream meets the trail, and after a brief mingling of stones and water, finds its way into a wetland. The forest in this region is northern hardwoods, the iconic forest community of Vermont, although at this elevation (nearly 2,000 feet), birch and spruce become more common than maple and beech.

It may seem surprising to find a tree on a boulder, its roots winding around the rock seeking soil and water, but this microhabitat is well suited to a yellow birch. Tiny yellow birch seeds are abundant, and grow well on bare soils, logs, and mossy stumps, but the typical thick bed of leaves on the forest floor inhibits them from germinating. This birch's ancestors produced millions of seeds per acre, and

millions of these seeds became wildlife forage or forest compost. By luck of the draw (or more accurately, wind and gravity), one seed happened to find favorable conditions on this mossy boulder, perhaps with a bit of soil, and a trailside tree was born.

To say it found a suitable place is not to say its life was easy. This tree is more than a hundred years old, but its 16-inch diameter trunk is modest for its age. Narrow growth rings (each ring a year's worth of wood) suggest that the tree had limited resources for much of its life. It had to compete with other trees for sunlight, grow roots into gravelly soil for water and nutrients, and wait for warmth each spring before its buds could break and its leaves could begin photosynthesizing.


Slow growth did not indicate poor health, merely a lack of abundant resources for building wood. (All the better for holding a sign: a much larger maple, a mile or two down the trail, has engulfed a white arrow in its haste to grow wood.) As a species, yellow birch trees are long-lived and can tolerate some shade. Unlike the fast-growing, short-lived paper birch and gray birch of younger forests, this tree has persisted in a crowded forest, and has the longevity to hold its sign for many years to come.

While this birch was slowly growing, the forest around it was also growing, maturing, and changing. Where a young gaggle of trees once competed for light above a cleared forest floor, a more mature forest has formed the features of northeastern forests. Trees have grown, toppled in storms, developed cavities where wildlife find homes, created space for

new seedlings and saplings... forests (like trails!) are never stagnant.

Like all Vermonters, this birch has endured a myriad of weather events. Summer storms have pummeled the forest, although the mountains on either side of this notch may have protected the tree from the strongest winds. Snow and ice burden the forest canopy every winter, testing the strength of the birch's branches, trunk, and roots. Some years have been hot, some cold, some dry, others rainy and snowy. Some have brought historic storms. Soil that has been rearranged by the nearby stream is slowly eroding the ground around the birch's boulder, making its perch appear even more precarious.

Climate has shifted, and this tree now copes with somewhat warmer temperatures than it used to, which is a bit troubling in the long run for yellow birch, a species adapted to past Vermont winters. Its southernmost cousins live in the coldest Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia.

This is only a partial story of one tree. Every tree has different characteristics, its own history, and traits unique to its species. Next time you are hiking, I invite you to look, listen, and observe the ever-changing story of the trees on the Long Trail. 

Sam Perron is a forester at the North Woods Stewardship Center. He lives in East Burke.





Double Metal Arrow Markers in Maple Tree on Butler Lodge Trail



The Qualities of Wilderness Areas

Creating a True Footpath in the Wilderness

BY LORNE CURRIER

View of Glastenbury Wilderness from Firetower

The 272-mile Long Trail is often lovingly described as a footpath in the wilderness but, technically speaking, just 45 miles of the trail are Wilderness.

The difference between wilderness and Wilderness, with a capital 'W', came into being on September 3, 1964, when the 88th Congress signed into law an act "To establish a National Wilderness Preservation System for the permanent good of the whole people, and for other purposes."

Containing timeless and philosophical language, the Wilderness Act is critical in America's history of public land management. On that day in 1964, Congress decided to permanently preserve areas of federal land with qualities intrinsic to the human spirit and fabric of our nation.

As recreationists, we tend to be more observant of our environs than we realize. While we may not acknowledge every time we hear a bird call from the canopy, see a mid-1800s stone wall, or stroll across a ridgeline with unaltered views to the valley below, these features affect our experiences.

Below are the five qualities of wilderness listed in the Wilderness Act.

Wilderness:

- "...is an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man...and generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature."

- "...is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions."
- "...is an area of undeveloped federal land... without permanent improvement or human habitation...where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."
- "...has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation."
- "...may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value."

Federal land management agencies (the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service) must preserve these five qualities in congressionally designated wilderness areas. The Wilderness Act initially designated 54 areas totaling 9.1 million acres as wilderness. Since 1964 the National Wilderness Preservation System has grown to include 803 Wilderness Areas totaling 111 million acres across 44 states and Puerto Rico.

To preserve these qualities the Wilderness Act prohibited ten land uses within wilderness:

- Commercial enterprise
- Permanent roads
- Temporary roads
- Motorized equipment
- Landing of aircraft
- Structures
- Motor vehicles
- Motorboats

- Mechanical transport
- Installations

The writers of the Wilderness Act acknowledged that in certain situations exceptions to the prohibited uses are sometimes necessary. As stated in Section 4(c), "Prohibition of Certain Uses," such uses are prohibited:

"Except as specifically provided for in this Act, and subject to existing private rights, ..." and "except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act (including measures required in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area)..."

Wilderness in Vermont

In Vermont, the Green Mountain National Forest manages nearly 100,000 acres of wilderness. The Long Trail traverses the Forest for approximately 150 miles, with 45 miles in wilderness. The Appalachian Trail, which the GMC maintains in Vermont, crosses 26 Wilderness Areas between Georgia and Maine.

As the stewards of a footpath through six Wilderness Areas, the Green Mountain Club was invited to participate in a Wilderness awareness training course in March 2018. Presented by the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center, the two-day, sixteen-hour course was intended to increase interdisciplinary

awareness of wilderness management responsibilities, and to enhance wilderness stewardship on Green Mountain and Finger Lakes National Forest. The Club was pleased to take part and improve our knowledge of wilderness requirements.

What's different about those 45 miles of Long Trail?

When the Green Mountain National Forest and the GMC decide details of management and maintenance of Long Trail in Wilderness, they refer to the Wilderness Act. Despite the act's specificity, there is a lot of room for interpretation, especially because Vermont's first Wilderness Areas were designated in 1975, 45 years after the Long Trail was finished.

The Green Mountain National Forest may permit normally prohibited uses, but only to meet the minimum requirement to maintain the Long Trail. Below are a few examples of otherwise prohibited uses, and the results of the current Minimum Requirements Analysis, the formal process used to determine when an exception is allowable.

Structures: No new structures are permitted but maintenance of existing shelters may continue. (This provision was included in the

statutes that established Wilderness Areas traversed by the Long Trail: the Vermont Wilderness Act of 1983, and the New England Wilderness Act of 2006.)

For example, when the GMC replaced the sill logs at Boyce Shelter in the Breadloaf Wilderness in 2016, all materials were carried in on the backs of staff and volunteers. The Minimum Requirements Analysis determined that trailside shelters were a minimum requirement to administer the Long Trail. However, it also determined that using a helicopter was not a minimum requirement. Helicopters may be permitted in special circumstances, as when the Big Branch suspension bridge was replaced in Big Branch Wilderness.

Commercial Enterprise: This is permitted in the form of outfitters, school orientation trips, and summer camps, for the purpose of enjoying the "benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness."

Installations: Trail signs are permitted but are installed less frequently than usual, do not show mileage to destinations, do not mark natural or geographic features, and have no paint or stain.

Motorized Equipment: In Wilderness we trade the loud and heavy chainsaw for a sharp axe and a very sharp crosscut saw. We maintain the Long Trail to a different standard, leaving blowdowns which may be easily clambered over or under. We allow trailside vegetation to crowd the trail just a bit more. Motorized equipment may be used only in life-threatening emergencies or special situations approved by the U.S. Forest Service.

Mechanical Transport and Landing of Aircraft: Bicycles, carts, parachutes, sailboats, and all living or nonliving means providing mechanical advantage for moving people or material are prohibited. Aircraft landing exceptions may be made only for life-threatening emergencies or special situations if approved by the U.S. Forest Service.

Your Land Ethic: Know Your Personal Wilderness Values

According to your personal values, consider the following questions, and as you think about them, you may realize how difficult it can be to balance competing values when managing Wilderness:



- Is it appropriate to publish information describing historic structures, cultural resources, or special ecological features?
- Should warning signs be placed at entrances to caves or other potential public safety hazards?
- Should a helicopter be used to rescue a medically stable person with a broken leg who is not in a life-threatening situation?
- Is it appropriate to allow a limited period to clear trails using chainsaws after an intense blowdown event?

The next time you enter one of the federal Wilderness Areas on the Long Trail, remember the writers of the Wilderness Act and what they intended to preserve. Think about how in the last 45 years the soil has never felt the grip of an ATV tire and no white-tailed deer has been scared off by a chainsaw. And how generations of hikers have enjoyed silence, undeveloped ponds in a boreal forest, the primitive challenge of scaling a blowdown, or the slight frustration of searching for a treadway.

In these areas, the Long Trail is truly a "footpath in the wilderness." 🌿

Lorne Currier is a GMC field assistant.

To obtain a copy of "The Wilderness Act," visit www.wilderness.net.



Slightly Overgrown Trail in Wilderness Area

Burnt Mountain

Permanent Protection Marks Milestone

BY SUMA LASHOF AND ZACK PORTER

Gazing from Burnt Mountain's summit at the arc of the Green Mountains from Quebec to Mount Mansfield, it's easy to understand Charlie Hancock's pride in his home terrain.

Charlie lives in Montgomery, nestled at the foot of the northern Green Mountains and famous for six covered bridges (more than any other town in New England). He is a respected forester, an advocate for Vermont's wood products industry, and a community leader.

While his silviculture job depends on managed woodlands, he doesn't hide his excitement about safeguarding the surrounding 5,500-acre forest as Vermont's largest private forever-wild preserve and the first Vermont carbon storage project in the California carbon emission offset market.

"Preserving core wildlife habitat creates an anchor around which our managed woodlands can continue to provide high quality wood products, where we can learn about ecological processes, and store carbon

to combat climate change," said Charlie. "As a member of Montgomery's selectboard and an avid outdoorsman, I'm thrilled that this project ensures that this special landscape will remain open for public access."

Big, Wild, and Connected

The Nature Conservancy in Vermont (TNC Vermont) has been helping to protect Vermont's landscape for nearly 60 years. Camel's Hump, Green River Reservoir, and Stratton Mountain are examples of more than 300,000 acres that TNC Vermont has conserved.

Just 15 miles from Canada, the Burnt Mountain parcel is one of the most important pieces of a conservation jigsaw puzzle along the northern Green Mountains. It extends from Vermont Route 118 near Belvidere Pond in Eden to Hazen's Notch in Montgomery, abutting the Long Trail State Forest and ten miles of the Long Trail.

The size of the property makes it exceptional habitat for a variety of forest

species, from brook trout seeking cold water to black bear searching for safe winter dens. Its north-south orientation and dramatic elevation range make it a key parcel for wildlife connectivity and climate change resilience, allowing wildlife to move freely. Plants and animals are moving 11 miles north and 30 feet higher each decade to adjust to our warming climate.

"Located next to Hazen's Notch State Park, the Long Trail State Forest, and privately-owned lands conserved by the Green Mountain Club, this 11,000-acre landscape is a model for conservation of large forest blocks," said TNC Vermont Conservation Planner Gus Goodwin. "Its massive, sprawling core is rich in biodiversity, and it is protected by a periphery of conserved land for traditional uses."

Forever Wild

Large intact forests like Burnt Mountain are increasingly rare in New England. A growing population, a booming housing market, and



expanding energy infrastructure (transmission lines, pipelines, ridgetop windfarms) are fragmenting and shrinking the region's forests at a rate unseen since settlement centuries ago. Less than four percent of New England's forests are permanently protected from resource extraction and development. The number is similar in Vermont.

"Though many consider Vermont to be a rural, wild place, only about three percent of the state is protected as wilderness," said Jon Leibowitz, executive director of the Northeast Wilderness Trust (NWT).

Founded in 2002, NWT is the only land trust in the eastern United States focused exclusively on forever wild preservation, and has helped guarantee a wild future for more than 35,250 acres in New England and the Adirondacks. Collaborations are at the heart of TNC's mission, so in 2016 TNC Vermont proposed that the land trust hold a forever wild easement on the Burnt Mountain property.

"We're proud to assist The Nature Conservancy in Vermont," continued Jon Leibowitz of NWT. "Similar in intent to Congressional wilderness legislation that protects landscapes on the Green Mountain National Forest, a forever wild easement ensures that natural processes will direct the ebb and flow of the land. Over time, signs of past logging will fade, and an old growth forest will emerge."

Hiking, snowshoeing, hunting, and other traditional, human-powered forms of recreation will be permitted at Burnt Mountain, as they are at 55 other TNC natural areas in Vermont.

Wild Carbon

Burnt Mountain will also be the state's largest carbon project. Conserving its northern hardwood and spruce-fir forests will slow climate change and mitigate its effects through carbon storage, as well as

provide clean air and water.

Before it became a TNC preserve, the parcel was co-owned by TNC and Vermont Land Trust (VLT) since 1997 under the Atlas Timberlands Partnership, and was managed as a 26,000-acre working forest. The partnership dissolved in 2015 in hopes of generating money for additional forestland protection through sales of land with permanent conservation easements. TNC purchased VLT's 5,500-acre share, which was the partnership's crown jewel.

"Though many consider Vermont to be a rural, wild place, only about three percent of the state is protected as wilderness."

Full acquisition of the Burnt Mountain parcel required a transition from a harvested forest to an ecological reserve, which allowed entry into the carbon market. This market enables companies to decrease their carbon emissions by buying credits (1 credit = 1 metric ton of carbon) to offset a small portion of their emissions in the California Air Resources Board Compliance Offset Program.

"Sources of conservation funding are shrinking, while the complexities and impacts of our environmental challenges are expanding," said Heather Furman, state director of TNC Vermont. "We're thinking innovatively about how we can grow our investments in nature. The

carbon offset program will allow us to put the power of the market to work to protect forests and fight climate change."

Burnt Mountain is the first in the state to qualify for the California carbon market. It is expected to yield 236,772 credits in its first decade, a value of more than \$2 million and equivalent to removing 38,000 cars from the road for one year.

Statistics can't capture many of the greatest benefits of protecting Burnt Mountain's forest for Charlie Hancock and the people of Montgomery. Burnt Mountain is the backdrop of their daily lives, an essential part of why they live there.

"Our community is defined by the mountains and ridgelines that surround us, embracing Montgomery's small village centers, and the checkered green fields that back up to a mosaic of woodlands, flanked by larger, unbroken, forests," said Charlie.

"We're thrilled to have The Nature Conservancy in Vermont and Northeast Wilderness Trust as partners in our endeavor to conserve our cherished corner of Vermont for future generations, human or otherwise, that will call this place home." 🍄

Suma Lashof is a Science Communication Fellow for The Nature Conservancy in Vermont.



Zack Porter is the former Outreach and Communications Coordinator for Northeast Wilderness Trust.





Mount Mansfield PHOTO BY BILL KNIGHT, WWW.KNIGHTOFTHEROUNDLENS.COM

The Mountains Through a Different Cultural Lens: An Abenaki Perspective

BY MELODY WALKER

In the beginning of all things, Gluskabe, the culture hero of the Abenaki people, formed himself out of dust and began his work of transformation. As he rolled, the valleys and the mountains took shape, but in the process of transforming the world he also formed himself. Creation always includes self.

Indigenous stories that describe the transformation and the creation of a place have fascinated visitors to indigenous homelands for centuries, and are often seen as little more than myths and legends. Rather than reiterate stories that can be found in print by our many amazing storytellers, I would like to offer another gift—how to look at the mountains through a different cultural lens.

One of my oldest friends, an elder from the Penobscot Nation, once mentioned that indigenous people never went above

the treeline unless they wished to be closer to the thunder beings and to the creator. That is a place of power. We ventured one

“Whether a person ventures to the mountaintop to pray, or another goes to reach a personal goal to the peak, both are on the path to inspiration.”

day to Cadillac Mountain and sent up prayers in smoke for the community as close to the sun as we could manage.

I have not thought much about this since that meeting, but in it lies the key to stories of the Green Mountains and the essential role adventure plays in fulfillment. Both Euro-American and Wabanaki people view mountains in much the same metaphorical sense. Whether a person ventures to the mountaintop to pray, or another goes to reach a personal goal to the peak, both are on the path to inspiration. Choosing the journey requires that individuals leave themselves open to the wonder of the world and all its potential lessons. However, we do not view the end of the journey as conquering the mountain. Our journey is for ceremony, and we walk upon the mountain as a relative.

Apart from the metaphorical, we differ on the ways in which we view the mountains as they stand in their physical form. Indigenous people see an animate

world. As Vine Deloria Jr. so eloquently explained, “The world that [the Indian] experiences is dominated by the presence of power, the manifestation of life energies, the whole life-flow of a creation.” We are all made of the same source of life—power runs through all things and binds us together as family.

Ethnographer Ruth Homes Whitehead explained: “[Power] is everywhere at once, and yet it is also conscious, particulate: it is Persons.” Not only are all things made of power, but all members of creation are persons. When we speak of Grandfather Sun, Grandmother Woodchuck, or the Old Man in the Mountain, the language we use is intentional. When I lived at the base of Mount Mansfield for more than a decade, I greeted them often as relatives, so they knew they were not forgotten.

As we view our beautiful Green Mountains, they are looking at us too. Our stories of connection are more than stories; they remind us how to exist in a world so filled with ego from new value systems that many can no longer see the faces in the mountains. Our world is in desperate need of this lesson—“walk softly, there are people everywhere.”

As Abenaki storyteller Joseph Bruchac explained, “Our stories open our eyes and hearts to a world of animals and plants, of earth and water and sky. They take us under the skin and into the heartbeat of Creation...Our stories remember when people forget.” We still have knowledge of the little people that love to eat mushrooms and play tricks on travelers through the woods. We still remember when Gluskabe beat back the ice monsters thrashing around Ndaakinnna and knocking the tops of mountains here and there in what people know as glacial erratics. We look for the sidehill creatures with long back legs and short front legs so it is easier to run up the side of the mountain.

We tell stories of change in a landscape that is animate not because the world was once a place of creation, but rather because it *is* a place of creation. The stories tell of a world shaped positively by human beings. Our connection to place is cemented through ceremony and stories, old and new. There is an incredible amount of belonging in the way Abenaki people view the world, and through this cultural lens we not only see creation looming before us

in the majesty of a mountain, but we can also see it in the petals of the flower at its base. We are a community of many types of persons and we all belong to each other. For dominant society these aspects may seem foreign, but for those who spend time within Ndaakinnna’s forests and climb to the peaks of our majestic kin, the possibility of understanding is there.

When I was asked about place names, stories, and sacred sites to share with readers, my most salient question while researching our lore was, why? What can our stories provide to those outside of our culture? Is knowing the root of the desire more important than the information itself?

“Include the Abenaki voice as we have loved and looked after this place for ten thousand years and will continue to do so for another ten thousand.”

Perhaps what people are most craving is a sense of belonging—to name what is felt but is rarely spoken. “People” in dominant society refers only to humans. Abenaki stories teach us what belonging means, what it means to be a person, and what it means to walk as if all things mattered. Dominant society is largely devoid of these ideas, and naming a difficult concept without the proper words must come from other viewpoints.

Our sacred sites and stories of place are not needed by our new neighbors, because what is needed is to acknowledge we can all create new stories together. Love this place with us. Walk in a sacred way through the mountains, through the streams, and in the woods. The real power of a story is to reaffirm and continuously celebrate the most important relationship you have—the bond with creation. We belong to the places we love. Perhaps all that is needed is to remember we are all worthy of belonging. Author Robin Kimmerer wrote, “For all of us, becoming

indigenous to a place means living as if your children’s future mattered, to take care of the land as if our lives, both material and spiritual, depended on it.” Tell us *your* stories.

While much of the information contained in this piece is not new, I would like to offer a different insight into the implications of this cultural lens. We indigenous people cannot carry our spirituality in a book. Our homeland has been drastically altered, and a new set of values has overtaken our own. Reciprocity with us or our non-human kin is rare. Change this narrative. Include the Abenaki voice as we have loved and looked after this place for ten thousand years and will continue to do so for another ten thousand.

If our world is to be cared for properly, including us in policy and brainstorming is not politically correct, it is necessary. Our worldview and our spirituality are intricately tied together in place. If the mountains where our deities reside are privately owned, scarred up for ski resorts, mined for resources, or—in the case of the homeland of one indigenous group—have the faces of presidents carved into them, one might ask: do all people have freedom of religion?

Often people see our stories and place names as fixtures of the past, but our views on the world change, just as we are part of a living culture that changes. Ask what our stories are now. In the past we seldom visited peaks outside of ceremony, but many of us love to climb today, and ceremony is still performed. We evolve with our homeland as changes overtake us, but we hold close what we love. Our stories will always remind us to see the faces in the mountains. 🍄

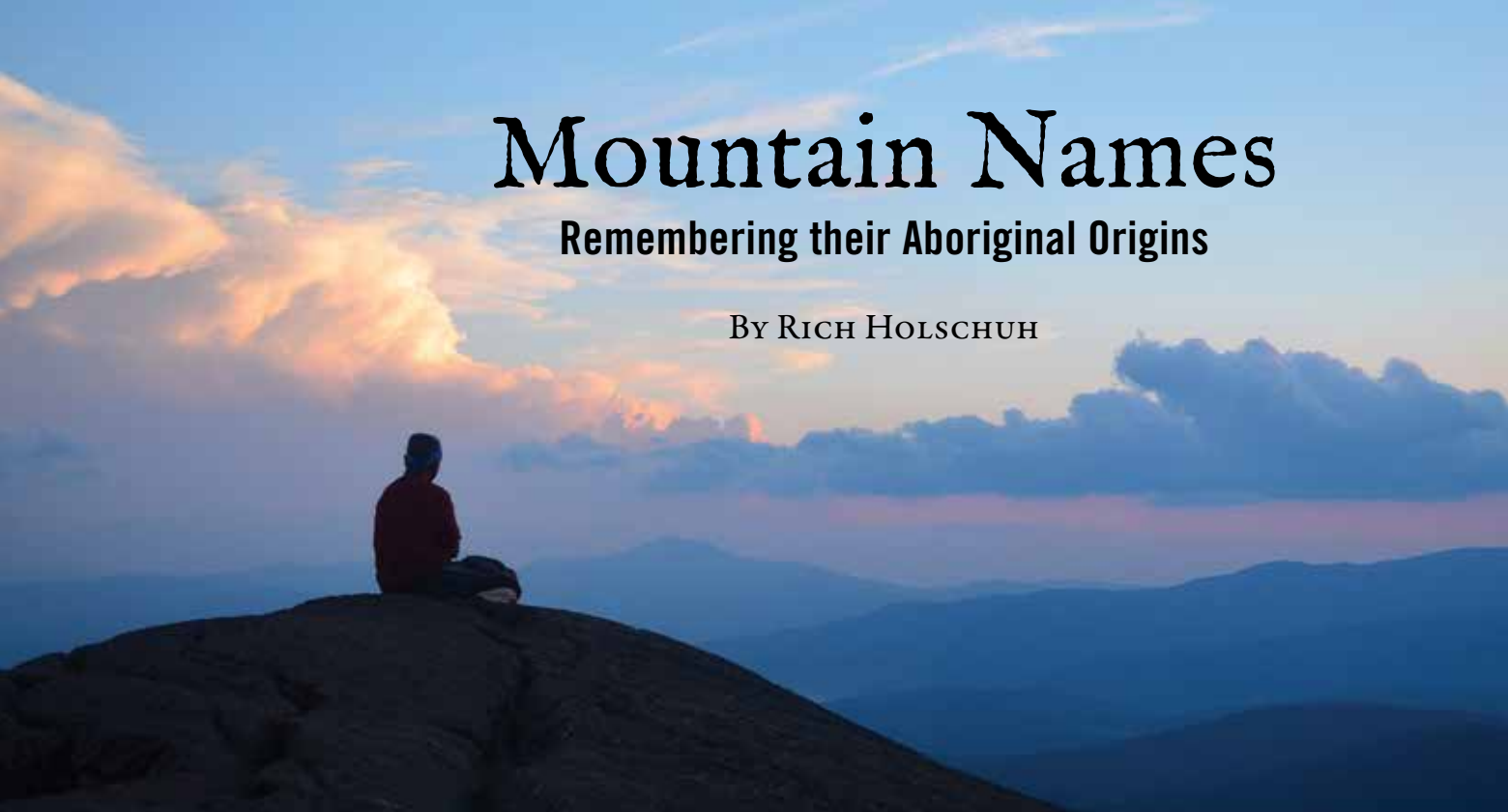
Melody Walker is an educator, activist, artist, and citizen of the Elnu Abenaki Band of Ndaakinnna. She has a master’s degree in history from the University of Vermont. Her Ted talk entitled “Weaving a Thread Through The Seven Generations” can be viewed on YouTube.



Mountain Names

Remembering their Aboriginal Origins

BY RICH HOLSCHUH



“As Europeans settled on the continent and early pioneers explored, they often gave places new names commemorating the Founding Fathers and other important Americans... [Indigenous people] have viewed such commemorative names as inappropriate: humans are too small, too fleeting and insignificant to have places named for them. The land is eternal; it owns us, we do not own it.”

—DOUG HERMAN, *DENALI AND AMERICA'S LONG HISTORY OF USING (OR NOT USING) INDIAN NAMES*

It feels fitting that the oldest long-distance hiking trail in the United States traverses the Green Mountains, which are among the oldest mountains in North America. Of course, age is relative. We think of the Long Trail as old: it was finished in 1930. We think of Vermont as an old state: it had been settled for about 150 years when the trail was completed.

But the time since the settling of Vermont, and the time since completion of the Long Trail, are short compared with the tenure of the native Algonquian-speaking people—primarily Abenaki—who were forced aside when settlers, primarily British, flooded in after the last so-called French and Indian War. The newcomers colonized the landscape in a startlingly rapid wave. During the preceding wars the Abenaki

had aligned with New France to the north, so when the British won, they fancied the territory that eventually became Vermont a clean slate, ready for new names.

The settlers applied their values with a broad, deliberate brush in a sociopolitical process known as displacement and assertion. These new Vermonters, as they came to call themselves, followed the geographic naming conventions of their forebears. They chose Old or New English localities, notable individuals, and wealthy patrons to supply labels for landmarks in this unfamiliar territory. The new names were abstractions that had nothing to do with the features themselves, but became referents simply by association.

While hiking the Long Trail, few of us ponder the ideological motives for these

relatively recent monikers, but the ancient skyline of the Green Mountains has been known intimately for millennia. We still recall some original names, but we have forgotten many others.

A guiding principle in Wabanaki understanding is that the stories themselves, being alive, remember. While we may not recall the original names, we can reconnect to the knowledge of our mountain relatives when we nurture the proper relationships. The original names derive from those relationships and from the features themselves, a direct connection between the People and the Land—for they are the same.

In that light, let's take a look at some of these mountain names and their layered stories, walking *sowanaki li pebonki*—from south to north.

Just south of the border looms the tallest peak in Massachusetts, once referred to as Grand Hoosuc or Saddleback, and since the early 1800s as Greylock. Although the origin of the current name is debated, majority opinion asserts that it is in remembrance of Wawanolewat, an honored war chief of the Abenaki who was known as Gray Lock. He oversaw a running war with the colonists in western New England for decades, never surrendering, and living to a great age.

Gray Lock operated from his base at the village of Mazipskoik at Missisquoi Bay, although he originally hailed from Woronoco

(near Westfield, Mass.). Wawanolewat (which means “he habitually fools the others”) was born with a shock of grey hair, and this trait also suggests the clouds that often wreath the top of the mountain. Naming a mountain after an individual is a Western convention, but in a surprising cultural twist of memorializing a foe, Greylock has persisted.

Traveling north into Vermont, the trail leads to Glastenbury Mountain in the unincorporated town of the same name. Glastenbury seems to have been named by grantor Gov. Benning Wentworth of New Hampshire in 1761 for Glastonbury, Somerset, in England, in a series of transposed colonial references. In corroboration, the next township east (also unincorporated) was named Somerset.

Vermont folklore authority Joe Citro has said that Glastenbury was known by the native people as “the place where four winds meet.” This claim seems unsubstantiated, a part of the accretion of legend around an area that has long sustained stories of mysterious phenomena and unexplained disappearances. There is no surviving name from the original language, which in this case is likely to have been Mahican, an Algonquian dialect closely related to Abenaki.

Moving on to better-documented territory, the highest peak in southern Vermont looms ahead at Stratton Mountain, whose inaccessibility inspired James P. Taylor to conceive of the Long Trail in 1910. It is unknown where Gov. Wentworth borrowed the name Stratton when he chartered the town of Stratton. But the mountain was known early on as Manicknung, said to translate from the Mahican language as the “place where the mountain heaps up” and, alternatively, “home of the bear.”

The latter is pure marketing spin, part of the not uncommon practice of romanticizing (and inventing) native heritage. It is not difficult to consult a dictionary or native speaker to avoid such absurdities. It is also worth noting the strong homophony of Manicknung with New Hampshire’s Monadnock to the east—“the mountain that stands alone” or “the separate mountain,” which could easily be another way of saying “where the mountain heaps up.”

The next height with claims to an indigenous name is Pico, next to Killington. Conventional wisdom states that it may be derived from the Abenaki word for pass or opening, since it faces Sherburne Pass just to the north. While there is some similarity to the Abenaki roots for “open” and “cross,” this seems like a stretch. However, there is a specific Abenaki term for a mountain pass and it is “Pasadena,” which shows up in California, freely appropriated for its euphonious sound. Go figure. In a bizarre twist of geo-linguistic justice, it is more likely the name Pico is a direct application of the Spanish term for “peak.”

Skipping mounts Abraham and Ellen (with their original toponyms unrecorded), we ascend Camel’s Hump, whose striking profile has made a strong impression on observers for millennia. Samuel de Champlain’s “Le Lion Couchant” (the resting lion) became Ira Allen’s “Camel’s Rump,” which evolved into the more mellifluous Camel’s Hump, still a rather exotic appellation.

The Abenaki knew this place as Tawapodiiwajo, meaning “place to sit in mountain,” or “saddle mountain,” or “mountain seat.” This makes perfect sense on a titanic scale when it is understood that the giant culture hero Gluskabe used the mountain as his personal seat in some traditional stories.

Another Abenaki cognate for the peak, akin to the later Camel’s Hump moniker, is “Moziozagan” for “moose’s shoulder,” or “moose’s hump.”

Continuing north, the Green Mountain’s loftiest peak of Mount Mansfield rises to 4,393 feet. Though some claim it memorializes a previous home in Connecticut, the now-dissolved namesake town appears simply to have been another tribute by New Hampshire Gov. Wentworth to a buddy back home in England, Lord Mansfield. Today’s fancied human profile was envisioned quite differently through its original referent as Mozdebiwajo, or Moosehead Mountain, the result of the mighty Gluskabe’s pursuit of an equally great beast, now turned to stone.

Finally, at the border with Quebec rises Jay Peak, granted to and named for the first Chief Justice of the United States for his help making Vermont the 14th state. Jay Peak is in the Missisquoi River watershed, which flows west to Lake Champlain and embraces that same village—Mazipskoik—where Wawanolewat, Chief Gray Lock, sheltered during his long and storied career. On a clear day one can see the lake from the mountaintop. One old Quebecois source has stated that they knew it as Gwenaden—Long Mountain, a fitting end to the Long Trail.

And so the stories continue. 🐾

Rich Holschuh serves on the Vermont Commission for Native American Affairs and as a public liaison for the Elnu Abenaki Tribe, representing with governmental agencies and other entities.



Jay Peak or Gwenaden (Long Mountain)



PHOTO COURTESY OF VERMONT FISH AND WILDLIFE

Problem Bears? Or Problem People?

Understand Bear Behavior Before Heading into the Backcountry

Hikers and campers in Vermont have never worried much about bears. They camped, cooked, and stored food with no special precautions. But times have changed. And with a substantial increase in the black bear population, our behavior must change too.

In recent years bear problems have developed at several places on the Long Trail, including Story Spring Shelter, Montclair Glen Lodge, Hump Brook Tenting Area, Bamforth Ridge Shelter, and Journey's End Shelter.

This year, bears at Kid Gore, Goddard, and Stratton Pond shelters on the Long Trail, and Stony Brook Shelter on the Vermont AT, did not react or show fear when yelled at or pelted with stones. They got into several hikers' food supplies and ripped apart a sewage storage can and strewn its contents across the forest floor. One even sniffed into a shelter, leaving only after a startled hiker smacked it in the head with a trekking pole.

Most black bears are wary of humans, but food-conditioned bears are potentially dangerous, and, if determined to be a threat, may have to be killed. This is the last thing we want, but it happened to a bear at Goddard Shelter this July after human-bear confrontations increased (see page 20).

GMC staff members are working with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and the Green Mountain National Forest to address bear problems and evaluate food storage possibilities at each overnight site. In the meantime, human behavior will help determine whether Vermont's black bears become so-called "problem bears" or remain the shy and elusive creatures they once were. Be part of the solution and take these simple precautions to protect the bears, and people.

How to Store Food in Bear Country

At shelters you may see "mouse guards"—inverted tin cans tied to strings hanging from the ceiling, with toggles beneath. They are intended to suspend food bags or backpacks to keep them safe from mice and other critters looking for goodies and salt. But guess who else is interested in your food? Mouse guards don't stop bears, so please remove them, and don't add new

ones. This is a good first step to detracting bear visits to the shelters.

How, then, can you secure your food? Here are some options, from most secure to least secure:

- If there is a steel bear box or locker, use it to store food and other scented items (which as a general rule are items you would put in your mouth or on your skin such as toothpaste, chapstick, deodorant, sunscreen, insect repellent, first aid kit contents, etc.). Make sure the box or locker is closed and latched securely. Do NOT leave trash or garbage in the storage container. If others have done so, please carry out what you can, and report any remaining trash to the GMC.
- Few sites have bear boxes or lockers yet (see inset), so GMC strongly urges you to carry a bear-resistant food container or hang food on all overnight hikes on Vermont's trails. As of July 2019, Green Mountain National Forest now *requires* hikers to carry bear-resistant food containers or hang food at least 12 feet off the ground and 6 feet horizontally from any object.



Privy after bear got inside

- Know how to use your food canister correctly: leave it closed and locked, and stash it at least 100 yards from your—or anyone else's—shelter. Don't put it near a cliff or water, where a bear might bat it over the edge or into the water. Check the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee website for approved personal food storage options. Some are more effective than others.
- Hanging a bear bag from a tree limb is hard to do right, and finding a suitable branch is difficult in our dense forests. However, if it is your only option, make sure to hang food bags at least 100 yards from the shelter and all tents. See greenmountainclub.org/protecting-food-bears/ for advice on how to do a proper bear hang.

How Humans Should Behave in Bear Country

As the bear that tore apart the privy showed, bears don't care where discarded food is. Do not throw food or trash into a privy or composting bin. (Also, GMC caretakers must remove these items during the composting process.)

Pack out all garbage and food scraps, and—again—do not leave trash in bear boxes. No one is paid to collect it.

While trail magic is a wonderful gesture, do not leave leftover food in shelters or along the trail. A bear's sense of smell is thousands of times more acute than ours, and bears are tremendously strong and clever. In 2015, a bear opened the door to Montclair Glen Lodge—after figuring out how to use the door latch—because there was food inside.

Cook and eat away from your tent or shelter to keep tasty smells away from where you sleep.

Do not feed or approach bears. Intentionally feeding bears is illegal.

If you encounter a bear on the trail, follow these recommendations from Vermont Fish and Wildlife:

When the bear is unaware of your presence:

- Quietly back away from the bear and leave the area.
- DO NOT approach the bear.

When the bear is aware of your presence and is uninterested:

- Quietly back away from the bear and leave the area.
- DO NOT approach the bear.

When the bear is curious and continues to look in your direction, smells the air, or slowly approaches:

- Talk in a calm voice while slowly backing away from the bear.
- DO NOT approach the bear. If the bear is defensive it may:
 - Make vocalizations, which can include huffing and jaw popping.
 - Retreat up a tree.
 - Swat at the ground or tree.
 - Lower its head with ears flattened, and sway from side to side.

When the bear is defensive:

- Begin repeating, "Hey, bear" in a calm voice.
- Back away and leave the area.

If the bear continues to be defensive or becomes aggressive it may:

- Approach you.
- Begin to follow you.
- Charge you.

When the bear is aggressive:

- Make yourself look bigger by putting your arms above your head. Continue to repeat, "Hey, bear" in a calm voice. Back away and leave the area.
- If the bear continues to follow you, stand your ground, make yourself look bigger, shout at it, threaten it with whatever is at hand (bang a stick on the ground, clap your hands), and prepare to use bear pepper spray if you have it. Back away and leave the area.
- If charged, stand your ground, talk to the bear in a calm voice, and use bear pepper spray if you have it. If the bear makes contact, fight back with anything you have (trekking pole, stick, binoculars, etc.).

Compiled and written by GMC staff



Carrying Bear Box in to Stony Brook Shelter

SITES WITH BEAR BOXES:

Seth Warner Shelter
Goddard Shelter
Kid Gore Shelter
Story Spring Shelter
Stratton Pond Shelter

Montclair Glen Lodge
Hump Brook Tenting Area
Bamforth Ridge Shelter
Stony Brook Shelter (VT AT)



PHOTO BY RUTH MORLEY

How a Fed Bear Became a Dead Bear

As the Vermont Fish and Wildlife website says: “It is your responsibility to avoid attracting bears. Bears are wild animals that belong in their natural habitat—the forest.”

In June and July, a black bear, in its natural habitat, began to roam closer to Goddard Shelter in the Glastenbury Wilderness. Hikers failed the bear by leaving accessible food and garbage at the site. As bear-human conflicts increased and escalated, authorities decided they had no choice but to shoot the bear, ending his life tragically and prematurely. Here is how the events leading to the bear’s untimely death unfolded:

JUNE 24. GMC learned of a bear that was unafraid of people traveling between Goddard and Kid Gore shelters near Glastenbury Mountain on the Long Trail/Appalachian Trail.

JUNE 25. The bear approached the shelter in the evening and stuck its head inside. Thru-hikers in the shelter whacked the bear with a trekking pole, scaring it away.

JUNE 26. While delivering wood shavings for the moldering privy, GMC Field Assistant Lorne Currier and Southern Lead Caretaker McVitty LaPointe (McV) heard a voice yelling, “Hey, bear!” at a large bear in the trail leading to the privy. They threw rocks at the bear, who circled behind the shelter and ambled away. The bear

returned ten minutes later and didn’t leave the area until a rock hit it in the head.

Lorne and McV placed bear alert signs and checked to see whether a box already on site that was being used to store construction equipment could be used as a bear box. They swept a wide area around the shelter and tenting area for trash, including micro trash and small piles of partially torn-up rubbish consisting mostly of Mountain House dehydrated food wrappers, graham crackers and marshmallows (the bear didn’t eat them), and other plastic wrappers.

Lorne reported that the bear was “brave and not at all concerned with humans,” and had already been rewarded with food.

GMC staff notified wildlife and law enforcement officers of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department and the U.S. Forest Service immediately after Lorne and McV returned from the field. Discussions began about installing a bear box.

JUNE 27-JULY 4. GMC did not hear of any activity during this period.

JULY 5. Lorne and McV returned to Goddard Shelter to convert the construction box to a bear box, placed instructions for its use, and picked up trash. They didn’t see the bear.

That evening, the bear returned and ripped out the toilet seat in the privy and

tore into the new bag of shavings. Hikers threw stones, and it went away.

JULY 6. GMC learned of the incident with the bear ripping out the toilet seat. McV hiked to Goddard Shelter immediately, reinforced the privy door latches, cleaned up the shavings, and reinstalled the toilet riser. He didn’t see the bear.

JULY 9. GMC Director of Field Programs Keegan Tierney received several voicemails about the bear. He passed the information along to Vermont Fish and Wildlife Biologist and Black Bear Project Leader Forrest Hammond.

JULY 11. A hiker reported the bear had returned and raided tents and backpacks. GMC staff again notified wildlife and law enforcement officers. GMC staff and partners discussed disseminating stronger warnings and more detailed advice regarding food storage and bear behavior. The Forest Service and the Club used social media channels to get the word out.

GMC coordinated with wildlife officials to send game wardens to the area, but they didn’t find the bear. Goddard Shelter was closed by GMC.

JULY 12. GMC headquarters received a report of a bear following hikers, which field staff forwarded to all agency partners. Game wardens returned to the shelter site that morning, and learned the bear was following hikers on the LT about two miles south.

They found the bear, decided its association of humans with food had reached too dangerous a level, and shot it. 🐾

—GMC STAFF

We ask hikers to submit bear incidents to GMC and Vermont Fish and Wildlife using their online form: <https://anrweb.vt.gov/FWD/FW/WildlifeBearReport>

The sooner wildlife officials and GMC know about bear interactions, the better equipped they will be to protect bears and people recreating in the backcountry.

Fall's Fleeting Mycological Treasures

BY ARI ROCKLAND-MILLER

Camouflaged among freshly fallen leaves, autumn mushrooms thrive in the wet woods. Long-awaited rains—slow, steady, and abundant—arrived just before a looming frost that threatens to put the mushrooms to bed for the season.

Fall foraging has a different tenor and flavor from summer hunting. The diversity of gourmet edibles is down, and with splashes of color everywhere it can be easy to overlook mycological treasures. No longer can you traipse through the woods with a broad, sweeping gaze, waiting for the signature golden hue of chanterelles or the fiery orange of a lobster to leap from the brown duff. You may walk a mile spotting only a few pithy entolomas, when suddenly a thousand-strong legion of honey mushrooms or a heavy, bug-free trio of king boletes sends you reeling. You might check a hundred ancient oaks and find nothing but slippery acorns, but press on: the next oak tree, seeming just like the rest, could hold enough maitake to carry your family through the winter.

I love late season hunting. You can taste the crisp, starlit nights and heavy morning dew in each bite of blewit. You can smell October air and fresh mountain mist in every morsel of lion's

mane. Each hunt carries the awareness that it might be the season's last, as daylight dwindles and winter falls upon the land.

Ari and his wife, Jenna Antonino DiMare, are co-founders of The Mushroom Forager. The Mushroom Forager has facilitated more than 150 presentations and hands-on workshops to more than 3,500 mycophiles, including workshops at GMC. Visit their website to learn more, www.themushroomforager.com.

See following pages for Fall Mushroom ForageCast.



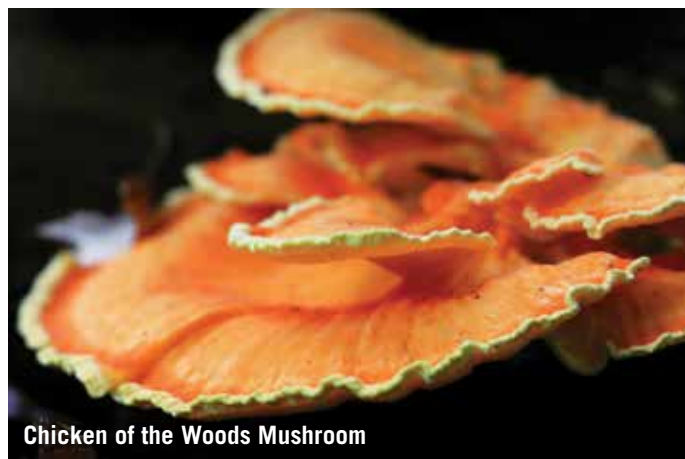
Yellow Foot Chanterelle



Lobster Mushroom



Hen of the Woods Mushroom



Chicken of the Woods Mushroom



Lions Mane Mushroom

PHOTOS BY JENNA ANTONINO DIMARE

Northeastern ForageCast™

	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	WHERE TO LOOK	CULINARY VALUE
	Honey mushroom	<i>Armillaria sp.</i>	On rotting wood, stumps, wood chips, or buried roots	Good
	Bicolor bolete	<i>Boletus bicolor</i>	On forest floor in hardwood forests, especially near oak	Excellent
	Porcini	<i>Boletus edulis</i>	On forest floor near spruce or hemlock; also near pine and occasionally in hardwood forests	Excellent
	Giant puffball	<i>Calvatia gigantea</i>	Lawns, agricultural fields, urban areas, disturbed ground, open woods	Good
	Smooth chanterelle	<i>Cantharellus lateritius</i>	On forest floor near oaks	Excellent
	Blewit	<i>Clitocybe nuda</i>	In moist organic debris and leaf litter	Very Good
	Shaggy mane	<i>Coprinus comatus</i>	In lawns or landscapes areas; along roadsides and disturbed ground	Good
	Black trumpet	<i>Craterellus cornucopioides</i>	On forest floor in hardwood and coniferous forests, often growing in moss	Excellent
	Yellow foot	<i>Craterellus ignicolor</i> , <i>Craterellus tubaeformis</i> , <i>Craterellus aurora</i>	On forest floor or logs in coniferous bogs and sphagnum moss. Also, on ground in mossy areas in hardwood forests	Excellent
	Aborted entoloma	<i>Entoloma abortivum</i>	Near woody debris or in leaf litter; often near honey mushrooms	Good
	Hen of the woods, or maitake	<i>Grifola frondosa</i>	At the base of older standing oak trees or stumps - especially red oak. Occasionally found at the base of other hardwoods.	Excellent

Graphic By: Jenna Antonino DiMare, co-founder of The Mushroom Forager, LLC

• Mushrooms of September

	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	WHERE TO LOOK	CULINARY VALUE
	Lion's mane	<i>Hericium americanum</i> , <i>Hericium coralloides</i> , <i>Hericium erinaceus</i>	On hardwood logs, stumps and standing trees	Excellent
	Hedgehog	<i>Hydnum repandum</i> , <i>Hydnum umbilicatum</i>	On forest floor in hardwood and coniferous forests	Excellent
	Lobster mushroom	<i>Hypomyces lactiflorum</i>	On forest floor, anywhere you have seen white <i>Lactarius</i> or <i>Russula</i> species fruiting. In both deciduous and coniferous forests, but most often under hemlock	Good
	Saffron milky	<i>Lactarius deliciosus</i>	On forest floor in hardwood and coniferous forests	Good
	Chicken of the woods	<i>Laetiporus sulphureus</i>	On dead or dying hardwoods, particularly ash. Avoid consuming specimen found on hemlock.	Good
	Oyster mushroom	<i>Pleurotus poulinus</i>	On older <i>Populus</i> species - especially poplar.	Very Good
	Umbrella polypore	<i>Polyporus umbellatus</i>	On the roots (or wood) of hardwoods, especially beech.	Excellent
	Cauliflower mushroom	<i>Sparassis spathulata</i> ; <i>S. crispa</i>	On the roots or at the base of hardwoods, especially oak.	Excellent
	King stropharia	<i>Stropharia rugosannulata</i>	Wood chip mulch in suburban or landscaped areas	Good
	American matsutake	<i>Tricholoma magnivelare</i>	In sandy soils near hemlock or jack pine; forested riverbanks	Excellent

NOTE: The ForageCast helps you make your foray more targeted and fruitful. It should not be used as the basis for identification. Please, remember the old adage, "When in doubt, throw it out," and never use the text or images here as the sole basis for eating a mushroom! It is good practice to have an experienced mycologist or forager positively ID a mushroom whenever you try a new species.



Matt Krebs at Happy Hill Shelter on the VT AT

MATT KREBS: A Decade of Dedication

BY JOCELYN HEBERT

In his first ten years at the Green Mountain Club, Matt Krebs has worked in almost every program area. He's helped visitors plan hikes, stewarded land, run the publications program, created maps, managed administrative operations and facilities, and even pinch-hit as business manager to help stabilize the club in a difficult time. His versatile skill set is invaluable.

Matt and his wife, Alyssa, met in Vermont while thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail in 2002. When they finished, they returned and thru-hiked the Long Trail. Enamored with the Green Mountain State, they made it their permanent home.

Fresh off the trail, Matt decided to devote some of his free time to GMC, and in 2003 he volunteered as a trail corridor monitor. In 2007, after being a stay at home dad to two young children for several years, he began to think about transitioning back to public work life. He approached Ben Rose, then

executive director, to learn how nonprofits like GMC operated, and how he could get in the door. Ben suggested he volunteer even more, so people would get to know him. "He immediately did," said Ben. "It became clear that he was serious about wanting to work for the club, and I started looking for opportunities to plug him in."

In 2009 Matt officially joined the staff, working part-time in the visitor center. Here he gained satisfaction from being able to tell the story of GMC and the Long Trail, passionately and effectively enough that visitors wanted to support the club through membership or donation.

Ben next put Matt to work part-time in stewardship, marking land boundaries. "I remember seeing him in the parking lot late one summer afternoon, as he climbed out of his car—dirty, dusty, covered in orange paint and dead black flies, and grinning broadly," said Ben.

When GMC needed someone to distribute publications to stores, "Matt was right there," Ben recalled. "By the time I left GMC, he had earned his spot on the team."

In his land stewardship role, Matt taught himself to use ArcGIS, a geographic information system for creating, compiling, and managing map information. As he learned, he built a functional GIS system and database. GMC still uses it today.

From publications distributor to publications assistant to publications coordinator, Matt became responsible for producing and editing GMC's most important book: the *Long Trail Guide*. His first edition was in 2011. As the guidebook approached its 100th year in print in 2017, Matt worked to produce the centennial edition while also working with the late Reidun Nuquist on a special companion book celebrating the many and varied past editions.

"Editing the centennial edition was

definitely huge,” Matt said. “Having edited two editions—as someone who loves history—that was a big deal for me.”

When the club was feeling the pain of a period of staff turnover in 2013, Matt stepped up and into the business manager position, while keeping his stewardship and publications duties. He spent nearly a year with an outside accountant completing the fiscal year 2013 audit, while maintaining fiscal year 2014 information, to keep the club on track.

That was a heavy lift, working 12- to 16-hour days. “We had recently changed the financial software we were using, so we also had to learn that as we went,” recalled Matt. “It was a massive, massive amount of work, and Nicole and I would be on the phone, sometimes as late as 1:00 a.m., sending information to one another.”

Never at risk of boredom, Matt gave up land stewardship, but kept publications, and became operations coordinator in 2014. After years gaining experience in multiple positions, he had finally landed in a job that required, and suited, his diverse skills.

When asked what he enjoyed most, Matt couldn't pinpoint one area. But a theme became apparent: strategy. “I love helping people and coming up with solutions,” he said. “I enjoy going around the office and chatting with staff, asking people what they're working on and why. Later, I'll find myself driving home, thinking about a conversation from that day, or even weeks earlier, and an idea will pop into my head that I think could help someone be more effective in their job.”

A self-described learner, Matt said: “While I like problem solving, what I enjoy more is setting up systems that prevent problems in the first place. I get real joy from tackling an issue and learning a new and creative way of doing it, with a better outcome.”

Matt's concept of the importance of GMC has changed. Ten years ago he would have valued GMC for creating wonderful trails that enable people to get into the woods to hike. He still feels that way, but today adds, “Its value is in the history and the people. The history of the people. The GMC and its members have had a noticeable impact on the state.”

“I gave a presentation to the board once, and said, ‘Just look out the window at what makes Vermont beautiful. It's because of people like Sue Shea [longtime GMC Director of Land Conservation] who dedicated a huge amount of time and effort to the Green Mountain Club.’”

What is GMC's greatest challenge? Matt believes it is the changing attitude of trail users who assume that if a trail is “free” and open to the public, there's no need to support it through volunteerism, dues or donations.

“I get real joy from tackling an issue and learning a new and creative way of doing it, with a better outcome.”

Matt also wonders how to reconcile new types of users, such as trail racers and commercial outfitters, with GMC's ideal of a footpath in the wilderness. He is optimistic: “We're at a juncture similar to the back-to-the-land movement in the '60s and '70s, when people were loving the trail to death. The club had to adapt and find new ways to manage users. But look what happened—the modern caretaker program and Leave No Trace emerged. I think we're in the same place now.”

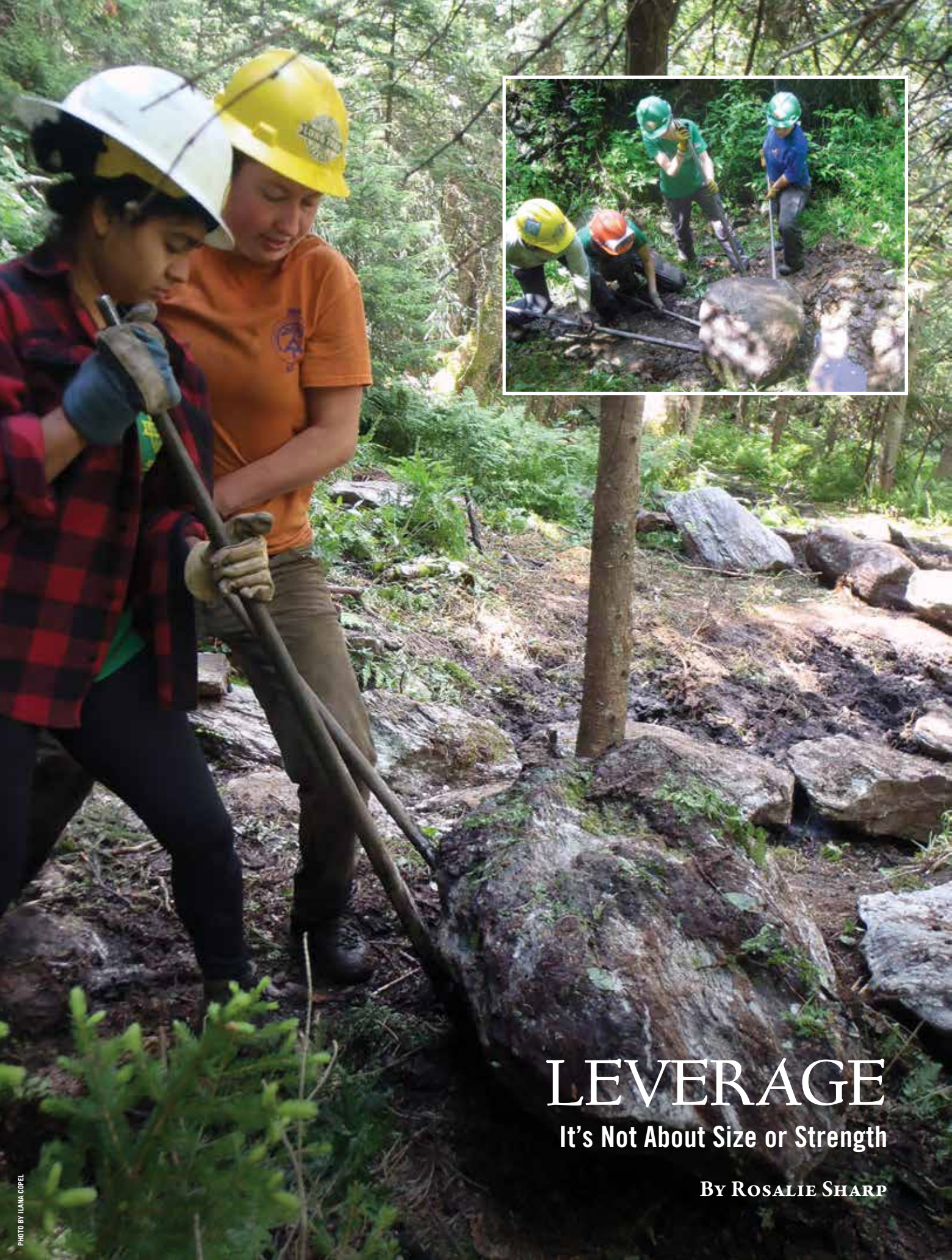
Today Matt is the father of three: Charlie, Ruth, and Joe. They are a hiking family, and the kids love getting outside. Charlie climbed Camel's Hump at four. Ruth climbed Camel's Hump and Mount Washington, also at four. As a special treat on each birthday, they get to choose an activity for the family. On his fourteenth, Charlie chose to again climb Camel's Hump. “He wanted to do it so Joe, who was five at the time, could do it,” said Matt. “His birthday present to himself was for Joe to have the same experience he had at that age.”

When time allows in his busy family for one-on-one time with a child, Matt often chooses to hike, describing it as one of their most meaningful activities together. “It's a really peaceful, special time to connect,” he said.

Dedication to what matters, at work as in his family, is the bottom line for Matt. “Many people apply to GMC and express how working for the club aligns with their personal mission,” Ben Rose said. “But few follow through with Matt's determination and work ethic. I'm happy he is at GMC. As a staff member, he embodies commitment to the club's mission.” 🍄



Matt Krebs and Family on Hunger Mountain



LEVERAGE

It's Not About Size or Strength

BY ROSALIE SHARP

Family and friends typically struggle to understand what I mean when I say I lead trail crews. I've found the quickest way to create an image is to tell them something like "My crew and I find boulders in the woods, move them onto the trail, and set them in the ground to make structures that prevent erosion."

That's a simplification for sure, since we do more than stone work, but it fairly represents most Long Trail Patrol projects. Vermont trails are often steep, rocky, muddy, or some combination thereof. Stone structures are usually the best way to concentrate hiking traffic on a durable and well-drained surface. And 'boulders' is no understatement—the rocks we use are truly massive.

How can a crew of four move such big rocks? With the right tools! Generations of trail builders have moved boulders with hand tools since Long Trail construction began. The Long Trail Patrol continues to use rock bars and pick mattocks almost daily. While rigging systems help bring rocks to the trail, the rock bar and the pick are the most essential tools. We could do any of this season's stone projects with just them and a sledge hammer. They're simple, but powerful.

Of course, they must be wielded effectively. A bar rightly placed can flip rocks no human could budge with muscle alone. Physical strength is an asset, but it's not the most important one. Using tools wisely, we can lift heavier loads, with less strain. That's essential for anyone hoping to do trail work for more than a couple years, and to avoid back problems before 30.

A rock bar is simply a lever. Placing the beveled end under a rock and prying up or down gives a worker substantial mechanical advantage. The closer the rock to the fulcrum, and the farther away we grip the bar, the less force we need to move the rock.

As a worker starts rolling a big rock, they can lift only so far before the bar must be repositioned for another lift. This requires teamwork: another crew member places a bar to hold or move the rock further while the first person repositions. They take turns until the rock flips, then repeat the process. When the rock nears its final location, workers must plan their movements to place the rock properly in the hole they've dug, all of which requires foresight, precision, and a good sense of how that rock will behave.

Which brings me to the pick mattock, which is a combination lever and digging



tool. The mattock end can dig a rock out of the soil, moss, and leaves where it starts, and also dig the hole in the trail where it will finish. The pick end is the lever. However, because the handle is perpendicular to the pick, using a pick instead of a bar requires forces in different directions. Workers usually use a bar to move rocks up and away, but a pick works best to move rocks up and toward

"... I've been fortunate to work with extraordinary women who showed me that size and limited strength need not be a disadvantage."

a worker. Predicting the forces to apply to our tools enables us to move rocks through the woods efficiently, accurately, and safely.

Building skill and confidence with these tools can be incredibly rewarding. Last summer I approached three Green Mountain Club volunteers struggling to lift a rock the size of a large truck tire from a deep, boggy section of soil. Their rock bars kept slipping through the mud, deer flies buzzed above, it was at least 80 degrees, and they were understandably tired and frustrated. "We're not strong enough to move this rock," they declared.

But they *were* strong enough. What they needed was strategy. We set smaller rocks for fulcrums so our bars wouldn't slide through the mud; we planned where to place our bars; and we focused on communicating clearly. Within 20 minutes we had that rock flipped out of the hole, and they were rolling it down to the trail with renewed energy and confidence.

Those three volunteers were women. Unfortunately, their belief in weakness is common among women new to trail work. Women trail workers often, though not always, have less upper body strength than many men, so they tend to feel less capable. That's how I was at first, but I've been fortunate to work with extraordinary women who showed me that size and limited strength need not be a disadvantage. I've never been very good at moving rocks by hand, but that pushed me to learn how to select and use the right tools. I'm much stronger now than when I began rock work, and choose using tools over my hands most of the time. I'm a faster, safer, and healthier trail worker because of it.

Nearly every stone structure on the Long Trail was built with rock bars and pick mattocks, and many have lasted decades. The tools are timeless, simple, and essential to working on Vermont trails. Long Trail Patrol crews will be using them all over the Green Mountains this season. Come, find us, and see some rock moving in action! 🪨

Rosalie Sharp is a Long Trail Patrol leader this season.



The 2019 field season benefited from an all-star support staff. Ilana Copel remained as crew supervisor, and Isaac Alexandre-Leach and Lorne Currier returned as field assistants. With some late winter office staff transitions this team helped guide a hugely successful field season.

Long Trail Patrol

Two LTP crews conducted trail maintenance and shelter work around the state, led by returning staff members Rosalie Sharp and Michael Dillon. The crews are in the final stages of their 20-week season as this report goes to print.

Rosalie's crew concentrated on stone work using backcountry rigging techniques at three sites on the **Long Trail: north of Middlebury Gap, north of Buchanan Shelter, and south of Lincoln Gap**. They also improved treadway on the **Burrows Trail**, and **Birch Loop** accessed by **Bryant Camp**. They will finish by replacing the **Governor Clement Shelter** pit privy with a moldering unit.

Michael's crew started its season carpentry-heavy, with the deconstruction of **Beaver Dam Cabin**, resetting the piers at **Laura Woodward Shelter**, and the construction of a moldering privy at **William B. Douglas Shelter**. Then they settled into southern Vermont with their flagship project: six weeks of work around **Stratton Pond**; three weeks on an **LT/AT** relocation; and three weeks on a **Lye Brook Trail** relocation.

Volunteer Long Trail Patrol

The VLTP was led this year by Ian Mundy and his assistant Lilly Tipton. Volunteers of varied ages and backgrounds worked on hardening the trail from **Dunville Hollow** to **Consultation Peak** for six weeks in June, July, and August. This work continued a project started in 2018.

Volunteer and Public Engagement

The field staff have been working hard to engage the public through volunteer opportunities, facilities maintenance, and educational opportunities. Field Assistants Isaac Alexandre-Leach

and Lorne Currier engaged volunteers from the Vermont Air National Guard to haul lumber and build new tent platforms at **Bamforth Ridge Shelter** on Camel's Hump.

They also engaged volunteers from Sugarbush Resort to help carry in materials to improve the composting privy at **Battell Shelter** on Mount Abraham.

On the Appalachian Trail corridor we continued to work with officials from the town of Norwich, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and the US Forest Service to review a community proposal to authorize a number of trail crossings of the AT corridor.

Caretakers

Caretakers were stationed at the usual popular sites, including **Stratton Mountain, Stratton Pond, Little Rock Pond, Griffith Lake**, and the **Coolidge Range** (covered by a ridge runner). They also conducted monitoring and education programs in the alpine zones on **Mount Mansfield, Camel's Hump**, and **Mount Abraham**.

We reorganized the staff and introduced a southern lead caretaker based in the frontcountry to provide support and address pressing problems at unstaffed sites. This helped keep accurate information posted in the Manchester district of the Green Mountain National Forest during persistent bear problems in June and July (see pages 18-20 to learn more about bear incidents this season).

—KEEGAN TIERNEY, DIRECTOR OF FIELD PROGRAMS





Back Row L-R: Lorne Currier, Andrew Rosenthal-Baxter, Nigel Bates, Fabio Sgarro, Clara Kuhn, Michael Dillon, Alex Smith, Kati Christoffel, Thomas Anthony, Lincoln Frasca, Rosalie Sharp.

Middle Row L-R: Keegan Tierney (standing), Oliver Ryan, Emily Zuraski, Teddy Lindberg, Alex Mangus, Rachel Palmer, Amy Nault, Ashley Donahue, Natalie Muskin, Lilly Tipton, Tyler Foldie, Isaac Alexandre-Leach (standing).

Front Row L-R: Ilana Copel (standing), Wesley Simko, Myles Lehman, John Plummer, McV LaPointe, Cara Schaefer, Neetu Raju, Silas Monahan, Roger Woehrle, Amanda Blanchard, Taylor Radigan, Leo Saraceno, Dana Gould.



Alex Mangus Fixing String on Mount Mansfield Ridge



Carrying Bear Box to Stratton Pond Shelter



Chainsaw Training



Community Support for GMC's Field Staff this Season

Sunflower Natural Foods Helped Fuel Them

Thanks to Sunflower Natural Foods, located just two miles south of GMC Headquarters on Route 100 in Waterbury Center, field staff have been eating well this summer. New this year, caretakers and trail crew members received a season's discount from the locally owned market, which offers organic and natural food and health products. Especially appealing was Sunflower's bulk inventory, enabling field staff to purchase special flours, bean mixes, and dried vegetables in any quantity they wished.

Caretakers and trail crew members develop hefty appetites living and working in the woods five days at a time. The Sunflower discount improved their access to healthy and nutritional foods, fueling them through long days of clearing water drains, building rock staircases, and engaging with summit visitors. The Green Mountain Club thanks John Dicarolo, Pam Becker, and the team at Sunflower Natural Foods for providing the discount and supporting the Long Trail System.

—LORNE CURRIER, FIELD ASSISTANT

Salomon Put Shoes on Their Feet

Salomon, a new corporate sponsor, provided GMC staff with hiking shoes. Company representative Jen Horowitz visited GMC headquarters in early June, when the field staff gathered for training, to get everyone sized and ready to head for the mountains. We are especially pleased to partner with a company whose mission to "enrich people's lives by enabling them to play outside" in a responsible way complements GMC's mission of "making the Vermont mountains play a larger part in the life of the people."

—KRISTIN MCLANE, MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR



Smokey House Center Gave Them Shelter

The Smokey House Center in Danby extended well-appreciated hospitality housing GMC's southern field staff. Staff members enjoyed their days off in a rustic farmhouse on the Smokey House Center property in exchange for six workdays throughout the season.

The partnership benefited both parties with field staffers enjoying a consistent, welcoming, and wholesome housing community, and Smokey House an influx of strong, capable, and enthusiastic workers on their community farm.

The Smokey House Center is a nonprofit corporation established to maintain a working landscape that promotes sustainable agricultural and forestry practices while engaging people in meaningful ways.

Staff can attest to the delicious produce, excellent pizza, and the welcoming social ambiance at monthly potlucks, and the beauty of the 5,000 acres stewarded by the center.

The club deeply appreciates the staff and community at Smokey House Center, and hopes to continue our partnership.

—LORNE CURRIER, FIELD ASSISTANT



802Cars Provided Safe Transportation to Trailheads

802Cars of Berlin generously donates the use of three late model vehicles to run our field operations each year. 802Cars operates three dealerships in the Barre-Montpelier area: 802Toyota, 802Honda, and Twin City Subaru. For more than five years each dealership has donated the use of one vehicle to GMC's fleet to help support our field staff. From pickup trucks to haul materials, minivans to move crews, and all-wheel drive vehicles to access backcountry worksites, 802's donations have been critical for GMC to meet its trail work goals each season. Thank you, Dave, Steve, and the rest of the staff at 802!

—MATT KREBS, OPERATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR

Jay Peak Resort Lightened the Load

The Long Trail Patrol sends thanks to the Jay Peak Resort Mountain Operations Department for their help when we repaired Laura Woodward Shelter this summer. Jay Peak tram operators and lift mechanics, coordinated by Director of Mountain Operations Walter Elander, helped load more than 600 pounds of lumber onto the tram and drive it down ski trails to the Long Trail's crossing of the resort boundary. They also allowed our crew to use the tram to take in and bring out several hundred pounds of tools and gear for their work week, so the crew didn't have to hike everything up ski trails. Replacing the shelter's foundation would have taken much longer without them.

—ILANA COPEL, FIELD SUPERVISOR



Sugarbush Resort and GMC Volunteers Carrying Supplies in for Battell Shelter Privy.

Vermont Air National Guard Also Lightened the Load

The Bamforth Ridge Shelter has two new tent platforms. Deck lumber on the two 10-by-16-foot platforms had rotted away, but given the remoteness and the weight of material needed, GMC was at a loss for a way to rebuild them.

The solution came in May, when Vermont Air National Guard (VT ANG) contacted GMC asking for an opportunity for up to 25 volunteers. Members of the Montpelier Section completed the first step by removing the old decking and taking measurements for new materials.

July 9 was the first volunteer day with the guard, which fielded 20 volunteers. Each carried an eight-foot piece of lumber from the Long Trail trailhead on Duxbury Road south to Bamforth Ridge Shelter. That's 1,500 feet of elevation gain over 2.7 miles, climbing some of the most challenging terrain on the Long Trail.

Remarkably, guard members enjoyed the challenge, and requested another volunteer opportunity, expressing their commitment and desire to see the project through to the finish. The second volunteer day was July 30, when 34 volunteers

shouldered lumber on the now familiar trek to Bamforth Ridge. Their positive attitude, dedication, and volunteer ethic was exceptional, and once again, we provide hikers with durable tenting surfaces at Bamforth Ridge Shelter.

—LORNE CURRIER, FIELD ASSISTANT

Sugarbush Resort and GMC Volunteers—Like all Volunteers—Made the Work Possible

A big thank you to the excellent group of Sugarbush Resort volunteers who, continuing the work done by GMC Annual Meeting volunteers, finished carrying the materials for a beyond-the-bin privy system to the Battell Shelter site. The two groups traversed the 1.7 miles between Lincoln Peak and Battell with more than 450 pounds of gravel, anthracite, a 55-gallon barrel, plumbing parts, and tools. Their work allowed us to make a long overdue improvement to this beloved site. Many hands don't always make for light work, sometimes they just make the work *possible*. For that, we thank you!

—ISAAC ALEXANDRE-LEACH, FIELD ASSISTANT



Field staff carrying new chainsaws to a training this summer after the club's saws were stolen in spring. Thanks to the donors in our GMC and Long Trail community who acted quickly, and generously, to replace the chainsaws so we could get back to work on the trail.



Peregrine Falcon Nesting at Prospect Rock A Success

A pair of Peregrine Falcons were observed earlier this year by hikers at the Prospect Rock lookout on the Long Trail in Johnson. This was an area where peregrines had previously not been reported, so GMC staff and representatives from Audubon Vermont; the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation; and the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department quickly visited the site to see whether the pair were nesting.

With confirmation that they were, the Long Trail was temporarily rerouted to bypass the outlook above the cliff to limit interference with breeding. Signs were posted to announce the closure and the reroute.

As of July 11, the falcons had successfully fledged three chicks.

There were 55 confirmed Peregrine Falcon sites in Vermont this year—a great achievement since they were only removed from Vermont's Endangered Species List in 2005.

Other pairs were found near the Long Trail System in Smugglers' Notch and on Camel's Hump, Mount Horrid, and White Rocks, but none were close enough to the trail to require a reroute.

We thank Margaret Fowle of Audubon Vermont for overseeing the Vermont Peregrine Falcon Recovery Program and their volunteers who monitor the birds. And thanks to all the hikers who respected the closure.

—AMY POTTER, VISITOR CENTER MANAGER



Peregrine Falcon

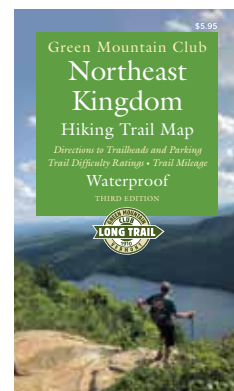
PHOTO BY STEVE FACCO

NEK Digital Map

The GMC is producing the third edition of the *Northeast Kingdom Hiking Trail Map*. The new map will include all the Kingdom Heritage Lands Trails near Island Pond and the recent Wheeler Mountain Trail relocation. The map will be released in both paper and digital formats. As with GMC's other digital maps, including *Vermont's Long Trail, A Footpath in the Wilderness*, you won't need a network connection to use it in the backcountry. All GMC maps are georeferenced, allowing the GPS on your mobile device to pinpoint your location as you go.

Download the Avenza app through the Google Play or the Apple app store, then visit store.greenmountainclub.org/products/digital-maps to purchase your map.

—MATT KREBS
PUBLICATIONS AND OPERATIONS COORDINATOR



Beaver Dam Cabin Demolition Day

The Long Trail Patrol finished demolishing Beaver Dam Cabin on Wheeler Pond in Barton in June, setting the stage for a new cabin once funds have been raised.

GMC volunteers, Northeast Kingdom Section members, and Outdoor Gear Exchange volunteers joined to help haul material to the dumpster. Spirits were high, despite a midday warm summer rain, during those first steps toward the long-awaited construction of a universally accessible cabin for visitors to enjoy for decades to come.

—MOLLIE FLANIGAN, CONSERVATION MANAGER



Nearly Demolished Beaver Dam Cabin

Another Fun Women's Backpacking Weekend

Caitlin Miller and I led six women on a hike to Beaver Meadow Lodge at the base of the Chilcote Trail, which connects with the northern Long Trail.

Some of the women were first time backpackers, and one had returned to participate again. After hiking 2.3 miles to Beaver Meadow Lodge we took a lunch break before four hikers, carrying lighter packs, ventured to the summit of Whiteface Mountain.

At dinner, Caitlin and I demonstrated how to use cookstoves and shared enticing backcountry recipes. We taught water filtration and bear hangs and then set up tents before we gathered around the campfire to talk about gear pros and cons. The weekend was great success!

—LIZ LACH, HIKE LEADER

Long Trail Day 2019

In the first year of GMC's Long Trail Day social fundraiser and hiking challenge, 127 people registered and raised \$37,331 from 369 donors and sponsors.

Those planning to hike signed up in advance, choosing one of forty segments along the Trail. Over several weeks before the event, participants fundraised, either as individuals or teams, by reaching out to friends, family, and others who are also invested in supporting hiking in Vermont. By the end of the day on August 3, the 272-mile Long Trail was hiked in a day! (Of course, with all the out-and-back hikes and loops, it was more like 345 or more miles in one day.)

We are pleased with the success of this event and the excitement of its participants and look forward to growing it in the future. Thank you to everyone who supported the GMC and Long Trail on this special day.

—KRISTIN MCLANE, MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR



Women's Backpacking Workshop



Long Trail Day, Jay Peak



Long Trail Day, Mount Roosevelt

PHOTO BY KRISTIN MCLANE

Section Directory

Bennington

Maintenance: Harmon Hill to Glastenbury Mountain
President: Lorna Cheriton, (802) 447-1383
E-mail: chertop1@comcast.net
Website: meetup.com/gmcbennington

Brattleboro

Maintenance: Winhall River to Vt. 11 and 30
President: Bonnie Haug-Cramp, (802) 380-5165
E-mail: onacloud@myfairpoint.net
Website: brattleborogmc.com

Bread Loaf

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

Burlington

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

Connecticut

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

Killington

Location: Rutland area
Maintenance: Vt. 140 to Maine Junction
President: Herb Ogden, (802) 293-2510
E-mail: hogden@vermontel.net
Website: gmckillington.org

Laraway

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

Manchester

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

Montpelier

Maintenance: Camel's Hump to Winooski River Footbridge and Smugglers' Notch to Chilcoat Pass
President: Steve Bailey, (609) 424-9238

E-mail: stevebailey@gmail.com
Website: gmcmontpelier.org

Northeast Kingdom

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

Northern Frontier

Location: Montgomery
Maintenance: Hazen's Notch to Canada
President: Ken Whitehead, (802) 933-5352
E-mail: mrsswhitehead@gmail.com
Website: gmcnorthernfrontier.org

Upper Valley-Ottawaquechee

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

Sterling

Location: Morrisville/Stowe/Johnson
Maintenance: Chilcoat Pass to Lamoille River
President: Kevin Hudnell, (802) 851-7019
E-mail: khudnell@gmail.com
Website: gmcsterling.org

Worcester

Location: Worcester, Massachusetts
Maintenance: Stratton-Arlington Road to Winhall River
President: Ram Moenns, (508) 210-6965
E-mail: shivratri@gmail.com
Website: www.gmcwoo.org



Sections

Four GMC sections maintain parts of the Long Trail System in federally designated wilderness areas. The Bennington Section maintains trail in the Glastenbury Wilderness, the Brattleboro and Worcester sections in the Lye Brook Wilderness, and the Bread Loaf Section in the Joseph Battell Wilderness and the Breadloaf Wilderness.

Lorne Currier's article "The Qualities of Wilderness Areas" (pages 10-11), shows how trail maintenance in those areas can be more complicated. Representatives from the wilderness-maintaining sections answered the following questions to help enlighten the rest of us:

What are the challenges to maintaining trails and shelters in wilderness areas?

The biggest challenge to maintaining trails and shelters in the Joseph Battell and Breadloaf Wilderness Areas is also probably my favorite part. We can't use power tools! In the summer of 2018, we had a substantial number of blow downs in our section that our typical trail maintenance tools couldn't handle. Rather than bringing in chainsaws and gasoline, we carried in two-person crosscut saws. Our volunteer trail crew enjoyed working with these tools, and having a certified sawyer along provided great learning opportunities. We had fun and cleared a lot of trees, while minimizing our impact on the wilderness experience.

—DAVID MORRISSEY, BREAD LOAF

While there was always a tradeoff between lugging a chain saw or working harder with hand tools, it would be nice to have a choice. We also miss the old forest road shortcuts that allowed us to reach our remote trails.

—MARTHA STITELMAN, BENNINGTON

What are the benefits to having the trail go through wilderness areas?

Trails through wilderness areas add variety for the maintainer. In their classic history of hiking in the Northeast, *Forest and Crag*, Guy and Laura Waterman included a chapter entitled "J Rayner Edmands and Warren Hart: A study in contrast."

The two characters were polar opposites with respect to the philosophy of trail building and maintenance. Edmands' trails, like the Gulfside Trail and Randolph Path in

the northern Presidentials, were meticulously built, and rise gently along slopes. Every stone was placed with great care. Hart's trails, including the Great Gulf Trail and the Six Husbands Trail, in the same area, run straight up the steepest grades, are more Spartan in construction, and, because of their design, are subject to frequent blockage. The Watermans argue that each philosophy has a place. One makes sense in heavily-used, non-wilderness areas. The other makes sense in more sensitive wilderness areas.

—MIKE PECKAR, WORCESTER

Do you have any concerns about the trail being in a federally designated wilderness area?

My biggest concern is training for volunteers. The rules require a certified sawyer on the work trips when using cross-cut saws. The rule makes sense, but finding volunteers with the certification is hard, especially after weather events like those in 2018, and we need a lot of support. More training opportunities would be ideal.

—DAVID MORRISSEY, BREAD LOAF

What is your favorite part of maintaining trails in a wilderness area?

Using a crosscut saw and axe makes it feel like a throwback to an earlier era of GMC and trail maintenance.

—RICHARD WINDISH, BRATTLEBORO

What does "wilderness" mean to you?

I went through an overgrown raspberry patch in a wilderness area down south on the AT. The trail was difficult to follow.



Clearing Trees Without Power Tools

The canes snagged me for quite a while, and I decided that I had had a wilderness experience. Wilderness is a wonderful concept for folks to get away from daily life and back to nature, but it restricts the ability to maintain trails.

—STEVE CROWE, WORCESTER

True wilderness (long gone from Vermont) would have no human habitation. To allow human trails but micromanage how they are maintained is somewhat silly. Anyone who wants a wilderness effect can leave the trail and bushwhack through the hobblebush to their heart's content

—MARTHA STITELMAN, BENNINGTON

“Wilderness” for me means that the forest, plants, trees, rivers, streams, insects, and animals all take precedence over us. This vision competes with the way we typically view the forest as a resource for our economic benefit. I believe it is important to keep places wild so our land is diverse and our forests are given a chance to develop organically, where people are encouraged to be just humble visitors. Wilderness has long been a source of rejuvenation, connectivity, and imagination for us that ultimately elicits strong, emotional connections to place. Gratefully, these are places that help support and heal our planet and inspire people to protect wild spaces for the future.

—DAVID MORRISSEY, BREAD LOAF

Here in the East there is very little true wilderness in the sense of untouched land that has not been logged or managed in some way. The wilderness areas on the Green Mountain National Forest are areas that have been set aside for regrowth and “rewilding,” wherein they return to a more natural state... with the impacts of man less than in non-wilderness areas. The Lye Brook Wilderness holds a special place in my heart, as an area where I can go to be free from the day-to-day stresses of modern life and clear my mind. When I cross the bridge at Swezey Junction heading south towards the Winhall River, Bourne Pond, or Douglas Shelter, I feel like I am returning home.

—RICHARD WINDISH, BRATTLEBORO



Cutting blowdowns in Joseph Battell Wilderness

Thank you to these longtime trail maintainers for sharing their perspectives about what it's like to work in wilderness areas:

Richard Windish, Brattleboro Section Trail Maintainer since 1994

Steve Crowe, Worcester Section Trail Maintainer since 1989 and current Worcester Section Trails Chair

Mike Peckar, Worcester Section Director and trail maintainer since 2016.

David Morrissey, Bread Loaf Section Trail Maintainer since 2008 and current Bread Loaf Section Trails Chair

Martha Stitelman, Bennington Section Trail Maintainer since 1997, West Ridge Trail Adopter, and current Director



109th Annual Meeting Honorees

Ken and Alice Boyd and John Page

For more than a century annual meeting has been an occasion to honor those who have made outstanding contributions to the club and its trails. At the 2019 Green Mountain Club Annual meeting, hosted in June by the Montpelier Section at Windridge Camp in Roxbury, the club presented its highest honor, the Honorary Life Membership Award, to Ken and Alice Boyd and John Page.

Ken and Alice Boyd

In 1968 interest in hiking was exploding, and Vermont's mountains were in tough shape. Overnight visits to popular sites like Stratton Pond and Taft Lodge had increased from a few hundred per season to a thousand or more. Traffic on major summits increased about 30 percent a year. The Long Trail and its shelters and lodges were under pressure the club was poorly equipped to address.

This changed when Ken and Alice Boyd became volunteer coordinators of a new caretaker program, and ushered in a new approach to visitor management. Instead of shaming people for behavior they didn't know was wrong, the Boyds engaged them in friendly conversation, explained why protecting the resource was important, and invited them to join a collective protective effort. They believed that if hikers learned the value of Leave No Trace principles, and they understood why arctic-alpine zones were fragile and endangered, they would change behavior and educate others.

It wasn't easy. But the leadership, encouragement, and deep personal support Ken and Alice provided to so many caretakers and rangers, on and off the trail, kept the program going.

The friendly philosophy of education the Boyds pioneered dramatically reduced damage from heedless heavy usage in the 1970s and later. It prepared the GMC to meet today's challenges, and it eventually became standard in other places, like the White Mountains and the Adirondacks.

On Mount Mansfield's ridge, the summit of Camel's Hump, at Stratton Pond, or any shelter or lodge, hikers today enjoy the fruit of the work of the Boyds and the people they inspired. As Vic Henningsen put it in a paraphrase of classic praise of Christopher Wren, designer of St. Paul's Cathedral and other London landmarks, "If you seek their monument, look around."

John Page

Also honored with the GMC Honorary Life Membership Award was John Page, another former caretaker and immediate past club president. His love affair with the Long Trail and the Green Mountain Club started in the 1960s. Raised in Burlington by parents active in the Burlington Section, it was natural for him to start hiking early. Weeklong GMC Intersectional get-togethers enabled him to section hike the Long Trail as a young teen, and in 1971, at the tender age of 17, he was the Taylor Lodge caretaker.

College and career took John away from Vermont and the Long Trail. He returned in 1994, however, reconnected with the trail and the club, and joined the board in 1999. After serving as vice president for three years, he became president in 2015.

John shepherded several major initiatives, including reviewing and revising the club's governance structure, especially the relationship between our professional staff and the club's volunteer leadership, and the role of sections; updating the club's strategic plan; and providing a strong financial foundation for the club's future. Although not physical trail maintenance, these efforts were, and are, critically important for sustaining the Long Trail and club.





John also section hiked the Long Trail again, and hiked the Appalachian Trail from Killington to New Hampshire. He participated in activities with all 14 sections, helped restore Bolton Lodge and hiking trails in Bolton Valley, and continued to explore and document the history of the club. For 20 years John gave himself to the Long Trail and the Green Mountain Club. For that we are forever in his debt.

Thank you and congratulations to all of our 2019 honorees! 🍷



Former Ranger Naturalists and GMC Caretakers. TOP, L-R: Lowell Nottingham, Ken and Alice Boyd, Larry Van Meter, John Page. BOTTOM, L-R: Vic Henningsen, Howard VanBenthuyssen, Lee Allen

Pumpkin Carving Contest Coming Soon

It's time to begin thinking about your next design. Carve your best jack-o-lantern for a chance to win a prize. Watch for more details on our social media channels in early October.    

Think: Trail, Hiking, Mountains.

Winners will be chosen for Most Creative, Staff Favorite, and Executive Director's pick.



▲ Long Trail News Cover by Jocelyn Hebert



Pumpkin Man in Privy by Doug Lloyd ►



Board Report

The board of directors met in Roxbury on June 1, following the GMC's 109th Annual Meeting hosted by the Montpelier Section.

President Tom Candon welcomed new board members. Executive Director Mike DeBonis reported the highlights of happenings at headquarters.

The board accepted the secretary's and treasurer's reports. The club finished fiscal year 2019 with a surplus of \$8,000, and revenue and

expenses are meeting projections in fiscal year 2020, which began May 1.

The board approved the following slate of officers: Tom Candon, president; Howard VanBenthuyssen, vice president; Steve Klein, treasurer; and Ed O'Leary, secretary.

The next board meeting will be on September 21 at GMC headquarters in Waterbury Center, followed by the annual volunteer appreciation picnic.

—ED O'LEARY, SECRETARY

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Hope Flies Solo

The First Female Caretakers on the Long Trail

Unlike many outdoor activities, hiking has always welcomed both men and women. But in its early years, the GMC caretaker program didn't reflect the gender diversity of Long Trail users. In 1971, my first season as caretaker at Montclair Glen Lodge, the club hired about 15 shelter caretakers, all male. Unofficially, however, there was actually one female caretaker: a flinty septuagenarian named Nan Dove.

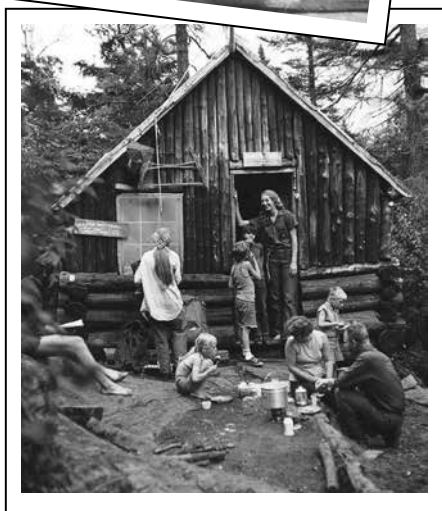
Back then squatters were a significant problem at shelters, especially the enclosed lodges and camps. Many were would-be hippies who figured that hanging out in a shelter, smoking weed, and bumming food from hikers constituted some sort of back-to-nature experience.

That June, the club heard that a squatter had moved into Barrows Camp on the remote northern part of the trail. The LT rumor mill also said the squatter claimed to be a GMC caretaker, and, like official caretakers, was charging overnight fees.

Ken Boyd, who with his wife, Alice, were recently honored by the GMC for their pivotal volunteer role in reestablishing the caretaker program 50 years ago, decided to investigate. That summer Ken oversaw the caretakers after he finished his daily duties as a ranger-naturalist on Mount Mansfield with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, so he often showed up at a shelter, headlamp ablaze, long after dark.

Ken's eviction visit to Barrows didn't go as expected. Nan, a retired elementary school teacher from Enosburg Falls, claimed to have deep GMC roots through her father, whom she described as an early leader in the club. There seemed to be some truth in that assertion, and Ken reasoned that Nan was keeping Barrows, an enclosed cabin that had been a magnet for squatters, clean and in good order. So he let her stay.

Nan, who became known on the trail as "Nan Barrows," developed a reputation for good stories and hard drinking. She completed the 1971 season, but did not return in later years.



Wendy Turner and Sue Valyi were stationed at Taft Lodge on Mount Mansfield in 1972. The theory was that stationing a woman alone at a shelter would be unduly risky. Well-intentioned as that policy may have been, the paired caretakers had to split the meager lodge fees that, back then, the caretakers used to buy food and supplies.

In 1973, Hope Stanton and another woman were hired for Gorham Lodge on Camel's Hump, with no access roads or houses for miles. And unlike Mansfield, there was no radio or other communications.

Hope arrived in early June, and soon found herself alone when her fellow caretaker

became homesick and left. Gardiner Lane, a retired St. Regis Paper Company executive and the club's part-time executive secretary, agonized over Hope's situation. Gardiner told me, his eventual successor, that he would feel responsible if something terrible happened to Hope. He tried to find an additional woman caretaker, but to no avail.

Gardiner needn't have worried. Hope, a willowy six-footer with a mop of curly blonde hair, exuded quiet self-confidence. Right out of high school she had traveled on her own through Italy and Ireland, so being alone was, as she put it, "just not something that worried me." She quickly established herself as the friendly but no-nonsense caretaker of a busy shelter that required her to control squatters as well as enforce no-camping and no-fire regulations on the nearby summit. In 1973 those regulations were still new, and confrontations between caretakers and hikers were not unusual. Hope was unfazed.

She returned to Gorham in 1974, and in 1975 she became one of the first ranger-naturalists on Camel's Hump. In a few years the idea that women shouldn't be solo caretakers was forgotten. Today, field employees are as likely to be female as male. No one remembers the "doubling-up" rule. And no one has to split lodge fees.

—LARRY VAN METER
GMC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 1975

In the early 1970s, Larry Van Meter served as a shelter caretaker and ranger-naturalist on Camel's Hump. In 1975, he became GMC's first full-time executive



director. He subsequently served as the executive director of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and, more recently, as the head of two different independent schools. He is currently the president of the Forman S. Acton Educational Foundation in Salem, New Jersey.



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