



Green Mountain Club  
2019 ANNUAL REPORT



*This annual report highlights accomplishments over the past year, but also celebrates long-term efforts and their impacts.*

This year we celebrated 50 years of backcountry stewardship and the modern caretaker program. When Alice and Ken Boyd convinced the Green Mountain Club to put caretakers at high use backcountry sites in 1969, it pioneered a new way to care for mountain landscapes and shape how people experience the outdoors through the Long Trail system. The Green Mountain Club's thoughtful, education-based approach to mountain stewardship has been key to our ability to manage increased use and protect environmental quality. Today, the caretaker program is as important as ever and last year with your financial support we were able to field a full complement of caretakers at high elevation peaks and ponds on the Long Trail System.

GMC also serves as the corridor manager for trails within the Kingdom Heritage Lands of the Northeast Kingdom. This year, GMC and partners completed work on a new long-distance hiking trail in the Northeast Kingdom. Development of the 20-mile Kingdom Heritage Trail System has been a goal for 20 years and the new trails provide opportunities for hikers to experience the Northeast Kingdom and some of Vermont's most remote areas.

I am happy to report that GMC made progress toward its goal of permanently protecting the Long Trail system. This past year, we went to the Vermont Legislature to ask for a capital appropriation for the acquisition of land hosting an unprotected portion of the Long Trail in Northern VT. While the frequency of land protection projects has lessened, the support for land protection work remains strong. The new acquisition means that we have less than 6 miles of Long Trail left to protect.

This report celebrates the work made possible by the support of members, donors, volunteers, partners and staff, all working to provide a world-class hiking experience for hundreds of thousands of trail users each year. Thank you for your lasting contributions to the Long Trail system.



MICHAEL DEBONIS

*Executive Director*





**9,200** Members

## Connecting People to the Vermont Mountains

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

**264** registered End-to-Enders

**47,362** people visited Mount Mansfield

**15,513** people visited Camel's Hump

**4,599** people visited Mount Abraham

**6,816** people visited Stratton summit

**1,300** people spent a night at one of GMC's three camp facilities:  
Bolton Lodge, Bryant Camp, Wheeler Pond Camps

## Providing a World Class Hiking Experience

**1,280** hours of service by Volunteer Long Trail Patrol

**250** trail or shelter adopters

**98** miles of boundary line maintained

**16.75** acres of land conserved

**7.1** acres of open areas were maintained along the Appalachian Trail



## Serving the Trail Community

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

**25** service trips with **196** participants

**17** James P. Taylor Speaker Series shows

**3,704** people visited the Marvin B. Gameroff Hiker Center  
in Waterbury Center

**10,334** people visited the Barnes Camp Visitor Center in Stowe





## PROTECTING AND MANAGING THE TRAIL RESOURCE

# We Cared for the Trails

- Our Long Trail Patrol (LTP) completed trail improvement projects on trails throughout Central and Northern Vermont, including for three weeks each on the popular Monroe and Sterling Pond Trails. Our Volunteer LTP spent four weeks on the Branch Pond Trail setting stepping stones along a historic railroad bed — a fun and challenging project.
- Our caretakers participated in citizen science efforts, including measuring precipitation on Mount Mansfield for the Vermont Department of Conservation and observing loons for the Vermont Center for Ecostudies.



# We Celebrated **50** YEARS of Caretaking





**“Working as a member of the GMC’s seasonal field staff is a rewarding experience. I recognized that I’m doing extremely important work in a remote location in all weather conditions. My contributions directly enabled the continued sustainable use of the Long Trail and Appalachian Trail in Vermont. Countless individuals maintain various connections to the wilderness in this state and I was directly responsible for making it happen. That is pretty special.”**

**—2019 GRIFFITH LAKE CARETAKER**



## PROTECTING AND MANAGING THE TRAIL RESOURCE

# We Protected and Stewarded the Land

- We conserved 16.75 acres of forested land in Barton, Vermont to protect the undeveloped character of Wheeler Pond Camps and provide additional camp and trailhead parking.
- We completed our ninth season of sustainable forest management on the Meltzer Tract in Lowell. Firewood acquired through this management is used to heat GMC's visitor center and field staff housing and cabins.
- We monitored and maintained 98 miles of boundaries on trail corridor lands through our volunteer Corridor Monitoring Program.
- We maintained 7.1 acres of Appalachian Trail open areas in Bridgewater, Pomfret, and Hartford, Vermont which provide sweeping vistas for hikers and early successional wildlife to wildlife.







We managed Hadsel-Mares Cabin (pictured) in the Northeast Kingdom as well as historic Bolton Lodge and Bryant Camp in Bolton Valley for public rental and hosted over 1,300 guests.

# Fiscal Year 2019 Financial Report

*The Green Mountain Club fiscal year ended April 30, 2019, with another year of growth in total net assets.* We also retained our position of virtually no external liabilities.

Total liabilities and net assets increased by 1.5 percent to \$11.72 million. This was in part due to several factors including an increase in cash and cash equivalents, and growth of the endowment value from \$4.6 million to \$4.7 million. Total assets consist of endowment funds, \$4.7 million (40 percent); net property and equipment including the headquarters, field staff housing, the Lamoille and the Winooski River bridges \$3.15 million (27 percent); Long Trail lands and easements, \$2.9 million (24 percent); and pledges receivable, cash, accounts receivable, prepaid expenses and inventory accounting for the remainder (8 percent). \$26,000 or just under 1% of our net property decline was the removal of one of the Wheeler Pond camps.

Total revenue and support as compared to total expenses before non-operating activity showed a shortfall of \$235,768, which was offset by net non-operating activity of \$391,816. This is planned in that just under 5% of endowment income is used to support the Club. As the Endowment grows through fundraising, bequest and earnings the Board has put in place a formula which will reduce the use of the endowment over time to 4 – 4.5% of income.

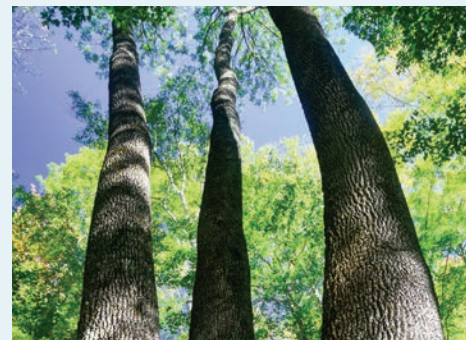
Total contributions and program income were \$1,777,343; an increase of \$133,298 or 8% percent, while total expenses were \$2,012,111; an increase of \$182,277 or 10% above FY2018.

In fiscal year 2019, 75% of the Club's operating expenditures were in direct support of the Long Trail System. General administration and fundraising account for the rest. This is consistent with the past few years.

GMC finished fiscal year 2019 on sound financial footing. This financial position has allowed us to move forward with implementation activities under our five-year strategic plan.

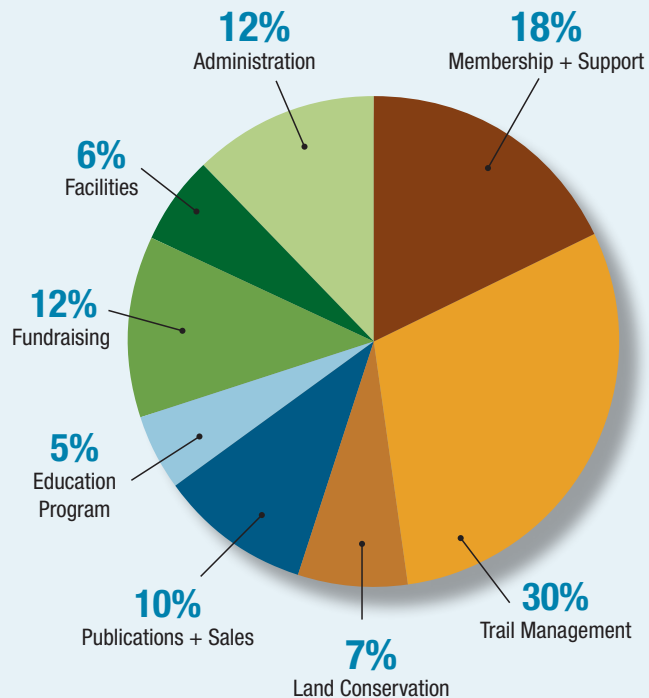
Contributions from our members, donors and organizational grants are critical sources of revenue to improve our trails and conserve the Green Mountains we cherish. Thanks to all of you who participate in a myriad of ways!

—Stephen Klein, Treasurer

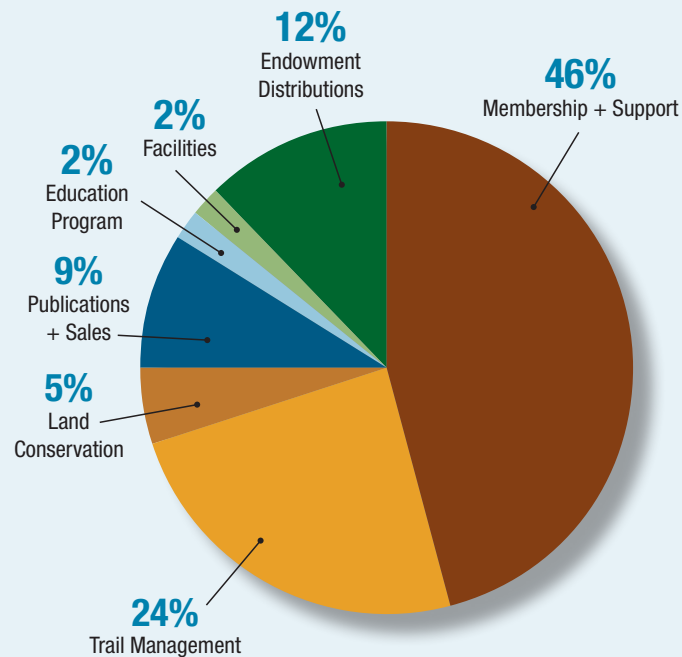




## Fiscal Year 2019 EXPENSES



## Fiscal Year 2019 REVENUES + SUPPORT



## OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

# Your Donations Make a Difference

What a year we had thanks to your support!  
In fiscal year 2019:

- **We had the support of over 8,000 individual gifts** that contributed to the success of the work we completed on and off the trail.
- **We were the recipients of grants from the following funders:** Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Ben & Jerry's Foundation,

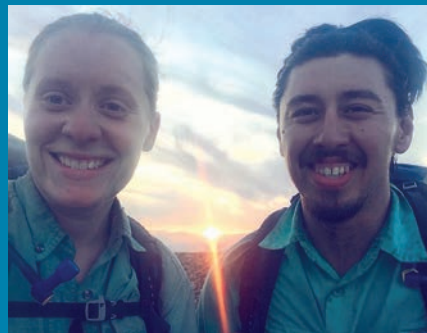
The Canaday Family Charitable Trust, Davis Conservation Foundation, EpicPromise Foundation, Fields Pond Foundation, Jane B. Cook 1992 Charitable Trust, The Kelsey Trust, Larsen Fund, Lintilhac Foundation, National Life Group, The Oakland Foundation, Rivendell Foundation, Vermont Fish & Wildlife, Vermont Housing and

Conservation Board, Waterwheel Foundation, and the Windham Foundation.

- **We received support from our corporate sponsors: Stratton (\$5,000):** 802 Toyota and The Berlin Mall. **Jay Peak (\$1,000):** Concept 2, Inc., Horst Engineering & Manufacturing Co., Johnson Hardware, Rental, Farm & Garden, Long Trail Brewing Company, ReArch, The Swanson Inn of Vermont and Vermont Sports Magazine, LLC.

“As former field staff, we understand the importance of protecting and maintaining the trail for future generations. We are excited to be a part of a legacy that will allow others to see a sunset from the summit of Mansfield, hike along the banks of Little Rock Pond, and continue to share in the beauty of Vermont's woods. We hope that everyone takes the opportunity to be part of supporting the trail and the GMC for years to come.”

—CAITLIN MILLER & JAMES ROBERTSON





## ENGAGEMENT AND INCLUSION

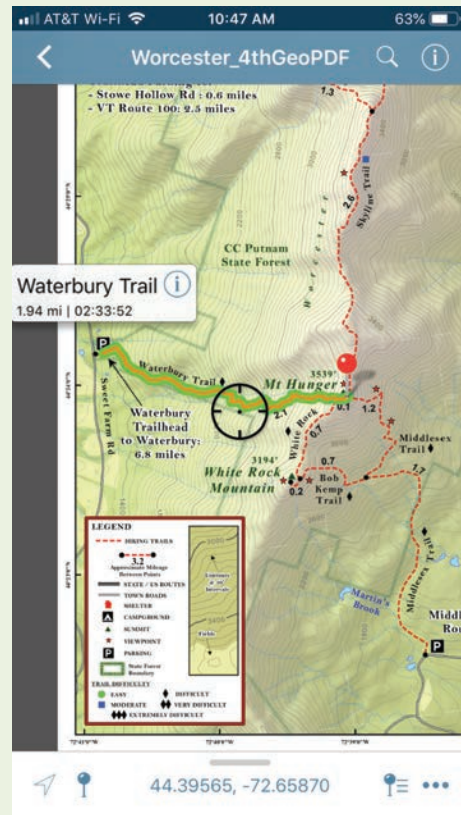
# We Engaged & Informed the Public

*The quarterly Long Trail News print magazine has been the primary method to communicate and engage with our members for nearly a century.* Approximately 30,000 copies of the flagship publication were distributed in FY19.

We covered topics like the fiftieth anniversary of the modern caretaker program which was revived in 1969. We shared our new vision for the Long Trail and overnight sites at popular Stratton Pond followed by a series of articles about the evolving art of trail building and the challenges trail builders and maintainers face today as the effects of climate change become more apparent. We shared inspirational hiker stories and educational articles like, “The State of the Vermont Moose.” And, we acknowledged our community of GMC volunteers who step up to ensure our treasured mountain footpath is in good condition for all to enjoy.

This was the year GMC moved into digital mapping! We converted and released four of our pocket-sized maps for use with the Avenza mapping App. This allows users to have a more interactive experience with our maps while hiking. The released maps include *Mount Mansfield and the Worcester Range*, *Camel's Hump and the Monroe Skyline*, *Manchester Area and Killington Area Hiking Trail Maps*. Other publications produced this year include the 2nd edition of *Camel's Hump and the Monroe Skyline* and the 2nd edition of the *Manchester Area Hiking Trail Maps* and *The Long Trail* calendar.

GMC's Publications program works with staff, volunteers, and contractors to produce high quality educational and stewardship guidebooks, maps and associated products that support our mission. We currently have 19 publications in print and 4 digital maps with information about hiking, backpacking, nature and GMC history.



## ENGAGEMENT AND INCLUSION

# We Fostered Stewardship through Education

*With education, the Green Mountain Club has found a gateway to stewardship for countless hikers, both new and returning.*

Whether learning from a caretaker about alpine plants on the summit of Mount Mansfield, identifying wild edibles during a GMC workshop or participating in a group volunteer service project, education is paramount for creating new stewards of Vermont's mountains.

This year 196 volunteers worked on 25 different service projects across the Long Trail System. They cleaned trail drainages, helped build the Bluff Ridge Trail in the Northeast Kingdom, and installed bridges in muddy areas.

We welcomed 170 participants to GMC programs and workshops including the End-to-Enders' Panel, Yoga for Hikers, Long Trail Birding, Wilderness First Aid and other topics designed to enhance hikers knowledge and skills for recreating in Vermont's mountains.

We educated hundreds of group users on Leave No Trace principles while hiking as a group on the Long Trail. Groups have the potential for a disproportionate impact on natural resources, but due to the GMC's group outreach program organized groups camp and hike responsibly, thereby minimizing damages to the Long Trail and preserving the Long Trail for many future generations.





# We Connected People with the Mountains of Vermont

*Throughout the year, our visitor center staff welcomed 3,704 visitors, providing hiking information from local day hikes to planning end-to-end hikes of the Long Trail and connecting hikers with mentors to plan their adventures. They served as a resource for trail updates, workshops, club events, and rental cabins.*

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

Our other information hub, Barnes Camp was open on the weekends during the summer and fall. Managed by GMC volunteers and conveniently located in Smugglers' Notch, it welcomed 10,334 visitors providing them with trail and hiking information as well as a place for hikers to dry off and recharge their batteries.

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



**“Dear Amy (Visitor Center Manager), We had a great hike along the Long Trail using the Old Job Trail to make a loop with Peru Peak to the south and Little Rock Pond to the north. My sincere thanks to you and the Green Mountain Club.”**

**—JAY LAWRENCE**

## STRENGTHENING OUR SECTIONS, MEMBERSHIP, AND VOLUNTEERS

# You Made a Difference through Volunteering

*Volunteerism is the backbone of the Green Mountain Club and The Long Trail.* Since 1910 committed volunteers have been clearing trails, painting blazes, building shelters and guiding the organization into the future. The Long Trail welcomes all types of volunteers, whether long time trail adopters, board members or outdoor orientation service trips, and all of them have a positive outcome on the Long Trail System.

- Volunteer Long Trail Patrol had a very successful 6-week season, contributing 1280 volunteer hours on the Branch Pond Trail and near Congdon Shelter on the LT/AT.
- Nearly 250 individuals volunteered as trail and shelter adopters, ensuring the Long Trail System is well-cared for and receiving regular maintenance.
- More than 40 of you volunteered to regularly walk and mark protected trail corridor boundaries to ensure conservation restrictions were being upheld, and gathered valuable natural and recreational resource data.
- Barnes Camp saw its first year of over 10,000 visitors throughout the 2018 hiking season. Volunteers were indispensable, contributing over 700 hours to staffing the facility.

We recognized twenty-seven unique and passionate volunteers at the Annual Volunteer picnic. Larry Walters of the Killington Section was recognized as Volunteer of the Year. Larry, a retired surveyor with the

U.S. Forest Service, has been an indispensable resource for educating GMC Staff and Volunteers in their use of crosscut saws and axes. It's because of Larry's knowledge, training and patience that GMC Staff and Volunteers were able to clear the trail of over 100 blowdowns after a November 2017 windstorm wreaked havoc in the Breadloaf Wilderness.



# Your Memberships Supported the Trail

*We want to thank the Upper Valley Ottauquechee Section for their hard work hosting the annual meeting last June. President John Page presented the Honorary Life Membership Award to former board and executive committee member Paul Kendall for his active advisory role to GMC executive directors and presidents for years. President's Awards were presented to Doug McKain for his publications work, Sheri Larsen for her work in the legislature, and Ken Hertz for his archival work with the *Long Trail News* and *Long Trail Guide*.*

As always, GMC's fourteen sections were busy this year leading hikes and outings, representing GMC in their communities, recruiting new members, and hosting member events. By section the member numbers were: At Large, 5,633; Bennington, 135; Brattleboro, 131; Bread Loaf, 281; Burlington, 1,009; Connecticut, 184; Killington, 250; Laraway, 53; Manchester, 206; Montpelier, 514; Northeast Kingdom, 237; Northern Frontier, 50; Sterling, 134; Upper Valley Ottauquechee, 298; Worcester, 120.





# GMC Board

## OFFICERS

Tom Candon, *President*  
Sheri Larsen, *Vice President*  
Stephen Klein, *Treasurer*  
Ed O'Leary, *Secretary*



## DIRECTORS

Robynn Albert, *General*  
Lars Botzjorns, *General*  
Michelle Connor, *Burlington Section*  
Hope Crifo, *General*  
Bob Fish, *Manchester Section*  
Russ Ford, *Northern Frontier*  
James Fritz, *Connecticut Section*  
Jean C. Haigh, *Northeast Kingdom Section*  
Peter Hope, *Ottawaquechee Section*  
Anne M. Janeway, *General*  
Amy Kelsey, *General*  
Wayne Krevetski, *General*  
George Longenecker, *Montpelier Section*  
Ron Lucier, *Sterling Section*  
Nancy McClellan, *General*  
John Page, *General*  
Mike Peckar, *Worcester Section*  
Kenna Rewcastle, *UVM Board Fellow*  
Ira Sollace, *General*  
Martha Stitelman, *Bennington*  
Cynthia Taylor-Miller, *Killington Section*  
Dann Van Der Vliet, *General*  
Howard VanBenthuyssen, *General*  
Matt Wels, *Brattleboro Section*  
Bruce Yelton, *Bread Loaf Section*  
John Zaber, *General*



## Staff

Isaac Alexandre-Leach, *Field Assistant*  
 Jason Buss, *Director of Finance*  
 Ilana Copel, *Field Supervisor*  
 Lenny Crisostomo, *Database Manager*  
 Lorne Currier, *Southern Field Assistant*  
 Michael DeBonis, *Executive Director*  
 Alicia DiCocco, *Director of Development*  
 Rick Hopkins, *Visitor Center*  
 Mollie Flanigan, *Conservation Manager*  
 Keegan Tierney, *Director of Field Programs*  
 Jocelyn Hebert, *Long Trail News Editor*  
 T Hanson, *Development Assistant*  
 Matt Krebs, *Operations & Publications Coordinator*  
 Kristin McLane, *Membership & Communications Coordinator*  
 Amy Potter, *Visitor Center Manager*  
 Robert Rives, *Education & Volunteer Coordinator*

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

**37** SEASONAL  
 EMPLOYEES

**4** GMC  
 INTERNS





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Waterbury Center, VT 05677

