



Green Mountain Club
2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Fulfilling our mission translates into more than the miles of trails maintained, acres protected, and tons of human waste kept out of our streams, ponds, and campsites – it translates into the long-term commitment to protecting the trail resource and the meaningful, personal experiences hikers have in Vermont’s forests and mountains.

The end of the club’s fiscal year coincided with the onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic. While the pandemic has impacted everyone and everything, it has also reinforced the importance of outdoor recreation spaces and the club’s work. It is too soon to tell what the long-term impacts of COVID-19 will be on the trail or the club, but the club’s work over the past year in all areas has positioned us to address the challenges head on, make necessary adjustments, and successfully manage the Long Trail system. This annual report highlights these accomplishments over the past year, but also celebrates long-term efforts and impacts.

During this fiscal year, the Green Mountain Club and our partners celebrated the protection of 1/3 mile of Long Trail after conserving 160-acres in Johnson and Waterville. This project was 34 years in the making and validates the importance of GMC’s land protection program. It also served as a reminder that permanent change can take time, and we are committed to protecting the trail, no matter how long it takes.

One of our strategic priorities is to engage the next generation of hikers, volunteers, and club leaders. This involves a commitment to addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion within every facet of the

organization. The Hike VT-Love GMC campaign launched in 2020 to focus on engaging trail users and converting them to active volunteers and supporters. The campaign is paying off with the best membership growth the club has had in ten years. Events such as Long Trail Day, Winter Trails Day, group hikes and social events have raised the profile of GMC and introduced more people to the club and the Long Trail.

Out in the field, our professional trail crews and volunteers got to work on important projects on the Long Trail, Appalachian Trail, and Northeast Kingdom trails. Backcountry caretakers greeted and interacted with over 200,000 visitors to Vermont’s highest peaks and ponds and processed over 1,000 gallons of raw sewage at 19 backcountry sites, keeping this waste out of the ponds and streams.

This report celebrates the work you made possible. It’s only with the support of members, donors, volunteers, and partners that we can cooperatively 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*





9,460 Members

Connecting People to the Vermont Mountains

200,000+ people enjoyed the Long Trail System

315 registered End-to-Enders

63,829 people visited Mount Mansfield

24,597 people visited Camel's Hump

6,849 people visited Mount Abraham

1,319 people spent a night at one of GMC's three camp facilities:
Bolton Lodge, Bryant Camp, Wheeler Pond Camps

1,147 people visited Stratton Mountain

Providing a World Class Hiking Experience

940 hours of service by Volunteer Long Trail Patrol

250 trail or shelter adopters

129 miles of boundary line maintained

18 acres of open areas were maintained along the Appalachian Trail

6 miles of trail protected under license agreement



Serving the Trail Community

341 people participated in our educational workshops and trainings

23 service trips with **229** participants

18 James P. Taylor Speaker Series events with **882** total attendees

3,100 people visited the Marvin B. Gameroff Hiker Center
in Waterbury Center

11,842 people visited the Barnes Camp Visitor Center in Stowe

You Supported Work on the Trails

» The Long Trail Patrol (LTP) completed trail improvement projects throughout Vermont, including four weeks of rockwork on the Long Trail in Bolton, five weeks of rockwork on popular sections of the Long Trail in the Breadloaf Wilderness, and an impressive nine weeks of trail relocation work around Stratton Pond.

» The Volunteer LTP spent their six-week season improving the Long Trail/Appalachian Trail between Seth Warner and Congdon Shelters, within a day's walk of the Massachusetts Border.

» Our construction projects included building new, ADA-compliant moldering privies for William B. Douglas and Governor Clement Shelters to replace the pit privies there previously. We also replaced the foundation of Laura Woodward Shelter, an intensive project supported by Jay Peak Resort.

» GMC caretakers greeted 5,355 overnighters at Long Trail shelters and tenting areas, teaching them about local ecosystems and low-impact camping practices. Stratton Pond set a record of 1,490 for the combined number of campers who used Stratton Pond Shelter and Stratton View Tenting Area in one season.





We Worked at Wheeler Pond

This year the Long Trail Patrol, with the help of volunteers, made long-awaited improvements to GMC's property at Wheeler Pond.

The crew cleaned and re-painted the interior of the porch, which was previously unusable due to the old lead-based paint. We also replaced the porch support posts and footings, ensuring a safe structure.

We demolished the remains of the old Beaver Dam Camp and removed all debris. Staff were assisted by volunteers from our Northeast Kingdom Section and from Outdoor Gear Exchange.





You Supported Land Conservation

- » We protected six miles of Long Trail System on the ridgeline of Mount Mansfield under a license agreement with the University of Vermont.
- » We monitored and maintained 129 miles of boundaries on trail corridor lands through our volunteer Corridor Monitoring Program.
- » We controlled invasive species within 18-acres of Appalachian Trail open areas in Woodstock, Pomfret, and West Hartford, Vermont providing sweeping vistas for hikers and early successional habitat for wildlife.
- » We stewarded over 31,000 acres of land for recreation, public use, and wildlife habitat.





Fiscal Year 2020 Financial Report

Despite a challenging year with the start of the global pandemic, the Green Mountain Club ended the fiscal year on April 30, 2020, with another year of growth in total net assets. Total liabilities and net assets increased by 6.4 percent to \$12.47 million. This increase was due to several factors, including an increase in cash and cash equivalents and pledges receivable. The Endowment decreased from \$4.7 million to \$4.4 million due to market conditions at the pandemic's early stages.

Total assets consist of endowment funds, \$4.4 million (35 percent); net property and equipment including the headquarters, field staff housing, Lamoille River footbridge, and the Winooski River footbridge \$3.06 million (24 percent); Long Trail lands and easements, \$2.9 million (23 percent); and pledges receivable, cash, accounts receivable, prepaid expenses and inventory accounting for the remainder (18 percent). Total revenue and support

compared to total expenses before non-operating activity showed a shortfall of \$162,038, offset by the net non-operating activity of \$670,823 from Capital Campaign contributions and endowment interest and dividends. This is planned in that just under 5% of endowment income is used to support the Club.

Total contributions and program income were \$1,783,906; an increase of \$6,563, while total expenses were \$2,108,682; an increase of \$95,571 or 4.7% above fiscal year 2019. In fiscal year 2020, 73% of the Club's operating expenditures were in direct support of the Long Trail System. General administration and fundraising account for the rest, which is consistent with the past few years.

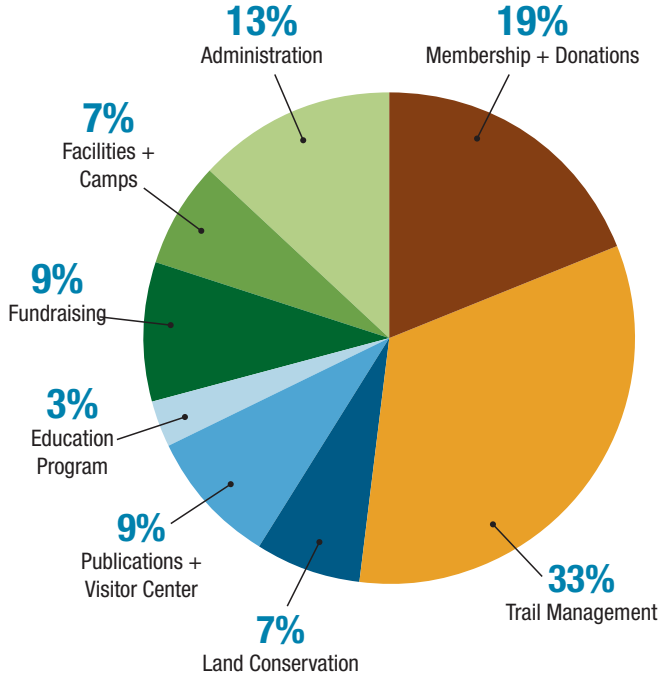
In conclusion, GMC finished the fiscal year 2020 on sound financial footing. This financial position has allowed the Club to react to the challenges the global pandemic has

brought. Thank you to the many members and other supporters who have contributed to the Green Mountain Club and its mission in so many ways! Contributions from our members, donors, and organizational grants are critical sources of revenue to improve our trails and conserve the Long Trail system.

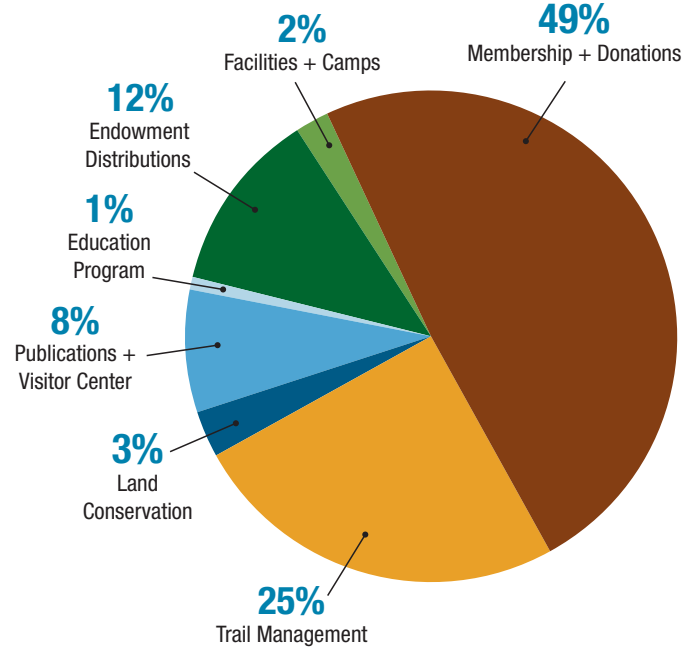
—Stephen Klein, *Treasurer*



Fiscal Year 2020 EXPENSES



Fiscal Year 2020 REVENUES + SUPPORT



Your Donations Made a Difference

» More than 8,509 of you gave individual gifts (including cash, recurring gifts, gifts-in-kind, stocks, and pledges) 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 Mountain Club
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Jane B. Cook 1992 Charitable Trust
Larsen Fund
National Life of Vermont
Outdoor Gear Exchange
Rivendell Foundation
Several anonymous family foundations
The Canaday Family Charitable Trust
Upper Missisquoi and Trout Rivers,
Waterwheel Foundation
Vermont Housing & Conservation Board
Whitehead Foundation

» We received support from our corporate sponsors:

CAMEL'S HUMP (\$15,000)
Athletic Brewing Company

STRATTON (\$5,000)
802 Cars

JAY PEAK (\$1,000)
Burlington Beer Company
King Arthur Flour
Resource Systems Group
The Mountain Goat
The Swanson Inn of Vermont
Vermont Sports Magazine



We Engaged with You

The GMC continued to move our publishing content into the digital realm by converting and releasing *Vermont's Long Trail Map* on the Avenza mapping app in June 2019. This now allows trail users to hike the entire Long Trail using Avenza. This app gives users the opportunity to track themselves in real-time, record photos, and plot waypoints, including adding notes, at memorable spots on their hike.

Other publications produced this year include the 3rd edition of *Northeast Kingdom Hiking Trail Map*, in both paper and digital format, the 22nd edition of the *End-to-Ender's Guide*, 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 18 publications in print and 6 digital maps with information about hiking, backpacking, nature and GMC history.



We once again published four quarterly issues of the *Long Trail News*, to send to our members. Feature topics included the completion of the Kingdom Heritage Trail System, a twenty-year project championed by the late Jean Haigh. Melody Walker shared an Abenaki perspective on the Green Mountains, and Rich Holschuh

shared the history of the Algonquin names of Vermont's peaks. We inspired hikers with articles about Denali ascents and winter thru-hikes of the Long Trail. And, as always, we acknowledged our dedicated community of GMC volunteers who keep the organization and the trail going.

You Supported our Education Programs

» We worked throughout the year to foster the stewardship of Vermont's hiking trails and mountains. GMC's caretakers educated hikers on preserving the fragile alpine zone and our winter hiking workshops prepared participants for year-round enjoyment of the Long Trail. Educational programs seamlessly transitioned to a virtual platform at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, meaning we could continue to foster stewardship safely.

» We hosted over 375 participants in workshops such as Wilderness First Aid, Intro to Winter Hiking, and Watercolor Painting, and in programs such as the End-to-Enders' Panel, and Outdoors-themed Trivia Nights.

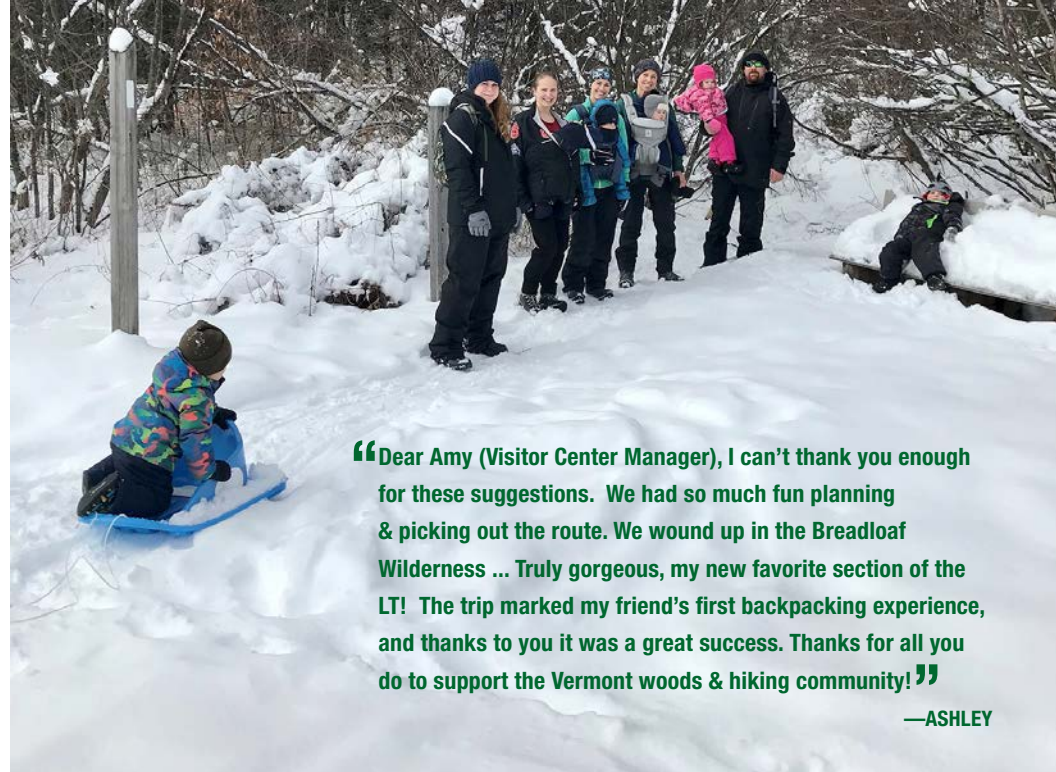
» More than 300 people attended our annual Winter Trails Day at GMC Headquarters in March. Fifteen guided hikes explored the Waterbury/Stowe Area, animal lovers joined Winter

Wildlife Tracking workshops, history enthusiasts took a tour of GMC's Archives, and families tried out an obstacle course, cooked s'mores, and participated in trivia.



We Connected Hikers with the Mountains of Vermont

- » Throughout the year, our visitor center staff welcomed 3,100 visitors and fielded countless emails and phone calls to provide hiking information on everything from local day hikes to end-to-end hikes of the Long Trail. They also served as a resource for trail updates, workshops, club events, and rental cabins.
- » New in 2019 we launched two series of group hikes designed to connect target groups of hikers with each other and with the GMC. Monthly Baby and Toddler Hikes on the GMC Short Trail proved a popular event for adults looking to try hiking with little ones. Monthly 20s and 30s Hikes focused on engaging the next generation of GMC donors and volunteers through short hikes around North Central Vermont.



“Dear Amy (Visitor Center Manager), I can’t thank you enough for these suggestions. We had so much fun planning & picking out the route. We wound up in the Breadloaf Wilderness ... Truly gorgeous, my new favorite section of the LT! The trip marked my friend’s first backpacking experience, and thanks to you it was a great success. Thanks for all you do to support the Vermont woods & hiking community!”

—ASHLEY

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 college orientation community service trips.
- » 229 volunteers worked on 23 group service projects across the state. Their work was critical for large projects such as the Lye Brook Trail Relocation, the replacement of tent platforms at Bamforth Ridge, and the completion of deferred trail maintenance in the Breadloaf Wilderness.
- » 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.
- » Barnes Camp saw 11,842 visitors throughout the 2019 hiking season. Volunteers contributed 737 hours to staffing the facility.
- » We recognized 11 unique and passionate volunteers at the Annual Volunteer picnic. Jonathan Bigelow was recognized as Volunteer of the Year. Jonathan volunteered to lead the rebuilding of Tucker Johnson Shelter, working with GMC staff members to design a shelter based on plans developed by former GMC President George Pearlstein. Jonathan obtained the wood, materials and supplies for the project, and pre-cut most of the lumber at his house. In one weekend in October 2018, he and a group of volunteers

joined together to build the new shelter. Thanks to Jonathan, Tucker Johnson Shelter is poised to host backpackers for many years to come.



Your Memberships Supported the Trail

- » Thanks to the Montpelier section for hosting the 109th Annual Meeting last June in Roxbury.
- » At the annual meeting, we recognized three outstanding members with the club's highest honor, the Honorary Life Membership Award. Ken and Alice Boyd were the volunteer coordinators of the GMC's first caretaker program begun in 1968. 50+ years later, the caretaker program continues, educating and engaging with new generations of Vermont hikers.
- » John Page was honored for his crucial service as a board member for more than 20 years, and as immediate past president. He spearheaded many strategic initiatives in the club's governance and operational structures, setting the club up for a sound financial future.

» As always, GMC's fourteen sections were busy much of this year leading hikes and outings, representing GMC in their communities, recruiting new members, and hosting member events. Overall, we saw membership grow by 4.7% this past year. By section the member numbers were: At Large, 5,756; Bennington,

136; Brattleboro, 117; Bread Loaf, 309; Burlington, 1,035; Connecticut, 198; Killington, 246; Laraway, 51; Manchester, 224; Montpelier, 513; Northeast Kingdom, 230; Northern Frontier, 59; Sterling, 155; Upper Valley Ottauquechee, 308; Worcester, 123.



GMC Board OFFICERS

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



DIRECTORS

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Dann Van Der Vliet, *General*
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Matt Wels, *Brattleboro*
Bruce Yelton, *Bread Loaf*
John Zaber, *General*





Staff

Isaac Alexandre-Leach, *Field Assistant*

Jason Buss, *Director of Finance*

Ilana Copel, *Field Supervisor*

Abby Crisostomo, *Database Manager through Fall 2019*

Lorne Currier, *Education and Volunteer Coordinator*

Rick Dugan, *Membership Database Manager*

starting January 2020

Michael DeBonis, *Executive Director*

Alicia DiCocco, *Director of Development*

Mollie Flanigan, *Conservation Manager*

T Hanson, *Development Assistant*

Jocelyn Hebert, *Long Trail News Editor*

Matt Krebs, *Operations/Publications Coordinator*

Kristin McLane, *Membership and Communications*

Coordinator

John Plummer, *Group Outreach & Field Coordinator*

Amy Potter, *Visitor Center Manager*

Keegan Tierney, *Director of Field Programs*

15 PERMANENT STAFF
(Full-time, year round)

42 SEASONAL
EMPLOYEES

3 GMC
INTERNS



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