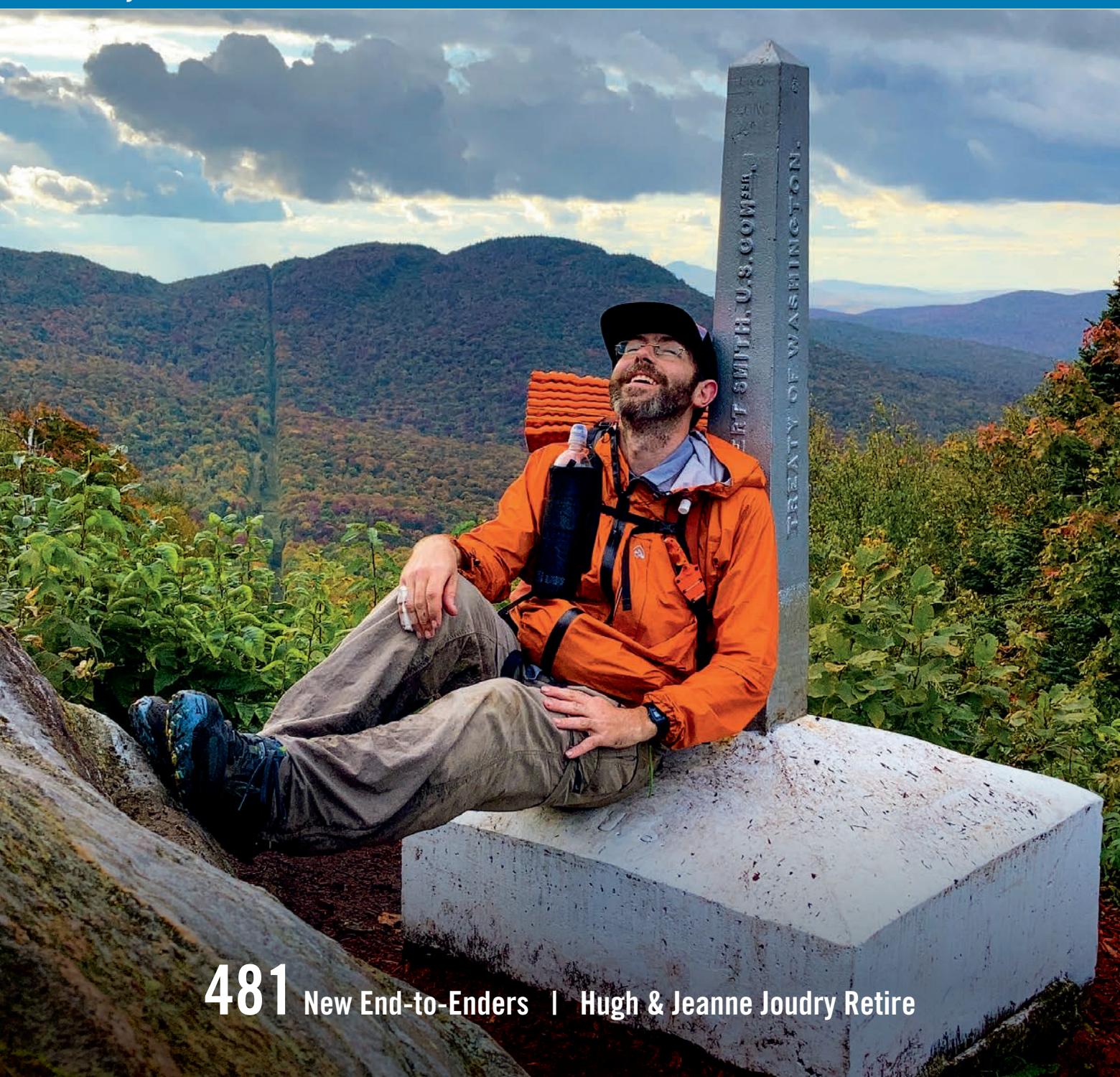


Long Trail NEWS



Quarterly of the Green Mountain Club

SUMMER 2022



481 New End-to-Enders | Hugh & Jeanne Joudry Retire

Long Trail NEWS

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

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FRONT COVER: Joshua "Pace Car" Johnson celebrates after finishing his NOBO thru-hike on September 30, 2021. He had broken his pinky finger two days before, but help from a trail angel got him back on trail and able to finish the hike.

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PHOTO BY EMMA SEKERCAN

"Being an end-to-ender means I had the determination and grit to walk through all the rain, mud, and rock to be able to enjoy the incredible views, meet amazing people, and accomplish something."
— Emma "Giggles" Sekercan, 21, E2E 2021

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From the President

People have been hiking through Vermont's mountains since the state was the province of the Western Abenaki, who viewed the mountains as spiritual places. With the onset of European intrusion and settlement, the mountains were considered an obstacle to progress; too rocky and too inaccessible to farm. It wasn't until the mid-19th century that our modern concept of recreation in the mountains developed. Rudimentary hiking trails popped up first in the New Hampshire White Mountains and Mt. Ascutney in Vermont. With the creation of the Green Mountain Club and Long Trail in the early 20th century an era of new appreciation for, and use of, our mountains began which continues to this day.

Use, of course, can be a mixed blessing. With the completion of the Appalachian Trail in 1937, the increase in hikers in southern Vermont was supported by resources from the Forest Service and the Appalachian Trail Conference (now Appalachian Trail Conservancy). Skiing and tourism also accelerated in the mid-20th century, and ski areas were constructed on peaks of the Long Trail including Bromley, Lincoln, Mansfield and Jay. GMC saw these changes — both resources and development — as a mixed blessing. Not surprisingly, by the 1970s, a strong sentiment developed throughout Vermont that skiing should not claim every one of Vermont's "major" peaks.

Enter one of my personal favorite peaks: Camel's Hump. Misidentified by Samuel de Champlain, the first European boater on Lake Champlain, as "Le lion couchant" (glad THAT name didn't stick) when, in fact, it already was named Tawapodiiwajo (also spelled Ta wak be dee eeso Wadso) or Moziozagan by the Abenaki. The Hump came under State of Vermont control and protection in 1905, a gift from philanthropist Joseph Battell, who intended the Park to be kept in a "primitive state."

By the early 1970s the Hump was the last 4,000-footer in Vermont not graced by Alpine ski trails or communication towers — and it remains that way to this day. In 1969 the Vermont Legislature recognized the value in that distinction and set the Camel's Hump State Park aside as a protected wilderness area. By the time I lived near its summit as the Green Mountain Club Gorham Lodge Caretaker in 1972, the Hump had become

a premier destination for day hikers and campers.

During my summer stint on the Hump, I hosted 1,020 overnight visitors and spent countless hours on the summit talking with hikers about the fragility of the arctic-alpine vegetation there. It was a wonderful and magical summer, and the healthy recovery of this sensitive ecosystem in the intervening 50 years is a credit to GMC's efforts and investments in the summit caretaker program.

The most popular and heavily used trails on the Hump in the '70s were the Callahan Trail (now closed due to overuse and erosion), from Monroe Farm on the east side, and the Burrows Trail, from the west, or Huntington, side. The Burrows Trail is a beautiful trail meandering 2.1 miles up the mountain to the Hut Clearing, where it meets the Long Trail. It has the distinction of being the oldest, shortest and steepest trail to the summit of the mountain. Today tens of thousands of hikers and dogs use the Burrows Trail each year and, as is the case at other popular hikes



Gorham Lodge, circa 1972

across the Long Trail System (Sterling Pond, Stratton Pond, Little Rock Pond, etc) have loved the Burrows Trail almost to death.

Instead of Burrows facing the same fate as the Callahan Trail, the club is taking a different approach to addressing heavy use. GMC has successfully obtained funding for a three-year project to rebuild the entire Burrows Trail. GMC was awarded \$210,000 from the Enhancement for Recreation Stewardship and Access grant fund along with a \$250,000 investment from FPR. A dedicated professional trail crew will



Howard VanBenthuyzen

begin addressing failed drainages, grade re-engineering, and treadway improvement this June and continue through the summer of 2024. During our re-construction project hikers will continue to use the trail, an opportunity for the GMC to educate thousands on the hard but necessary work required to maintain a world-class trail system.

The Burrows project is an example of the vastly increased capabilities and sophistication of the modern club as we work to improve and protect the Long Trail system into the 21st century, coping with increased use and climate change impacts. This project also serves as a model for other large-scale investments in infrastructure needed to maintain Vermont's iconic outdoor recreation resources.

If Samuel de Champlain were here today, he would be surprised to see the interest in hiking and climbing beautiful unspoiled peaks like Camel's Hump that we see today. Early ski pioneers would no doubt be shocked to see no ski trails, lifts, towers, or restaurants on Camel's Hump. But the fact that the Hump remains unspoiled and protected is no accident: it is the result of the foresight of the Legislature and the hard work of both GMC and Vermont Forests, Parks, and Recreation. Rebuilding the Burrows Trail is necessary, and is an example of the large-scale outdoor infrastructure project the GMC is ready, willing and able to complete now and into the future.

Thanks for all you do for the club, for the trail and to protect, preserve and maintain high quality hiking experiences for all Vermonters!

See you on the trail!

—HOWARD VANBENTHUYSEN
GMC BOARD PRESIDENT



Mountain Views

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Thank you to everyone who informed us of multiple issues showing up at your household during the Spring mailing, due to an internal error. Typically, we send just one copy of the Long Trail News to each household, and have ensured that is the case this time as well. Please alert editor Chloe Miller (cmiller@greenmountainclub.org) of any address changes or mailing errors.

Krebs Family Hike

To Matt Krebs, GMC Operations Manager, who wrote about his family thru-hike in the Spring issue:

I thoroughly enjoyed reading about your family Long Trail thru-hike in the spring issue of the *Long Trail News*. You, Charlie, Ruth, and Joe shared a variety of perspectives, which together provided an especially rich story. It's a shame that Alyssa didn't get to hike with you, but it's remarkable that you and your three kids could all find an open month in common. For all five of you to be free at the same time would be nothing short of a miracle.

In addition to the Krebs family story, I liked reading Poems from the Trail. In both cases, the content, photos and layout were all topnotch.

— TOM MCKONE
MONTPELIER, VT

PHOTO BY TOM SCAVO



Expanding on Citizen Science

I use iNaturalist (iNat) to document day hiking trips to the LT (and elsewhere). This isn't a project per se but using the iNat concept of a "place," we can search for a list of all flowering plants (say) observed (by anyone) on the LT: <https://bit.ly/iNatLongTrail>

This list includes all of the flowering plants seen within a certain distance of the LT, more-or-less the same region shown on the LT hardcopy map.

— TOM SCAVO
SOUTH BURLINGTON

We Welcome Your Comments!

gmc@greenmountainclub.org OR

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, GMC

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Loving Lists

I want to thank everyone at GMC that is involved in producing the *Long Trail News* for another great edition (Spring 2022). I belong to lots of hiking and environmental clubs and get lots of magazines, and yours is by far my favorite. I read many articles multiple times, and I love the photos.

In the current issue I really enjoyed the story told by all family members of the Krebs family LT hike. Congrats to all on completing the trail. Being a list person I also enjoyed the story about the NEK Mountain Challenge. I will have to look into that. I should add that your neighbors in NH also have a fire tower challenge like the Vermont one listed in the article, including a patch for completing it, run by the NH Division of Forests and Lands. I'd love to know more about where to find info on the Vermont Fire Tower Challenge. Sounds like fun.

Again, keep up the great work and I look forward to many more great issues of the LTN.

— RAY COOPER
BUXTON, MAINE

So Many Wonderful Poems

I'm enjoying reading through the Spring *Long Trail News* magazine, especially the poetry and the story of the family who hiked the Trail together (and, of course, their various age-related impressions!)

I'm attaching 2 poems for consideration...one a winter poem of encountering ski tracks along the snowy trail, and one about loving the variety of tree bark patterns that I could meditate upon all day. Thanks for reading...

— SHERI LINDNER, BONDVILLE, VT



I finally had a few minutes to open my latest issue of *LT News* and was happy to discover the Poems from the Trail....and sad that I missed the contest! However, with your kind invitation to still submit, I'm sending these 2 to you. I sing a lot while hiking, sometimes a tune just seems right (to ME!) for my own original lyrics. So—short poem #1 is the song “Edelweiss”, and the longer 2-pager is to “Do It Again”—though, obviously both can stand alone as poems.

They were both composed on my 2011 E2E...my trail name is Hannah, hence that reference. Anyhoo, for your consideration (or recycling...🤔) — thank you for all your good work, and such entertaining news.

— ANNE EGGERS, OLNEY, MD, E2E 2011

Shelter Sign (tune is “Edelweiss” from the Sound of Music)

Shelter sign, Shelter sign,
Please present yourself to me.
I have hiked many miles
For the pleasure of your company.

As I see you my heart takes flight,
When I'm running out of light.

Shelter sign, help me survive,
Even if shelter is off 0.5!

LT NOBO E2#
7/25-8/20/2011

In Uno Multibus

In the woods
where ocher honeycomb
polygons adorn
the ash,
sable mosaic chips
jigsawed together
enwrap the spruce,
pink-tinged swirls
like fingerprint whorls
or cinnamon stirred
into foamed cream
tattoo the apple tree,
miniature fungi-umbrellas
the color of almond slivers
attach like children
to the sorrel skin
of the elm,
and the birch
sheds its
gold-shimmer skin
living continuously
in new beginnings,

secreted
beneath the earth
their roots twine
mycorrhizal networks
like neural pathways
bond this arboreal congregation
into a single organism
sending sustenance
to the frailest, the neediest
no matter that
it was seeded by
a different family;
as one they drink
and breathe and mend
together reaching
for light.

—Sheri Lindner
Bondville, VT

Read additional poetry submissions
on our website at
greenmountainclub.org/long-trail-news/

The End of an Era

Legendary Stratton Mountain Caretakers HUGH and JEANNE JOUDRY Announce Retirement



Jeanne and Hugh on final move-in day, 2021

THE FIRST TIME I HELPED HUGH AND JEANNE JOUDRY pack in to the tiny cabin atop Stratton Mountain in 2019 was one of the best field days in my five years at the Green Mountain Club. After meeting at their house in Stratton not far from the mountain, we loaded the truck with their food, clothes, sleep system, novels, and artwork, and drove to Stratton Mountain Resort. There we met a cadre of others, some of whom had been helping pack them in for decades. Driving up the Stratton Mountain Resort service road, ferrying equipment and supplies three quarters of a mile along the fire tower trail, and opening the cabin was routine for them but humbling for me, aware that their half century of caretaking eclipsed my own caretaking resume by 47 years.

Leaving the tower that evening, with the window shutters off, the stovepipe installed, and their fridge (a deep hole in a rock crevice) stocked, I was filled with admiration of their eagerness to spend another summer in a tiny mountaintop cabin, surrounded by novels, bugs, conifers, and thousands of smelly hikers.

To me Hugh and Jeanne are the epitome of caretakers, defined by an unwavering dedication to place, gracious mountain hospitality extended to all hikers, and the sense they're most at home in the woods. After 54 years their impact has been immeasurable. I think I speak for us all in congratulating them on a well-deserved retirement!

— Lorne Currier



How the Mountain Has Changed

There used to be, a long time ago, a predictable set of questions from our visitors on the summit: “Doesn’t it get lonely up here? What do you do? How did you get a job like this?” And, “When are you leaving?”

There is only the one question left now, and it is “When are you leaving?”

After so many great years of working as caretakers atop Stratton Mountain for the Green Mountain Club, we are retiring! But we will always be in touch with our beloved mountain and the great and diverse visitors who kept arriving at the summit and with whom we formed so many friendships.

We began our life on Stratton in 1968, riding up on a three-person chairlift and then hiking along the summit ridge on a very narrow trail with a rather deep wetland, before arriving at a small clearing in the forest with a 1934 Civilian Conservation Corps fire tower and 1929 Thoreau-size cabin with two bunks, a table, two chairs, and a small wood stove for cooking. Everyday survival consisted of the following: hauling water from a spring one-fifth of a mile down the trail; cutting firewood; and backpacking our supplies up the mountain each week.

Stratton, except for the ski area nearby, was a rather remote mountain then. It was mid-May, so it hailed and snowed. We began as fire lookouts for the Vermont Department of Forests and Parks. Our supervisor, the legendary Junior Harwood, showed us on the map in the tower the territory we would be responsible for in fire spotting. He said we needed to know the terrain, so to get to know it first-hand we made it a point to hike the local mountains and look back at Stratton from their summits.

In those early days we didn’t see many other hikers. There was a blue-blazed loop trail from Webster Shelter at the Stratton-Arlington Road up to the tower and down the west side of the mountain to Stratton Pond, where it connected to the Long Trail/Appalachian Trail. The LT/AT wasn’t relocated over Stratton summit until the mid-1980s.

We were young and optimistic. This was some job – we woke to the music of bird song — what a place of solitude and beauty! We kept company with our herd of porcupines

and a band of friendly snowshoe hares. There were telephones in the tower and cabin and a 1950s “M*A*S*H”-type radio to call fire wardens. We had to repair the three miles of telephone line down the fire tower trail more often than we expected. And at times friends helped after storm damage.



In early years, Hugh used only an ancient scythe and axe to cut trails. As hiking grew, we graduated to new tools — clippers, loppers, and swizzle sticks for cutting brush.

As we began to encounter more hikers, we decided to find out more about the surrounding trail systems, so we located the office of the Green Mountain Club in Rutland, with Minerva Hinchey at the desk. She gave us a stern lookover and handed us a club card. We had no idea what we could do to help the club, but we placed a sign-in book in a glass jar attached to a tree, and waited for a hiker to show up and sign in.

In the early 70’s, Lee Allen and Preston Bristow worked as GMC caretakers at nearby Stratton Pond, one of our earlier introductions to the club’s presence. It was a wild time: all of a sudden large numbers of hikers hit the trails. We always refer to that time period as the “Hiker Revolution” – with so many more people using the trails, and light backpacks and camping gear becoming available.

Over the years our role changed from the solitude of fire lookout to mountaintop steward and greeter, and we joined the Green Mountain Club Summit Caretaker Program in 1996.

We’ve continued to see steadily increasing use of trails over the decades, and we’ve watched the LT/AT in Vermont widen by the year. In addition, climate change, bringing more rain, has made it more difficult to drain wet spots. Stratton has had the help of Vermont Youth Conservation Corps crews doing fantastic rockwork to stabilize the trail in certain areas, and we consider it an honor to have maintained our portion of the trail over the last 50-plus years.

We have been happy to see how people turned to the outdoors to recreate and hike in the last two pandemic years. Last year we recorded almost 8,000 visitors. Many visitors are weekend tourists from the top of Stratton’s gondola, just three-quarters of a nearly level mile from the fire tower. True to the visions of LT founder James P. Taylor and AT founder Benton MacKaye, the trail experience is still being realized daily.

We spoke with as many of our visitors as we could to give them trail information, directions, and the history of the area. On cold and wet days we will always remember inviting hikers in for a respite from the weather and hearing the stories of their trail experiences. In our eyes, the summit of Stratton and its trails are four-dimensional places. We shall miss this super reality as we leave our full-time life on the summit and will ever stay in touch with our magical forest! 🌲

— JEANNE AND HUGH

Editor’s note: The Green Mountain Club wishes to extend its sincerest gratitude to Jeanne and Hugh Joudry for their extraordinary and unprecedented service to Stratton Mountain and the Long Trail community. At no other time in GMC history have two people had such an impact on the experiences of so many hikers and so well fulfilled the club’s mission of making the mountains of Vermont play a larger role in the life of the people. — Mike DeBonis

Do you have memories of Hugh and Jeanne you’d like to share? Visit greenmountainclub.org/hugh-and-jeanne/ or email us gmc@greenmountainclub.org

481 Hikers

Earn End-to-End Certificates in 2021



76.5%

Thru-hiked;
23.5% section
hiked.



38.4

Average
hiker age.
The youngest
was 7 and
oldest was 79.



July

Most popular
start month
with 25.8%
of hikers.



85%

Finished in 2021.
One posthumous
E2E for a hike
completed in
1937.



29

Average days
on trail among
thru-hikers.



23%

Had hiked the
Long Trail
before.

Statistics come from self-reported data collected in End-to-End applications received from 2/16/21-3/1/22.

Marty "Rave" Abbott, Delmar, NY
Lucas "Chestnut" Acaba, Groton, MA
Shirley "Sprite" Adams, Abbot, ME
Daniela "Happy Feet" Agudelo, Brooklyn, NY
Max "8-Ball" Albulov, Milford, MI
Christine "Summercamp" Alexander, Silver Spring, MD
Reed "Firefly" Allen, West Springfield, MA
Floyd "The Veteran" Anderson, Windsor, CO
Edward "Zero" Andre, Somerville, MA
Elizabeth "Chuckles" Archibald, Portsmouth, NH
Brenda "Tootsie" Aschenbach, Reading, PA
Trevor "Thornberry" Ashe, Nine Mile Falls, WA
Emma Aspell, Reading, VT
Ben "3-Seat" Atkins, Spring, TX
Damian "Juke Box" Aubrey, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, United Kingdom
Alejandro "Squeeze" Avellaneda, New York, NY
David Baldwin, Fairview, NC
Isa "Twist Lock" Ballard, Brooklyn, NY
Michael "Uncle Vortex" Bankhead, Madison, WI,
Betsy Barbera, Wakefield, RI
Robert "Tarzan" Barlow, Peacham, VT
Sara "Peaches" Basinger, Boulder, CO
Peter "Tinman" Beaman, Portsmouth, NH
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Jeanna "Old School" Beck, Knoxville, TN
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Dann "Catapult" Black, Irasburg, VT
Arlene "Gold" Blackwell, Winsted, CT
Dennis "K1" Blanchard, Sarasota, FL
Kayla "Nuggets" Bold, Pflugerville, TX

Bailey "Taser" Bomar, Seaside, CA
Chrystina "Muddy" Bonelli, Guilford, CT
Bailey Bontrager, Warrenton, VA
Molly "Green Bay" Borgstrom, Madison, WI
Seth Bortz, Colchester, VT
Derek "Bear Magnet" Bowling, Columbus, IN
Robert "Tuna Roll" Boyle, Pittsburgh, PA
Shelby "Slip n Slide" Boynton, Barrington, NH
Jeffrey "Waterslide" Bradford, Pittsfield, MA
Beth "Chief" Bresnahan, Cinnaminson, NJ
Dan "Fiddy" Bresnahan, Cinnaminson, NJ
Collin "Wild Turkey" Britton, Richmond, VA
Lucy "Velcro" Brockway, Boulder, CO
Abigail "Optimistic" Brown, Denville, NJ
Joel Brown, Charlottesville, VA
Susan "Daisy Sue" Brown, Essex Junction, VT
Wildor "Grit" Brown, Middlesex, VT
Jeff "Mountain Man" Brownschidle, Henderson, NV
Daniel "Epoch" Brunick, Binghamton, NY
Juanita "Nita" Burch-Clay, Middletown Springs, VT
Tracy "Scrappy" Buro, Washington, DC
Jack "The West Ghost" Byrley, North Woodstock, NH
Dan "Bandana" Byrne, Albuquerque, NM
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 Dennis "Double Mud" Falcione, Portland, OR
 Jasmin "Grams" Faunce, Ashland, NH
 Derrick "Gramps" Faunce, Ashland, NH
 Nick "Hot Legs" Favazza, Clarkston, MI
 Glen "Blaze" Ferguson, Ellington, CT
 Colin Field, Fairbanks, AK
 Matthew "Strider" Fitzgerald, Los Angeles, CA
 Robert "Driftwood" Fitzsimmons, Burlington, VT
 Lawrence "Webster" Flinn, Albuquerque, NM
 Abigail "Ghost" Fowler, Rutland, VT
 Audrey Fox, Auburn, ME
 Kodi "May Queen" Frost, Manila, UT
 Sarah "Press" Gamard, Wilmington, DE
 Alex Ganten, Medford, MA
 Brian "Slurpee" Garner, Tyngsboro, MA
 Luke Gaudreau, Auburn, NH
 David Geier, Webster, NY
 Sabina "Dragonfly" Gellrich, Swansea, MA
 Denise "Tender Toes" George, Brownsville, VT
 Mike "Squatch Watch" George, Brownsville, VT
 Liz "Bacon" Gerber, Evanston, IL
 Izzie "Eleven" Gerber, Evanston, IL
 Wednesday Gillespie, South Strafford, VT
 Logan "Yogi" Giroux, East Greenwich, RI
 Angela "Sparrow" Gluck, Newport, VT
 Lindsey Gordon, Auburn, ME
 Sarah "Ccino" Governale, Glenville, NY
 Chester "Boomerang" Green, Easton, MD
 Robert "Moxie" Greenier, Fort Collins, CO
 Julia Grey, Jeffersonville, VT
 Éponine Grey, Jeffersonville, VT
 Rise Grey, Jeffersonville, VT
 Lincoln Grey, Jeffersonville, VT
 Roger "All Day" Gross, Angels Camp, CA
 Lucy "Trick or Treat" Groves, Cornwall, VT
 Richard Elden Gullickson, Colchester, VT
 Anna "Loon" Hadorn, Andover, MA
 Ty "Boots" Haessig, Jericho, VT
 Joseph "Cold Brew" Haggan, Groton, CT
 Catherine "Ricky Bobby" Hallisey, Wethersfield, CT
 Ben "Ooze" Hallman, West Brookfield, VT
 Zach "Old Spice" Hammer, New York, NY
 Julia "Boot" Hampton, Brattleboro, VT
 Todd "Handsome" Hanks, Cleveland, OH
 Julie "Tiny T" Hardeman, Kirkwood, MO
 Sean "Liquor" Hartwell, Madison Heights, MI
 Virginia "Chance" Hassell, Farmingdale, ME
 Erin "Tick Mama" Hasset, Cortland, NY
 Barbara "Whisper" Hauzinger, Burlington, VT

“

Vermont is the state where my feet became familiar with a trail and my heart grew attuned to nature and wildlife.

To walk this hallowed path of a state that has marked itself on my soul forever has filled me with more gratitude than I can express.

The beauty that exists on the Long Trail is indescribable at times. The hardship, suffering, and grit that it takes to complete this path remains in the muscles forever.

And the genuine kindness of the people along the way reminded me that in this world of turmoil and dissent, the goodness of fellow humans helping one another still exists.

I have hiked thousands of miles, yet nothing up to this point makes me more proud than to be able to say I am a Long Trail End-To-End. ”

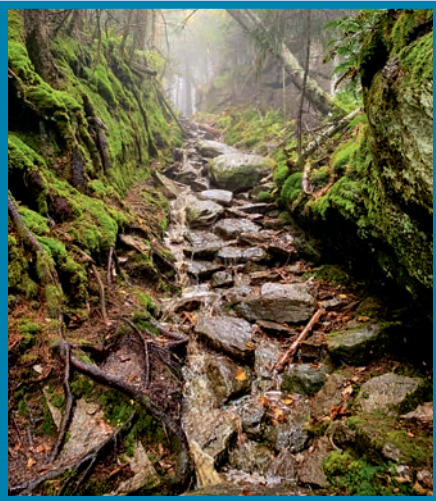
— LEAH “EAGLE EYE” LAROCCO, 40, FRANKLIN, TN

Leah “Eagle Eye” LaRocco hiked solo from Pawling, NY (part of an AT section hike) to Waterbury Center in 2019, before various injuries and relentless rain led her to make the decision to come off trail and return the following year. In October 2021, she completed the rest of the Long Trail.

“The Rainiest July on Record”

Though many say last July was “The rainiest July on record in Vermont,” the Northeast Regional Climate Center reports it was just the *third*-rainiest July in the state’s history (it was the rainiest in Massachusetts and New Hampshire). But it was wet and muddy for sure, especially in southern Vermont.

Nobody expects a completely dry Long Trail thru-hike, but last summer’s hikers faced sopping socks, knee-deep mud puddles and soaked-in views much of the way. Here’s what End-to-Enders had to say about the rain – the good, the bad, and the merely damp:



“

Doing [the trail] in the July with the most rainfall in Vermont’s history is something that makes one feel even better about having continued despite the exhaustion and mostly hunger that we had on our thru hike.”

— NICOLÁS MANCERA DE OLLOQUI, 21, AGUASCALIENTES, MEXICO

“

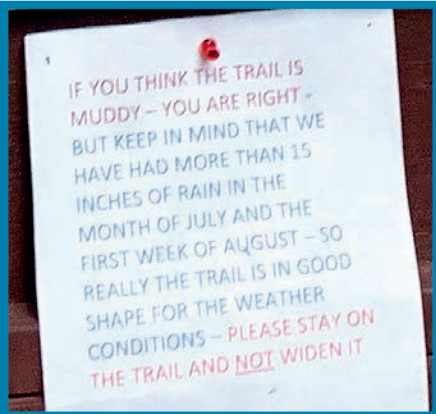
[Completing the Long Trail] means we had to have real determination and grit to finish in the time allotted during the wettest July on record in Vermont.”

— ANGELA “GOLDBLOCKS” SCHNUERCH, 54, NAPLES, NEW YORK

“

There were many days of rain during my trek-this meant wet shoes, putting on wet clothes every day, and moving forward even when things were uncomfortable. The resilience it takes to be an end-to-ender is something that I will continue to carry with me throughout my life.”

— STEPHANIE “TWISTER” NADEAU, 29, AUGUSTA, MAINE



Climate change projections say Vermont will become wetter and warmer. More intense and frequent rains already cause more erosion and mud, leaving less time for the trail to dry between storms. Much of the southern Long Trail has soil types prone to mud, and lies in low gaps and valleys, often along rivers, streams and wetlands.

So the notorious “Vermud” will probably remain troublesome there. The club monitors conditions, and responds when possible: installing puncheon (wooden walkways) or stonework to raise the trail; improving drainage; and sometime relocating the trail to drier ground.

The club now plans field operations both responding to and anticipating more extreme weather. Preparing for increased use as well as worse weather requires large capital investments, already under way in some of the muddiest spots. This summer, professional Long Trail Patrol crews will finish a three-year project rerouting eroding trails near Stratton Pond, and the Volunteer Long Trail Patrol will spend six weeks hardening a bad stretch of trail from Dunville Hollow to Harmon Hill.



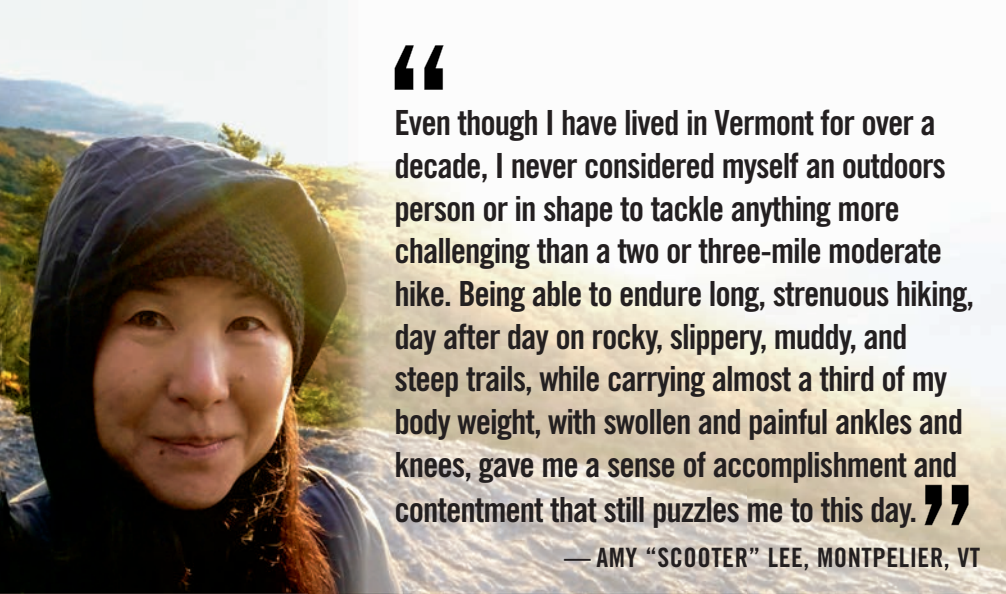
Michael "Slyngshot" Heald, Newport Center, VT
 Henry "Breaker" Healy, Mt Horeb, WI
 Cody Hecht, Somerville, MA
 Elise "Aloha" Hedglen, Wakefield, RI
 Kevin "Just Kevin" Hegarty, Melrose, MA
 Acadia "Denali" Hegedus, Middlebury, VT
 Jesse "Chipmunk" Hegney, Saugerties, NY
 Joseph "Gator, Flying J, Crawl" Hendon, Homer, AK
 Meegana "Violet" Henry, Partlow, VA
 Peter Herz, Bedford, NH
 Esther "Briar Rabbit" Hewitt, Alvin, TX
 Julie "Smurf" Higgins, Stowe, VT
 Daniel "Doctor Dent" Himmelstein, Hanover, NH
 Robin "Miss America" Hobbs, Sevierville, TN
 Bradley "B-Rad" Hodgdon, Waterbury, VT
 Brad "The Solution" Hodge, Pepperell, MA
 Lindsay "Kitkat" Holland, Grand Isle, VT
 Grant "Moses" Holtan, Yonkers, NY
 Andrew "Pacer" Hood, Manchester, CT
 Tom "Polar" Hope, West Chester, PA
 Kurt "Sugar Lumps" Houwen, Hoboken, NJ
 Michael "Mighty" Howson, Clarksburg, MD
 Simone "AED" Huot, Grantham, NH
 Amy "Lotus" Johnson, Bennington, VT
 Laurie "Bean" Johnson, Soldotna, AK
 Joshua "Pace Car" Johnson, Saine Augustine, FL
 Buddy "Foxfire" Johnson, Lexington, VA
 Christopher "Times 2" Johnson, Lee, MA
 Natalie "Troop" Johnston, Newtown Square, PA
 Sue "Snowflea" Johnston, Lyndon Center, VT
 Tom "Backwoods" Jones, Avon, CT
 Thomas "Primus" Jones Sr., Pottstown, PA
 Abby "Double A" Kaija, Reading, VT
 Lisa "Quirky" Kaija, Reading, VT
 Lauren "Noodle" Kaija, Portland, ME
 Taylor "Newt" Kapsimalis, Arlington, MA
 Tom "Tom Sawyer" Karakowski, East Brunswick, NJ
 John "Tumbleweed" Karath, Bozeman, MT
 Rachel "Raven" Katler, Northampton, MA
 Cooper "Peep" Katzman, Arlington, MA
 Christopher "Glacier" Keating, Mason, TX
 Sam "Warthog Gang" Kelley-Derzon, Greenland, NH
 Jerry "Rowlings" Kerr, Londonderry, NH
 Liz "Handstand" Kidder, Auburn, NH
 Brian "Skywalker" Kirk, Elkton, MD
 Elizabeth Kirkpatrick, Old Greenwich, CT
 Stacy "Sprout" Kissel, Somerville, MA
 Dana "Ducky" Kluchinski, Philadelphia, PA
 Andrew "Snails" Knight, Concord, NH
 Manda "Sourpatch" Knight, Concord, NH
 Porter Knight, Bristol, VT
 Anneliese "Border Colley" Koenig, South Burlington, VT
 Stacy "Walks with Nacho" Kolcum, Golden, CO
 Isabel "Webs" Koran, Fort Wright, KY
 Jonathan "Doctor Jon" Koresko, Boyertown, PA
 Allison "Juke Box" Korn, Brattleboro, VT
 Peter Kossar, Lebanon, NH
 Pano "Two Pump" Koukopoulos, Woodbury, CT
 Charlie Krebs, Craftsbury, VT
 Joe "Rock Hopper" Krebs, Craftsbury, VT
 Matt "Zeus" Krebs, Craftsbury, VT
 Ruth "Mud Stomper" Krebs, Craftsbury, VT
 William "Meat Hands" Kriewald, Moretown, VT
 Sydney Kula, Tarrytown, NY
 Stefani "Not Today Satan" Kuo, New Haven, CT
 Raneem "Nalgene" Kurzum, Poughkeepsie, NY
 Judy "Pony" LaFrenier, Warwick, MA
 Tim Lalor, Manchester Center, VT
 Michael Landry, Colchester, VT

Nancy Landry, Colchester, VT
 Chuck Landry, Meriden, NH
 Thomas "Brother #4" Lane, Shoreham, NY
 Liam "Brother #1" Lane, Binghamton, NY
 Crystal "Chickadee" Lanpher, Portland, ME
 Steve "Gauntlet" LaRocca, Fitchburg, MA
 Leah "Eagle Eye" LaRocco, Franklin, TN
 Jeff "Boots" Lathrop, West Hartford, VT
 Owen "Stickbug" Lawler, Lexington, MA
 Allie "Grateful" Lawler, Lexington, MA
 Michael "PapaBear" Lebo, Stoddard, NH
 Amy "Scooter" Lee, Montpelier, VT
 Chris Lemelin, Dover, NH
 Marisa Lenetsky, West Chazy, NY
 Christian "Bamboo" Lesage, South Kent, CT
 Melissa "Half Pint" Levy, Bethel, VT
 Gary "Ulysses" Linehan, East Sandwich, MA
 Alexander "Coco" Lopes, Oakland, CA
 Emily "Pints" Lopuski, Shelburne, VT
 Lynne "Wind Walker" Love, Lisbon, CT
 Becca "Tangles" Lubbert, Ansonia, CT
 Sean "Gummybear" Lynch, St. Johnsbury, VT
 Anastasia "Cosmic" Lynn, Burlington, VT
 Timothy "Catamount" Lyons, South Burlington, VT
 Phillip "Jerky" Maciaszek, Washington, DC
 James "Glide" Madden, Niskayuna, NY
 Scott Manas, Miami, FL
 Ryan Mantz, Bedford, MA
 Meaghan "Rapunzel" Martin, Standish, ME
 Sierra "Snorlax" Martin, Burlington, VT
 Michael "Uncle Mikey" Masse, Reading, MA
 Christopher Mathon, Wilmington, VT
 Dickstein "Egg" Matthew, Saint Johnsbury, VT
 Roark "Roark" Maynard, North Smithfield, RI
 Luke "Feed Bag" Mazzoquette, Pasadena, MD
 Seth "Atlas" McAlister, North Hampton, NH
 Lela "Elm" McCaffrey, Richmond, VT
 Kyle McCarty, Fairbanks, AK
 Ainsley "Tiger Lily" McClachrie, Carrabassett Valley, ME
 Danielle "Bean" McDonald, Augusta, ME
 Michele McKee, Charlestown, RI
 Geoff McKee, Charlestown, RI
 Michael McMorrow, Waunakee, WI
 Gabriel Medina, Underhill, VT

Samuel "Backstroke" Meehan, Northfield, VT
 J.W. "Blue II" Mejia, Hinesburg, VT
 Pat "Houlihan" Meredith, Manchester, VT
 Nicole "Humblebee" Michaels, East Northport, NY
 Ember "Trail Spice" Middleton, Denver, CO
 Lizzy "Upside" Miller, Yardley, PA
 Mary "Sunshine" Misavage, Londonderry, VT
 Elizabeth "Rave" Mohan, Plaistow, NH
 Mary "Restless" Montigny, Portsmouth, RI
 David Morrissey, Salisbury, VT
 Alison "Onel" Morrow, Montpelier, VT
 Cindy "Happy Feet" Mowry, Peru, VT
 Millie "Early Bird" Mugica, Hollis, NH
 Peter "Latch" Muhitch, Exeter, RI
 Araceli "Full Circle" Muñoz Chaira, Hyattsville, MD
 Peg "Worth it" Myhre, Weybridge, VT
 John "Duct Tape" Myhre, Weybridge, VT
 Stephanie "Twister" Nadeau, Augusta, ME
 Paul "Gobbles" Neal, Cuyahoga Falls, OH
 Elizabeth "Zeke" Newbury, Noank, CT
 Abigail Newby-Kew, Douglas, AK
 Emily "Ace" Newcomer, Henderson, NV
 Rebecca Nissan, Great Neck, NY
 Liam "Fungi" Nokes, Arlington, MA
 Kerstin "Jazz" Nordstrom, Northampton, MA
 Emma "Rainbows" Norton, Kingston, NH
 Sara "Tak" Nosack, Vernon, CT
 Joseph Nosack, Vernon, CT
 Katherine "Id" Obara, Rehoboth, MA
 Michael "Mr. Smurf" O'Connor, Stowe, VT
 Michael O'Donnell, Austin, TX
 Jenna ".4" Ofano, Richmond, VA
 Nicolás Mancera de Olloqui, Aguascalientes, Mexico
 Michael "2 tired Scoutmasters" O'Neil, York, ME
 Nelson "SLO-MO" Orta, Lake Placid, FL
 Sunshine Orta, West Henrietta, NY
 William "Will-Power" Osborn, Elkhorn, NE
 Brian Ouellette, Brookline, MA
 Andrew "Ripple" Oughton, Manchester, NH
 Tom "Fudge Foot" Overbaugh, Newark, DE
 Zachery "Watermelon man" Owens, Asheville, NC
 Jeff "Moonbeam" Padgett, Burlington, VT
 David "FBomb" Panofsky, Madison, WI
 Penny Parker, Cavendish, VT



PHOTO BY EMMA SEKERCAN



“
Even though I have lived in Vermont for over a decade, I never considered myself an outdoors person or in shape to tackle anything more challenging than a two or three-mile moderate hike. Being able to endure long, strenuous hiking, day after day on rocky, slippery, muddy, and steep trails, while carrying almost a third of my body weight, with swollen and painful ankles and knees, gave me a sense of accomplishment and contentment that still puzzles me to this day.”

— AMY “SCOOTER” LEE, MONTEPELIER, VT

Andrew “Hoodwala” Parmelee, Hudson, MA
 Alan “Sunup” Paschell, Calais, VT
 Jeffrey “Turtle” Pascoe, South Burlington, VT
 Kera “Sunny” Passante, Kennett Square, PA
 Shiv “Sage” Patel, Dudley, MA
 Evan “Rocket Man” Pauling, New London, NH
 Amy Peacock, Mendon, VT
 Bruce Peacock, Mendon, VT
 Richard Pearlstein, Amherst, MA
 Sabine “Foureyes” Pelton, Lewiston, ME
 Charlotte “Stylin” Pendock, Harrisville, NH
 Dave “Photon” Peterneil, Westford, MA
 Tom “Granddaddy” Pettrey, Lexington, KY
 Greg “Peanuts” Phillips, Hanover, NH
 Travis “Hopper” Phillips, Colchester, VT
 Anna “Traipse” Pinkerton, Chevy Chase, MD
 Sara “Ghost” Plunkett, Oakland, MD
 Russell Primeau, White River Junction, VT
 Robert “A minus” Primeau, Newport, VT
 Richard “Cruiser” Provost, Bristol, VT
 Sara “TUpT (Taped Up Turtle)” Quesnel, Whiting, VT
 Brock “MegaMind” Quesnel, Whiting, VT
 Sharon “Birthday girl” Radak, Canandaigua, NY
 David “Devo” Radka, Old Saybrook, CT
 Jeffry “Thirstyboots” Reilly, Northfield, VT
 Alex “Krinkles” Reiner, Littleton, NH
 Kimberly “Coconut” Rheagume, New Haven, VT
 Andrew “Speed Racer” Richards, Palm Springs, FL
 Kerry “Honey Badger” Rickman, Blue Springs, MO
 Don “Splash” Rickman, Blue Springs, MO
 Shelby “Haulin’ Oats” Ridinger, Minneapolis, MN
 John “Just in Case” Rieger, North Syracuse, NY
 Charlie “Bloodfoot” Roberts, Putney, VT
 Alan “Wizard” Roberts, Putney, VT
 Derek “8 Lives” Roberts, Bethlehem, NH
 Will Robinson, Middlebury, VT
 Max “Siddhartha” Robinson, Portland, ME
 Ariel “Gatorade” Robinson, Boston, MA
 Andrea “Moth” Robinson, Glenmont, NY
 Luis Rodriguez, Virginia Beach, VA
 William “Carver” Rogers, South Burlington, VT
 Megan “Swiss Army” Rogers, Banks, OR
 Stephen “Smokescreen” Rolle, Buffalo, NY
 Bill “Add on” Root, Charlotte, VT
 Karen “Tailwind” Root, Charlotte, VT
 Sharon “46er2” Rosenthal, Arlington, VT
 Douglas “Faceplant” Roth, Manchester, CT
 Beth “Pied Piper” Rowntree, Shelburne, VT
 Steven “Pezboy” Roy, Amherst, NH
 Laura “Lert” Rushfeldt, Arlington, MA

Rishi “Bliss” Sadhir, Jamaica Plain, MA
 Deborah “Bota” Sadler, Richmond, VT
 Mary “Bolder Patrol” Sanders, Boulder, CO
 Krissy “Dr. Chacos” Schelling, Burlington, VT
 Kenyon “Whistlin’ Kiwi” Schick, Newfields, NH
 Skyler “Trouble” Schneck, Ashland, OR
 Angela “Goldilocks” Schnuerch, Naples, NY
 Nick Schram, Killington, VT
 Chuck “The 2 Tired Scoutmasters” Schwab, Belmont, MA
 Daniel Seeley, Richford, VT
 Emma “Giggles” Sekercan, Burlington, VT
 Ken “Up & Over” Sgorbati, Cheshire, CT
 William Shakespeare, Marlboro, VT
 Ryan “Channel 4” Shea, Somerville, MA
 Dwight “Ike” Sheppard, Nine Mile Falls, WA
 Andrew “Lynx and Spruce” Sheridan, Ballston Spa, NY
 Adam “Spacemaker” Sherman, Bethlehem, CT
 Tom “Stellar-T” Sherry, Fairview Park, OH
 Danielle Silva, Littleton, NH
 Jonathan “Lil Sebastian” Silva, Littleton, NH
 Megan “Sunshine” Sinsley, Raleigh, NC
 John “Numbers” Sinsley, Raleigh, NC
 Keith “Mustachio” Skaggs, St Charles, MO
 Bria “Breeze” Sloane, Richmond, VT
 Taylor “Sunset” Smith, Westborough, MA
 Bradley Smith, Salem, OH
 Lyndsay “Jungle Jane” Phillips Senger, Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil
 Márcio “Panda Bear” Senger, Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil
 Emily “Sticky” Smith, Durango, CO
 Molly Smith, Charlotte, VT
 David “Moentblanc” Smith, Adams, MA
 Grace Smith, Burlington, VT
 Kirk “The Captain” Snyder, Wenatchee, WA
 Julia “Puddin’ Tane” Snyder, Burlington, VT
 Janet “JC” Sotola, Altamont, NY
 Jordan “Not Yet” Speer, Salem, MA
 Becky “Snap” Squier, Watertown, MA
 Joyce “Goldilocks” St. Jean, Brattleboro, VT
 Lisa “Ol Beagle” Stanton, Richmond, VT
 Caroline “Gigs” Starace, Greenfield Center, NY
 Benjamin “Just Ben” Stark, Yorktown Heights, NY
 William “Osprey” Steinharter, Weston, CT
 Peter Stern, Westerville, OH
 Parker “Copilot” Strawbridge, Hartland, VT
 George Sullivan, Natick, MA
 Micheal Sutton, Marietta, GA
 Matt “Chickory” Sweger, Carlisle, PA
 Brenna “Scoops” Sweetman, Burlington, VT

Janey “Carjack” Tallarida, Medford, MA
 Tim Tanner, Seattle, WA
 Mitchell “Popcorn” Taylor, Austin, TX
 Sean Teall, Clarence, NY
 Kevin “Surprise Attack” Teets, Colchester, VT
 David “Teets” Teetsel, Walworth, NY
 Olivia “Rocky” Thomas, Burlington, VT
 Jessica “Bird Song” Thomas, Craftsbury Common, VT
 Clyde “Clydesdale” Tibbetts, Auburn, ME
 Lucia “Breakfast Queen” Tiererova, Boston, MA
 Sarah “Turtle” Tilley, Arlington, VT
 Ryan “Cous Cous” Tindall, Brooklyn, NY
 Susannah Tracy Small, Chester, MA
 Kelly Tull, Fiskdale, MA
 Adam “Flintstoned” Tull, Fiskdale, MA
 Grace “Grass” Turnbull, Harvard, MA
 Tressa Urie, Craftsbury Common, VT
 Crystal “Achilles” Valente, Winooski, VT
 Daniel “Redtail” Van Der Vliet, Richmond, VT
 JC “Catmando” Van Etten, Daytona Beach, FL
 Henry “Fire Hazard” Van Zuyle, Flagstaff, AZ
 Molly “Scout” vanLuling, Gorham, ME
 Alex Vaschillo, Redmond, WA
 Michael “MichiganMike” Vasile, Shelby Township, MI
 Celeste “Blue” Venolia, Williamstown, MA
 Ella “Minnie Pearl” Vorenberg, New York, NY
 Justin “HOME FREE” Waag, Denver, CO
 Matthew “Wags” Wagner, Saegertown, PA
 Ariel “Pig’s Ear” Walcutt, Arlington, VA
 Jack Walker, Thurmont, MD
 Ginger “Treefrog” Wallis, Thetford Center, VT
 Dave “Weatherbeard” Walsh, Litchfield, NH
 Marcela “Mariposa” Weber, Knoxville, TN
 Benjamin Weber-Sparrow, Berkeley, CA
 Riley Weddle, Jacksonville Beach, FL
 Ella Wegman-Lawless, Lake Leelanau, MI
 Kurt Wehde, Plainfield, NH
 Maria “Detox” White, Evansville, IN
 Ken “Scarecrow” Whitehead, Enosburg Falls, VT
 Phoebe “White Rabbit” Whiteside, Princeton, NJ
 Todd Whittingslow, Round Rock, TX
 Emily “Scooter Bug” Wight, Burlington, VT
 Kaela “Pizza” Wilbur, Holderness, NH
 Addison Will, Tulsa, OK
 Daniel Willen, Cambridge, MA
 Bill Willen, Glastonbury, CT
 Morgan Wolaver, Richmond, VT
 Melissa Wolaver, Richmond, VT
 Adele Wolfson, Richford, VT
 Chris “Little Tree (L.T.)” Wood, Dover, NH
 Ren “Alpine” Workman, Beverly, MA
 Timothy “Bellow” Wuestneck, Manasquan, NJ
 Nathan “Classic” Yohey, Columbus, OH
 Asha “Baby Corn” Yunga Korn, Brattleboro, VT
 Lucas “Delicious” Yunga Korn, Brattleboro, VT
 Marco “Pan Caliente” Yunga Tacuri, Brattleboro, VT
 John “JZ” Zaleskas, Minneapolis, MN
 Abby Zani, West Brookfield, VT
 Alyssa “Perfect Stranger” Zevallos, Mount Joy, PA
 Kolby “Alpha” Ziemendorf, Burnt Hills, NY

CONGRATULATIONS to the latest side-to-sider who hiked the 88 side trails on the Long Trail System, totaling 166 miles!

Carol Van Dyke, Stowe, VT



Catching up with GMC Corporate Sponsor Athletic Brewing Company



FUNDING THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB'S WORK takes memberships, individual donations, private and public grants, and support from corporate sponsors. GMC is grateful to Athletic Brewing Company for its incredible sponsorship at the Camel's Hump level (\$15,000 or more) in 2020 and at the Mansfield level (\$30,000 or more) in 2021.

As some traditional funding sources become less dependable, corporate support from partners like Athletic Brewing have become essential. The company's commitment to investing in local trail organizations has enabled GMC to pay for 8 weeks of trail crew time.

We recently caught up with Athletic to see why the company considers giving back to trails so important. Bill Shufelt, who founded Athletic, was looking for great-tasting beer for a life in which other commitments and priorities outranked alcohol. Today Athletic is one of the most popular non-alcoholic brews in the country. You may have seen it at your co-op, or tried a sample at a local running race or at GMC's trail magic table on Long Trail Day.

In addition to its mission of "beer for the modern lifestyle," Athletic leads in corporate giving, with its "Two for the Trails" program. From the company's founding, two percent of all sales has been donated to organizations that protect and restore local trails and parks.

In 2020 Athletic connected with the Green Mountain Club as steward of the mountains and land that surrounded Bill as he grew up. "I've been more or less in the Green Mountains in all different seasons for 40 years or so," Bill

says. He grew up skiing at Bromley Mountain Resort and hiking in southern Vermont, then attended Middlebury College, where he continued hiking on the Long Trail.

Athletic's \$15,000 donation for trail work made the company GMC's most generous corporate sponsor in 2020, when the club's funding was thrown wildly into flux by the Covid-19 pandemic. Nationwide, Athletic has donated \$1.3 million to local trails organizations.

In 2021 Athletic doubled its commitment to GMC, pledging \$30,000 to the Long Trail Legacy Campaign to improve the quality of the northern Long Trail to match the rest of the trail. GMC was able to staff a trail crew for six weeks that season constructing a stone staircase and other trail hardening measures north and south of Route 242 near Jay Peak.

And after what felt like forever, pandemic restrictions eased enough for Athletic's East

Coast team in Stratford, Connecticut, to volunteer for a day on the trail. Four employees spent a rainy June day disassembling old puncheon around Stratton Pond, preparing for an important reroute of the LT/AT in the area.

"Our team had an awesome time working at the Stratton Pond project with Lorne [Currier] and Mike [DeBonis]," said Matt Place, Athletic's Regional Sales Manager in New England, "The work was wet and difficult. We were tearing up an old trail so that it could be set further away from the pond."

"We have done trail days in other parts of the country but this was our first in Vermont - and in mud-season-like conditions at that. Lorne and Mike were super helpful, giving us a rundown of our work and teaching us a little bit of history about the trails along the way."

The company is now a certified B-Corp, a designation indicating the company meets high standards of social and environmental performance. Its Two for the Trails program has become a fund granting \$1 million annually to local trails organizations nationwide. The company also dedicates one percent of sales to initiatives furthering social justice, equity and inclusion.

Athletic's support of GMC continues in 2022. We are seeking to continue our beneficial relationship by applying for a grant for the three-year Burrows Trail Rehabilitation Project starting this season.

"It's not just about money and sending a check, it's about actually getting out and helping, because there's real work to be done," said Bill. "It's great for our team to be out, all different departments working together, and having a good team day that's fun and wholesome out in the world." Although he now works in San Diego, Athletic will arrange with GMC's volunteer coordinator for another day of trail work in Vermont this season, probably helping start the Burrows Trail Project.

Thank you, Athletic, for your continued support of the Green Mountain Club, Vermont's trails, and outdoor recreation opportunities nationwide.

For more information about corporate sponsorship and support of the Green Mountain Club, contact Development Assistant **Erica Harris**, eharris@greenmountainclub.org.



Athletic Brewing Company staff disassemble puncheon around Stratton Pond as part of a volunteer work day in 2021. Photo Credit Matt Place.



The season marks another step toward recovery from the pandemic, as we will field the Volunteer Long Trail Patrol for the first time since 2019. In addition, we will field three Long Trail Patrol crews and staff 16 backcountry caretaker sites, mirroring the

As I wrote in the last issue, we focused on increasing pay and on other ways to build a more equitable program that is accessible to more applicants. That work paid off: we saw more visits to our hiring webpage and more completed applications than in recent years. However, we still didn't get enough interest from folks with trail work experience, which is of course a baseline standard for skilled crews. That foreclosed a fourth crew.

We will continue to review our processes of planning capital and restoration projects to ensure that we get the best return on investment, we attract the best talent to our crews, and the Long Trail System will be sustainable for the next 100 years.






















— KEEGAN TIERNEY
DIRECTOR OF FIELD PROGRAMS



Justin Towers, Burrows Trail Project Coordinator, scouts Burrows Trail spike sites.



Crews will repair trail over three years by returning trail to its original width, repairing failed drainages and installing staircases and checksteps.

LOCATION	PROJECT
Seth Warner Overnight Site	  Relocate and replace shelter and privy two miles north of the current site.
LT/AT from Dunville Hollow to Harmon Hill	 The Volunteer Long Trail Patrol returns after a two-year pandemic-induced hiatus to spend 6 weeks working on the LT/AT from Dunville Hollow to Harmon Hill.
Kid Gore Shelter	  Restore shelter roof and walls; finish touches on 2021-built privy.
Stratton Pond – Trails Stratton Pond – Facilities	  The complex network of trails and overnight sites at busy Stratton Pond will receive a final big push of trail and infrastructure projects. We will relocate and realign spur trails, the Lye Brook Trail, and the LT/AT; and finalize decommission of old trail routes. The backcountry construction crew will build a new shelter at Stratton View, formerly tents only, to add overnight capacity.
Spruce Peak Lodge	 Address powder post beetle infestation.
Griffit Lake—Old Job Trail	 Replace puncheon and complete stonework (with VYCC [Vermont Youth Conservation Corps]).
Lost Pond Shelter Old Job Shelter	 Replace exhausted pit privies with moldering privies.
Minerva Hinchey Shelter	 Relocate the shelter 0.2 miles onto public land – currently sits on private property.
LT/AT North of Governor Clement Shelter	 Restore waterbars, add check steps, and improve drainage on LT between Governor Clement Shelter and Little Killington (GMC and VYCC crews).
Bucklin Trail (Killington Peak)	 Short relocation to address severe erosion.
LT/AT from Cooper Lodge to Jungle Junction	 Rehabilitate about 3 miles of LT/AT, a continuation of work begun in 2016. Focus on erosion control structures, including drainage and checksteps.
Sunrise Shelter and Privy (2023)	  Airdrop materials in preparation for 2023 relocation.
LT at Cooley Glen Shelter	 Harden treadway.
Burrows Trail (Camel's Hump)	 In conjunction with FPR and with assistance from VYCC and NorthWoods Stewardship Center crews, we will begin a major three-year complete rebuild to return the trail to a uniform width, repair failed drainages, and install staircases and checksteps to address severe erosion.
Sterling Pond Trail (Smuggler's Notch)	 Restore short section of severely eroded trail with new armored stone staircase.
LT from Tillotson Camp to Haystack Mountain; Rt 242 to Bruce Peak	 Continue upgrade. Funded by Long Trail Legacy Campaign.
Beaver Dam Cabin (Wheeler Pond, Northeast Kingdom)	 Rebuild rental cabin, closed in 2016 as unsafe. Funded by Long Trail Legacy Campaign.



LT/AT FROM DUNVILLE HOLLOW TO HARMON HILL

Volunteers, led by Dylan Mark, will install puncheon and other trail hardening measures on this particularly muddy stretch.



STRATTON POND—TRAILS

Kevin Hart, Dylan Mark, and Ry Samosiuk scout trail maintenance to be done at Stratton Pond.



STRATTON POND—FACILITIES

Scout Phillips, Backcountry Construction Field Supervisor, pre-cut pieces of the timber frame for the new shelter at Stratton Pond earlier this spring.



Volunteers Learn Sawyer Safety to Improve Trails

BY ANGIE HILSMAN



After the Game of Logging participants fell a tree, the stump is evaluated for accuracy of cuts, angles, depth placement, the size of the hinge, and fibers left behind. Participants earn points based on the quality of the stump; the points aren't necessary for sawyer certification, but rather introduce friendly competition into the training. Here, instructor David Birdsall evaluates and scores a stump while Mike Peckar, Harlow Carpenter, Peter, Hildick-Smith, Jim Robertson, Dave Ratti, and Matt Vezina look on.

In 200 yards, there were about 15 trees across the trail, each 18 to 20 inches in diameter,” recalls Bob Hagen, Trails and Shelters chair of GMC’s Upper Valley Ottauquechee (UVO) Section. The red spruce forest on the 46-mile stretch of Appalachian Trail that the UVO Section maintains is prone to blowdowns, he laughs.

As a section volunteer, Bob helps clear those downed trees. It’s why he asked GMC to organize training on chainsaw and crosscut saw safety. “It becomes a safety issue because [untrained] people take care of blowdowns casually so they can keep using the trails,” he says.

Operating a saw doesn’t typically require a license, even though about 36,000 people are treated for chainsaw-related injuries each year, according to the CDC. That

significant risk is why the U.S. Forest Service requires federal employees, cooperators, and volunteers to be certified before working with saws on its land: to maintain consistency and safety.

The certification requirement is important to GMC because eight sections and 154 adopters maintain trails and shelters on federal land, including the Green Mountain National Forest and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, a unit of the National Park Service. Certification not only triggers insurance coverage for volunteers in case of damage or injury, but equips them to respond to blowdowns promptly and safely, explains GMC Volunteer Coordinator Lorne Currier.

“Providing regular chainsaw trainings is an important component to maintaining

the Long Trail to appropriate standards, especially as climate change increases the frequency of high-wind and storm events,” says Lorne.

That’s where Northeast Woodland Training (NEWT) comes in. GMC hired NEWT co-owner David Birdsall to certify 30 of its volunteers this spring. David, a consulting forester and portable sawmill owner and operator, organizes and teaches continuing education to loggers, and directs the Vermont Logger Education to Advance Professionalism (LEAP) program, which certifies loggers in Vermont.

David uses the Game of Logging, a world-renowned curriculum, to teach chainsaw safety, efficiency, and productivity. The Game of Logging was developed in the 1960s by Swedish logger Soren Ericksson

and is the oldest international sawyer training organization.

“No one in our training group had done the Game of Logging before,” says Peter Hildick-Smith, a Manchester Section volunteer. At the end of the three-day training, he and his peers demonstrate the concepts they’ve learned and practiced – including bucking (delimbing and cutting a downed tree into logs), safely cutting a heavily leaning tree, and felling a tree.

Some participants are foresters and loggers. Peter, however, is an amateur sawyer. He describes cutting down an apple tree on his property: “It was chaos in my mind. I’d owned a chainsaw for 20 years, but was clueless about how to use it safely.”

Understandably so. “For folks who are unfamiliar with a saw, there are a lot of physical forces that can catch them by surprise,” explains Keegan Tierney, GMC Director of Field Programs. Those forces aren’t just in the saw itself, which can kick back if its operator uses the wrong part of the bar.

Wood is flexible and can move quickly, Keegan says. Think of a bent tree; it holds a lot of energy, not unlike a taut rubber band. Cut the rubber band, and it snaps back. “You can kill yourself with a two-inch maple sapling that’s bent the wrong way,” says Keegan. “Sawyer training teaches folks about these dangers and how to identify and mitigate them.”

Through the Game of Logging, GMC volunteers implement a five-point safety check on the chainsaw, plan an escape route, and fell a tree to hit a target. “It’s liberating to take this scary unknown and do it in a way that’s clearly defined. It’s very planned, very methodical,” says Peter.

The Forest Service saw certification, including CPR and First Aid, expires after three years. Just as an ordinary driver’s license won’t let you drive a semi, each certification level reflects a volunteer’s expertise. Most GMC volunteers are certified to use a saw without supervision on federal land. Keegan hopes to organize recertification courses each year.

Bob now has three certified sawyers in the UVO Section, so that red spruce forest should be less of a headache. “Regular trainings are a consistent and sustainable way to support volunteers,” he says.



PHOTO BY STEVE NORDBORG

Sawyers align their cuts to meet at a 70-degree angle. Until they “snip the trigger,” or the final cut, the tree is relatively stable



PHOTO BY STEVE NORDBORG

Instructor David Birdsall evaluates Hubey Folsom’s work felling a heavily leaning white birch while volunteers look on.



PHOTO BY STEVE NORDBORG

Volunteers learn to cut a leaning tree safely.



PHOTO BY STEVE NORDBORG

Volunteers learn to identify the hazards of cutting a bent tree, and to mitigate them.



The Future of the Long Trail Protection Campaign: Strategic Conservation Planning is Underway

In 1986 the Green Mountain Club realized that changes in landownership in the Northern Forest region threatened the continuity of the northern Long Trail. Handshake agreements were no longer enough to secure access to the trail. More than 60 miles of the trail in northern Vermont crossed private land, with 30 miles on land for sale, and the remaining miles were in danger of development, trail closings, and postings.

Most of the southernmost 200 miles of the trail had been protected earlier, since they passed through the public lands of the Green Mountain National Forest, the Appalachian National Scenic Trail corridor owned by the National Park Service, and state forests and parks. But the northern portion of the trail was largely on private land.

The future of America's first long-distance hiking trail was at risk. In response, GMC launched the Long Trail Protection Campaign, a partnership among GMC,

other land trust non-profits, the State of Vermont, and donors, all working to create a permanent, protected corridor for the Long Trail from Massachusetts to Canada.

In the 36 years since, the Long Trail Protection Campaign has completed more than 100 trail protection projects, conserved more than 25,000 acres of land, and protected more than 78 miles of the Long Trail. Today only 6.25 miles of Long Trail remain without legal protection, and GMC continues to negotiate with landowners to legally protect the Long Trail as opportunities arise.

I joined GMC in 2016 to manage GMC's Land Conservation Program, after much of this tremendous conservation work had been completed. My job was to steward the many acres the club had conserved, and to carry on the work of the Long Trail Protection Campaign.

As I delved into the records, I was humbled by the momentous work GMC

had already done, and by the program's continuing charge: Secure a permanent protected corridor for the entire Long Trail. The deeper I delved, however, the more questions about that charge I uncovered. What should be considered as a "protected" section of Long Trail? How wide a "corridor" must the Long Trail have to qualify as the "footpath in the wilderness"? Should the width of the corridor be uniform, or vary depending on landscape and context? Should all side trails also be legally protected? If so, are the present routes of side trails appropriate for investment in legal protection, or should some of them be rerouted or left unprotected?

I realized the program had a choice: to structure its work as GMC had managed the campaign so far, or to take a step back to reassess the needs of the Long Trail System, and work to develop a 'strategic conservation plan'. I chose to try the latter.



PHOTO BY GEOFF COMMONS

Strategic conservation planning is a framework used by land trust organizations to plan conservation goals, and ensure they are working proactively to protect the resources they aim to conserve. By taking time to plan, an organization can assess the current need for land protection and what threats and challenges its lands face, set updated goals and measure success in meeting them, identify partnership opportunities, and develop an updated plan of action.

A lot has changed in GMC, Vermont, and the field of land conservation in the last 36 years. Taking time to reflect on where we are today and map our organization's priorities for the future seemed like the best path. So in the spring of 2021 I asked the GMC Land Conservation Committee to form a working group to help me develop a strategic conservation plan. Together we're in a two-year planning effort to chart conservation goals for the Long Trail System.

So far we've defined what we hope to accomplish through this planning effort (see sidebar) and the values that will guide the campaign. We've drafted criteria for whether a section of trail will be considered permanently protected, partially protected, or unprotected. We've also assembled the mapping database and datasets that describe the status of the trail system, and identified the parcels of land along its trails.

The planning effort requires regular working group meetings, GIS mapping, and recording the process the club has used and decisions it has made so they can be reassessed to decide what to do in the future.

We are mid-way through the planning process, and would love to hear what you think of GMC's land conservation work. A survey, at bit.ly/GMCSCPSurvey will be open until August 1 for responses to specific questions, or you're welcome to email me directly at mflanigan@greenmountainclub.org.

By this time next year we hope to have a final report for our members outlining the vision, goals and challenges, and the path GMC plans to use to continue the tremendous work of the Long Trail Protection Campaign.

— MOLLIE FLANIGAN
DIRECTOR OF LAND CONSERVATION

THE GOALS of GMC's Long Trail Protection Campaign strategic conservation plan are to:

- Formalize its values and geographic scope
- Establish metrics of success
- Assess the need and process for protecting the Long Trail System
- Update conservation criteria for corridor land conservation projects
- Identify and build partnerships
- Elevate awareness and support

Weigh in on GMC's land conservation work with a survey at bit.ly/GMCSCPSurvey by August 1.



Mollie Flanigan

PHOTO BY SHERI LARSEN



The Long Trail News

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LONG TRAIL PROTECTION TASKFORCE AND DUES INCREASE ARE MAJOR ACTIONS BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The responsibility of the **Long Trail Protection Taskforce** will be to review the status of Vermont's Long Trail on privately owned lands, with an emphasis on lands known to be for sale in Lamoille, Franklin and Orleans Counties, and to recommend to the Green Mountain Club a strategy for permanently protecting both the continuity and scenic values of the Long Trail.

The Taskforce will have completed its mission upon the submission of its findings, with the Green Mountain Club responsible for adopting and implementing, as appropriate, the actions and strategies recommended. A report is desired on or before April 30, 1986.

◀ The February 1986 *Long Trail News* cover announces the Long Trail Protection Campaign. 36 years later, what's next?



David Celaya and friends — End to Enders, 2021

Outdoor Gear Exchange is Hiking (for) the Long Trail

Outdoor Gear Exchange, Vermont's largest locally owned gear shop, is sponsoring a relay thru-hike of the Long Trail to raise money for the GMC! On June 6 small groups of OGE staff members and friends began tackling two- to three-day sections of trail, passing a flag ahead on their way from Massachusetts to Canada. By the time you read this, the team should be near the Winooski River Footbridge, headed for Mount Mansfield and the rugged northern trail.

The relay hikers hope to raise \$25,000 – enough to fund a full trail crew for a month on the Long Trail System. \$9,500 had already been raised by the end of May. The event has drawn additional support from beloved outdoor brands Darn Tough, Nemo, Oboz, and others, enabling GMC to strengthen our relationships with these corporate partners.

Follow the adventure on OGE's social media (@outdoorgearexchange), and participate by donating. For \$25 or more you will receive a coupon good for 20 percent off one full-price item at OGE – the perfect way to gear up for hiking season! [Gearx.com/lthike](https://www.gearx.com/lthike).



Long Trail Day is September 10

Long Trail Day returns for 2022, and we again invite you to celebrate the joy of hiking and supporting the club by committing to raise \$272, one thin dollar for each mile of the Long Trail. Register solo or with a team, share your love of hiking, and connect with friends, family and your hiking community.

Then on September 10, join GMC members, staff, and section volunteers for an in-person day of hiking trails all over Vermont. Expect cold drinks and snacks, some opportunities for guided hikes, and the chance to meet other hikers at Barnes Camp below Smugglers' Notch, and elsewhere in the state.

More details are coming soon at greenmountainclub.org/longtrailday



Alicia DiCocco and Erica Harris giving out trail magic at Barnes Camp.



PHOTO BY CHLOE MILLER

Mollie Klepack Flanigan secures a stretch of string to mark the footpath in the alpine zone on Sunset Ridge.

What's that String?

If you've hiked Camel's Hump, Mount Mansfield or Mount Abraham, you've seen low-lying white string delineating trails above treeline. Yes, it helps hikers find their way on exposed bedrock. But more importantly, it protects the fragile plants that grow only on the approximately 200 acres of Vermont's alpine zones.

These plants survive difficult conditions on the thin soil of the cold, wind-blown summits of Vermont's 4,000-footers, and even thrive there. But they can't take trampling by hikers and dogs.

Of course, it's convenient to step off trail to snap a picture or have a snack. And you may think you're settling down in a soft patch of grass. But that's actually Bigelow's sedge, extremely rare in Vermont, and heedless hikers are one of its biggest threats. Other rare and beautiful alpine flora include diapensia, alpine sandwort and bearberry willow, and that's just the beginning of a long list.

So before hiking season officially starts on Memorial Day Weekend, GMC staff members set out to "string the trail" on popular hiking routes in the alpine zone. On May 13 this year we closed our laptops for a

day, met the new lead caretakers, and spent an 80-degree day stringing the Sunset Ridge Trail. We pulled weathered and misplaced string from years past, and delineated a five-to ten-foot corridor for the mile from treeline to the Long Trail. We tried to provide hikers a variety of options on steep sections and for breaks, while still protecting patches of alpine vegetation.

Stringing is a great pre-season tradition for our staff, especially since many of us are still working from home. We get to hang out with coworkers, learn about alpine ecology from GMC Field Supervisor Nigel Bates and Lead Caretaker Kate Songer, and prepare the trail for hiking season.

Next time you're in the alpine zone, note the string, and ensure you're doing your part to remain on the trail and off the plants. Please remember these tips:

- Do the "rock walk"—remain on durable surfaces within the marked boundaries. If you do encounter vegetation on the trail, try to step over or around it.
- Please do not move rocks to build "cairns" or other structures. Rocks help secure the limited soil of the alpine zone, which plants need to take root.

- Leash your dogs. Well-behaved dogs are welcome on the Long Trail System. However, they can't recognize fragile vegetation, so they must remain leashed and close to your side in the alpine zone.
- Do not camp or build campfires in the alpine zone.

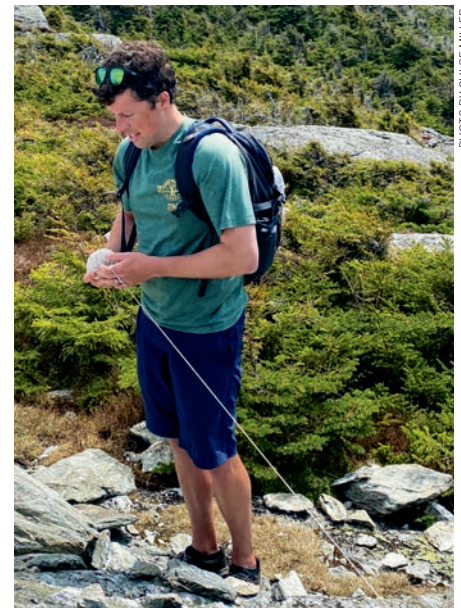


PHOTO BY CHLOE MILLER

Rick Dugan secures a stretch of string.



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*See more from
this year's
End-to-Enders
inside!*



Left to right, Allison “Juke Box” Korn, 8-year-old Asha “Baby Corn” Yunga Korn, Marco “Pan Caliente” Yunga Tacuri, 12-year-old Lucas “Delicious” Yunga Korn, and dog Mashi celebrate completing their End to End hike on August 17, 2021. Allison wrote, “We had zero backpacking experience, but we made up for that with our ambition.”

Inspired? Get Started Backpacking with These Tips

Clothes and Gear

You don't have to spend a ton of money, but good gear that fits will make a big difference in your comfort. Your pack should fit your body (try on several at an outdoor gear retailer) and hold all your gear (45-65 liter capacity, typically). Distribute weight in your pack evenly so it doesn't pull on your shoulders or back. Most weight should sit on your hips.

For clothing, avoid cotton on all but the sunniest and driest of day hikes. Otherwise, follow the WISE acronym, carrying at minimum:

- Wicking (a quick-dry base layer).
- Insulating (a warm mid-layer).
- Shell (a water- and wind-proof outer layer).
- Extra (down jacket, hat, gloves, socks).

Wear sturdy hiking boots or shoes, and feel confident of their fit before a long hike. Dry wool socks are your best friend. Keep tabs on tender hotspots, which turn into blisters and can quickly ruin a hiking trip if unattended.

Get Started Outside

- Get comfortable day hiking with a backpack.
- Build core strength to improve balance and to handle a heavy pack.
- Increase distance, pack weight, and challenge slowly.
- Do a one-night overnight in the backyard or a short hike to test gear and skills.
- Stay injury free with stretching, yoga, and strength training.

Wildlife and Food Storage

We're guests in the woods, and animals like our food. If we don't properly store food, we risk exposing animals to it, which is harmful for both wildlife and humans.

Store food and all other smellables in a bear canister (the most foolproof method) or Ursack; use a GMC-provided bear box (at some shelters but not all), or properly hang a bear bag (nigh impossible at some LT overnight sites).

Sleeping

There are lean-tos, shelters, and tent sites on the Long Trail System and elsewhere in New England. Use a guidebook and map to plan your overnights, and consider backups in case you don't hike as far as you expect. In summer and fall you'll likely share shelters with others; tents provide privacy, exclude bugs, and are a good when shelters are full.

You'll want a warm down sleeping bag, and a sleeping pad for comfort. Don't be surprised if it takes practice to get used to the new environment and sleep soundly. Ear plugs can help.

Each designated overnight site has a water source and a privy. Specifics vary, so plan ahead using the guidebook, and follow signage or caretaker direction at the site.

PHOTO BY BEN BENSEN



Food

You can go as simple or as fancy as you want. Dehydrated or freeze-dried meals such as Backpackers Pantry or Good To-Go are quick and nutritious, and require only boiling water. Find them at any outdoor retailer. With a little research and preparation, you can also enjoy simple yet delicious meals made from grocery store ingredients. Depending on the length of your trip, additions like preserved meat and cheese will up the satiety level and will last unrefrigerated for a few days. Carry plenty of calorie-dense snacks like protein bars, candy, jerky, nuts, trail mix, etc. Repackage food in Ziploc bags, which are lightweight, durable, waterproof and packable.

Water

You need a lot of water backpacking, both for drinking and cooking. There are sources on the trail, but water must be treated to avoid infection and illness. Use a Sawyer Squeeze or similar filter, iodine tablets, or boil water before drinking. A chemical backup is good in case your filter breaks or falls in a river. Look for clear running water, and fill up whenever you can, because you don't always know what is ahead.

Emergencies

You are responsible for emergency preparation. Simple precautions can help empower you when plans go awry. Attend a Wilderness First Aid Class, carry appropriate equipment and gear, and leave your itinerary with at least two reliable contacts. The most common emergency situations are minor and moderate injuries, bad weather, and unplanned hiking in the dark. In an emergency, stay calm, make a plan, and keep yourself safe. Cell phones or satellite beacons are good, but you should always have a backup in case technology fails.

This is just a sample of many useful tips and skills. For more, check out greenmountainclub.org/hiking-101