

Long Trail

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Long Trail NEWS

Winter 2023, Volume 83, No. 4

The **Long Trail News** is published by the Green Mountain Club, a non-profit founded in 1910.

THE MISSION OF THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB is to make the mountains of Vermont play a larger role in the life of the people. We are committed to ensuring the GMC and Long Trail System are places that are inviting, safe, and open, regardless of age, gender, race, religion, ethnicity, ability, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.

The Green Mountain Club and Long Trail System are located on land which is the traditional territory of Indigenous peoples including the Western Abenaki. This land has served as a site of meeting and exchange among Indigenous peoples for thousands of years. We recognize and respect them as the traditional stewards of these lands and waters, whose presence continues to enrich our community. We strive to respect and protect the lands within our use.

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GET IN TOUCH! Staff and Board Directory can be found at greenmountainclub.org/about

Dear Friends and Members,

THIS EDITION OF THE *LONG TRAIL NEWS*

may look a little different to you. We're excited to roll out a few changes to the magazine to hopefully improve how we communicate with you.

The cover design has been updated, with a ridgeline silhouette designed by longtime *Long Trail News* designer Sylvie Vidrine. Look closely, do you see any mountains you recognize? There are also some minor changes to the interior magazine layout, which is designed to make the stories more appealing and easier to read.

You may be used to seeing a message from the GMC Board President on this page. GMC President Nancy McClellan has graciously turned the page over to me, the *Long Trail News* editor, this time around. In future issues, you'll hear from many GMC leaders, both staff and volunteer, and learn more about the priorities and work that each of them are doing to keep the Green Mountain Club humming along and serving you, the members.

As we have been doing for the past few years, we have also moved several recurring sections of the magazine online. Visit greenmountainclub.org for the latest events and workshops, news, staff and board directory, section updates, and more. The magazine has kept the same basic layout for the last 25 years (before we had a website, let alone email!), so it was time for an update.

This issue is a bit shorter than you're used to, but we did our best to pack it to the gills with stunning imagery, updates on the trail, and feature stories that will interest you. You can also follow our monthly email newsletters, website's blog, and social media channels for more stories and information from the hiking community.

Thank you to the colleagues, volunteers and members who have guided us through introducing these changes, beginning last year with the 100th anniversary edition of the magazine.

As always, we want to hear from you – what do you think of the new magazine? What stories or features do you hope to see us cover in the future? How can our online communications best serve you? My inbox is open: cmiller@greenmountainclub.org

– CHLOE MILLER

Communications Manager & Long Trail News Editor





Vermont's Total Solar Eclipse

APRIL 8, 2024 | BY SASHA WEILBAKER

PHOTO BY NASA/AUBREY GEMIGNANI

ON APRIL 8, 2024, the portion of Vermont north of Barre expects about 200,000 visitors from near and far to witness as much as three minutes and 36 seconds of complete darkness.

Why is this short period of darkness so unusual? Well, it's during the day—from 3:26 to 3:29 p.m., to be exact.

For the first time since 1932 and the last until 2106, northern Vermont will be in the “path of totality” during a total solar eclipse, the portion of the Earth's surface on which for a brief time the moon will completely block a view of the sun. Observers outside this path will see only a partial eclipse, which happens much more frequently. For example, the last partial solar eclipse in northern Vermont occurred on October 14, 2023, obscuring only 15 to 20 percent of the sun's disk.

According to Jack St. Louis, President of the Vermont Astronomical Society, “Anywhere [in the path of totality] that you see the sun, you'll see the eclipse.”

See it with Safety

While a total solar eclipse is certainly the event of a lifetime, it's important to keep safety in mind. Looking directly at the sun, even when partially obscured, can cause permanent eye damage. Eclipse glasses are readily available online and at

local retailers. Even very dark sunglasses are not safe for viewing an eclipse.

Where to View the Eclipse

The path of totality goes directly through northwestern Vermont's towns, including St. Albans, Enosburg, and Montgomery.

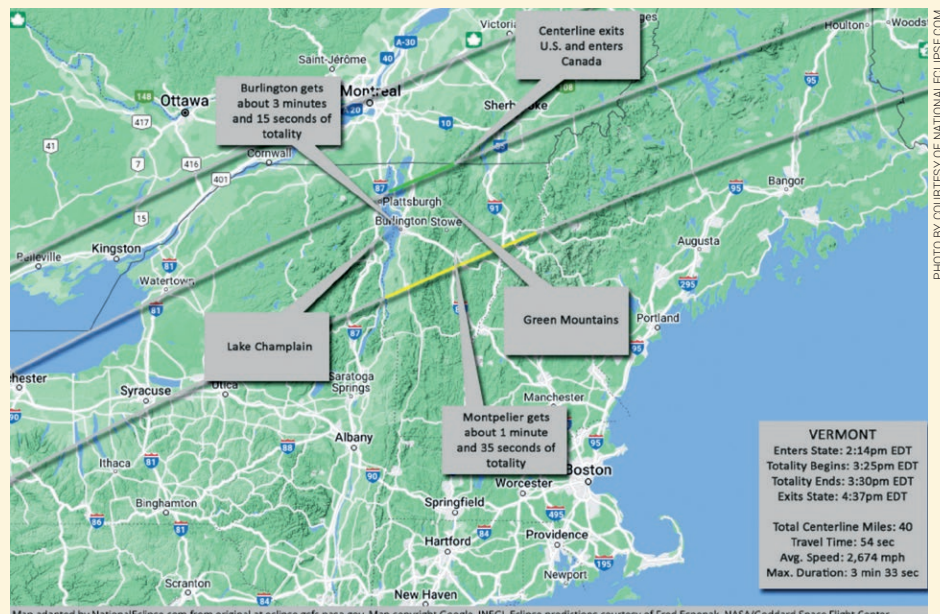
According to Peter Shea, the author of Vermont's Total Solar Eclipse, the “neat thing about this eclipse is that if you look to the southwest, the sun is going to be pretty high in the sky.” This means that the sun and, as a result, the eclipse, will be visible anywhere free of tree coverage. (No promises on cloud cover, of course!)

Although he's not an astronomer, Shea became interested in solar eclipses when

he saw a partial eclipse six years ago on a fishing trip in southern Vermont. “I felt the temperature drop a few degrees, but otherwise it was imperceptible,” he said. After doing some research on solar eclipses and realized that his home town of Burlington would be in the path of totality this April, Shea promised himself to “do something to inform people about it.” Hence his inspiration for Vermont's Total Solar Eclipse, available in “every bookstore in the state... although I could have missed one,” Shea said.

Shea, who lives in Burlington, plans to view the eclipse from one of Lake Champlain's beaches, and he suggests

(continued on page 11)



FIELD NOTES

2023 Season in Review

BY KEEGAN TIERNEY, DIRECTOR OF FIELD PROGRAMS

THE 2023 FIELD SEASON IS BEHIND US, and whew, it was a doozy. Through it all, a group of rugged, committed staff members persevered to complete a huge amount of work, keeping Green Mountain Club projects on track.

The list of challenges overcome is impressive, and underscores the talent, skill and determination of this year's team. One-hundred-year flood response? Check. Interrupted projects? Check. Rainiest summer ever? Check. Search and rescue assistance? Check.

The work completed is equally impressive: Year two of the **Burrows Trail Restoration** project remained on schedule, and we built upon a successful partnership with the National Civilian Conservation Corps. We installed 65 sets of wooden puncheon over notoriously muddy **Laraway summit**, a major step in our five-year commitment to revitalizing the northern Long Trail. Down south we began the first of three years of investment from **Harmon Hill to Hell Hollow Brook**. Construction continued to roll, with five major structures completed this year (more on page 6).

With staff **Kate Songer** and **Lorne Currier's** expert organization and training, **volunteers** contributed significant time and effort to

all the above projects. Special shoutouts go to the Laraway and Burlington Sections for installing all of the new puncheon; to other volunteers for painting the restored **Stratton Mountain Caretaker Cabin**; and to Bennington Section volunteers for reconstructing the **Melville Nauheim Shelter** picnic table, to name just a few. All this in addition to performing their normal annual duties, plus helping with assessing damage after the July flood.

The hiking season started early, with beautiful dry weather in May. Caretakers sprang into action, greeting and informing hikers while getting overnight sites up and running. We reassigned ranges of trail and responsibilities in the south to balance workloads, and the redistribution worked well.

That nice weather morphed into endless rain. We pulled staff members out of the field in anticipation of severe flooding, then sent them back for a rapid assessment of the damage.

Wet weather slowed the composting process at our privies, adding time and often increasing the need for bark mulch. I thank the many volunteers who helped pack in more mulch to shelters around the state, and caretakers were able to complete nearly all composting batches before the season ended.



PHOTO BY CLARA KUHN

Halle Vernon mills felled trees for puncheon on Laraway.



PHOTO BY CLARA KUHN

New puncheon on Laraway was a staff-volunteer joint effort.



PHOTO BY NIGEL BATES

Bear damage at Taft privy.

The exception? A bear, probably attracted by food waste left in the bins, damaged the **Taft Lodge** and **Sterling Pond** privies late in October. Staff replaced the damaged bins and secured them with wooden bracing under a light snowfall in early November.

The **Special Projects Crew** started their season three weeks early to capitalize on the opportunity to work with Chip Swanson, a recently retired timber framer, on the new **Sunrise Shelter** construction. Chip volunteered to help frame the shelter (approximately 1.5 miles south of the old site), and was a patient teacher and invaluable resource. Together he and the crew finished the shelter in five weeks. Sadly, Chip passed away in August. Our deepest thanks go to him and our condolences to his wife and family.

The crew went on to complete the roof and siding at **Stratton View Shelter** restore the **Stratton Mountain Caretaker Cabin** and field-mill puncheon on **Laraway Mountain**. The crew felled native trees and de-barked, split, and shaped enough timber for 65 sets of puncheon, then installed by volunteers.



PHOTO BY KEVIN HART

Crews replaced an eroded gully with stone steps on the LT/AT near Route 9.

Two **Long Trail Patrol** crews and eight weekly rotations of the **Volunteer Long Trail Patrol** worked on four significant trail improvement projects: the **Burrows Trail Restoration** project, and tread work on three portions of the **LT/AT**: south of Route 9, between **Cooper Lodge** and **Jungle Junction**, and from **Kelley Stand Road** to **Forest Road 71**.

We can expect to see challenges and disruptions like we saw this summer in future seasons as well. We must continue major investments like the **Burrows Trail** reconstruction so trails can endure future storms. We will also need to raise and invest more money to mitigate the impacts of these large-scale storm events. Although this season's flooding generally caused only moderate damage to our trails, the damage was widespread, and it will cost an estimated \$250,000 to address in coming years. We also lost about \$50,000 in a combination of direct expenses and revenue losses from project funders because of the interruption in work.

Some flood-damaged structures, like the **Forest City** trailhead bridge (removed in early November 2023) and the bridge between **Peru Peak Shelter** and **Griffith Lake**, were already planned for replacement, since we knew they could not adequately meet the needs of the trail into the future. If we had not already lined up funding for them, those two bridges alone would have cost us an additional \$250,000 in storm-related totals.

Fortunately, it is the **continued support from you**, our valued members, donors, and volunteers, that will allow us to create a sustainable trail system and staffing model ready for rapid response to conditions on the ground. 🐾

2023 Marks Construction Boom



Sunrise Shelter under construction. Photo by Dylan Norris.

THIS YEAR MARKS THE COMPLETION of a three-year construction boom at the Green Mountain Club. Paid crews and volunteers finished five new shelters, more than in any year since 1963. The average shelter has lasted about 30 years before wear, tear and damage made it uninhabitable. But with better designs and standards we are dramatically increasing the expected longevity of new shelters, which should serve hikers better and reduce repair needs in the long run.

The structures completed in 2023 are listed at right, and in 2021 and 2022 crews and volunteers also completed major repairs on

Emily Proctor, Puffer, Cooley Glen, Melville Nauheim, and Kid Gore Shelters. For more details on these projects, read past "Field Notes" archived at greenmountainclub.org/longtrailnews

Why, and how, did we take on so many large projects and complete them in a single season, despite disruptive flooding? A few factors are at play:

Construction Yesterday Versus Today

The evolution of Long Trail and Appalachian Trail shelters mirrored the evolution of the trails. Initially trail

builders converted old camps, or built new but in rustic styles. Donors financed some paid crews, but most construction was volunteer driven. Designs, locations, and prioritization of shelters depended heavily on volunteers' preferences and skills.

Many Long Trail shelters went up in the 1960s, thanks to U.S. Forest Service funding in response to a backpacking boom. They were adequate for their time, but many were poorly built by today's standards. Some had no lateral bracing, so they are prone to tipping or leaning. Some were built on piers sitting on the ground, so freezing and thawing causes repeated damage.



for GMC

Shelter Construction in 2023

A new **Seth Warner Shelter**, two miles north of the previous site, and farther from the road to reduce nuisance use. Much work was done in 2021 and 2022, thanks to volunteer Jonathan Bigelow, who precut the frame before a helicopter airdrop of materials in 2022. Jonathan and other volunteers assembled the shelter kit in 2022, and the Long Trail Patrol completed final site work and cut the new spur trail early in 2023.

A new **Sunrise Shelter**, approximately 1.5 miles south of its previous site, and farther from the road. Site preparation, the foundation, piers, floor system and privy were completed in 2022. The GMC Special Projects Crew and volunteer Chip Swanson built the shelter in five working weeks in 2023.

A new **Stratton View Shelter**, begun in 2021 and completed in 2023, was designed to increase overnight capacity at Stratton Pond, the busiest overnight site in Vermont. Dave Hardy, former director of field programs, began planning the shelter more than ten years ago as part of the Stratton Pond Management Plan and associated trail relocations. A shelter at the same spot was removed in the 1990s.

Jean Haigh Cabin on Wheeler Pond was finished, replacing Beaver Dam Cabin, removed in 2019. It is insulated, sleeps eight, has a screened porch and a woodstove, and will be fully ADA accessible. GMC's volunteer camps committee completed design and planning with architectural help from Chad Forcier. Justin Towers, Ry Samosiuk, and various iterations of construction crews and special projects crews carried out construction.

The historic **Stratton Mountain Caretaker Cabin** received a new roof, floor, woodstove, repairs to its framing, and replacement of 30 percent of its siding. The cabin, originally built in 1928 for state fire lookouts, houses GMC caretakers. Hugh and Jeanne Joudry spent the better part of 50 years there, first as lookouts and then as caretakers; now many will follow them.



PHOTO BY KATE SONGER



PHOTO BY MIKE DEBONIS



PHOTO BY DYLAN NORRIS



PHOTO BY LILY LAFAGINA



PHOTO BY JIM ROBERTSON

Shelters often burned down in the era of wood fires and woodstoves, so longevity of replacements wasn't a priority. Woodstoves and dumps were removed in the 1970s, part of an overall shift in backcountry management. GMC also hired its first permanent employee then, and doubled down on efforts to educate and serve the growing hiking public.

Initially planning, construction and maintenance of shelters were dispersed among sections, but now they are coordinated at headquarters. We have a strategy for maintaining, repairing or replacing all 63 shelters in prioritized order,



Kid Gore, circa 1970s.



Kid Gore pictured during a 2018 assessment that shows a sagging roof badly in need of repair.



Kid Gore got a new cedar-shingled roof in 2022, courtesy of the GMC Construction Crew.

with volunteers serving as enormous help in both the design and construction.

Permits, Designs, and Funding, Oh My

Backcountry construction is much more expensive and complicated in the 21st century than it was in the 20th. For starters, the costs of lumber and labor have increased rapidly, especially since 2020.

Today shelters must meet modern building specifications and be universally accessible, and plans must consider natural resource impacts and the experiences of users. Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and design reviews by professional engineers are required in the Green Mountain National Forest. Compliance is expensive, but it results in safer and more durable structures.

When building or repairing shelters in the last five years we have: had engineers approve designs; installed lateral bracing; set piers (digging by hand!) at least four feet below ground; and installed large roof overhangs to divert water well away from walls. We renovate and repair existing structures when practical. Replacement of a shelter depends on its condition, environmental problems at its site, its historic importance, and future maintenance needs, among other criteria.

We make "fee-for-service" agreements with the U.S. Forest Service and the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation to be paid for labor and materials, since they own shelters on their land after we build them. We also seek grants; we raise funds through efforts like the Long Trail Legacy capital campaign; and we welcome contributions from club members and other donors. Thanks largely to members like you, we have a strong financial foundation for important construction.

Volunteers Play a Major Role

Today, GMC staff organize volunteers to work effectively alongside professional construction staff. Typically our staff handles paperwork and planning, and provides project management and crew leaders. Volunteers may supply special skills like timber framing, but more often they are the enthusiastic backbone, hauling lumber, raising assembled frames, and more.

For example, in the last few years Jonathan Bigelow of the Manchester Section designed **Tucker Johnson Shelter** and **Seth Warner Shelter**, and expert craftsman Chip Swanson helped our crew with joinery at the timber framed **Sunrise Shelter**. The Burlington Section installed a new roof on **Puffer Shelter** in 2022 while a GMC construction crew reset the piers to eliminate leaning.

The Future of Long Trail Shelters

For more than a century GMC has been committed to a free and open trail system with plenty of places to sleep within a day's walk of each other. With more durable construction and design elements that keep longevity in mind, today's shelters should last more than 100 years with proper use and upkeep.

We plan to continue the ambitious schedule of renovating at least three shelters annually on a 25-year repair cycle, focusing on commonly worn elements like siding and roofing. **Spruce Peak Shelter**, **Battell Shelter**, **Bamforth Ridge Shelter**, and **Taft Lodge** are planned for renovation in the next five years.

Finally, new shelters and campsites are sited to maximize hiker convenience and minimize adverse environmental impacts.

Thanks to *your* continuing support, our crews can preserve and improve our shelter inventory, a key part of fulfilling our mission to protect the Long Trail for future generations of hikers. 🌲



In the 1960s and 70s, shelter construction was a volunteer-led endeavor. Undated photo of Atlas Valley shelter, GMC archives.



PHOTO BY KEEGAN TIERNEY

Sunrise Shelter Construction—Special Projects Crew.



PHOTO BY SCOTT PHILLIPS

Puffer Shelter, first built in 1975. GMC Construction Crew reset the piers and added interior stabilization.



PHOTO BY SCOTT ALBERTSON

Burlington Section volunteers installed a new roof on Puffer in 2022.

LONG TRAIL DAY 2023

YOU raised \$69,216 for the trail!



Team Psyched to Hike! braved the rain on the Emily Proctor – Cooley Glen loop hike on October 7.

LONG TRAIL DAY is quickly becoming a household name as GMC's largest annual fundraiser, and we are grateful to the entire crew of enthusiastic fundraisers who gave their all to raise money and champion the magic of the Long Trail. Easily surpassing the original goal of \$60,000 for the trail, you all knocked our socks off by reaching more than \$69,000. That's equivalent to funding 11.5 weeks of paid trail crews next summer.

CONGRATULATIONS to these incredible fundraisers

All in all, 69 participants raised more than \$69,000 from 245 unique donors! That included 118 first time donors. Every single one of you helped introduce the Green Mountain Club to new people and made this event a success, and we are so grateful. Thank you to the following rock star fundraising prize winners!

Highest number of donors

Lauren Bierman, 20 unique donors and \$1,271 raised for her team, Psyched to Hike!

"The Long Trail means so much to all of us and we're so grateful for the work the GMC does, so thank YOU! We're so happy we could give back."

Most amount fundraised

Porter Knight, \$3,750 raised

"My Long Trail Day hike on Saturday morning, August 19, was damp and misty—what passes as normal for this summer.

I hiked a section south of Lincoln Gap, including Sunset Ledge. It has been a while since I hiked alone, and I had forgotten how I relish the quiet of the trail. I returned deeply refreshed."

Team with the most money raised

Psyched to Hike, \$3,487

Team with the greatest number of donors

Kingdom Express, representing GMC's Northeast Kingdom Section, \$2,325 raised from 49 donors

Eve Spencer gave an incredible \$10,000 gift, and a \$20,000 match from a generous anonymous donor helped invigorate the collective effort.

We couldn't forget our corporate sponsors

Widewail and Orvis both supported the trail with monetary gifts, and Cabot Creamery, Untapped, Vermont Smoke and Cure, and Athletic Brewing Company gifted food and drink to keep our visitors fed on October 7.

All Because of YOU

With the funds raised, we will be able to complete routine trail improvement projects, continue repairing flood-damaged sections of the trail, and ensure that more than 500 miles of hiking trails in Vermont are cared for. All because of you! 🍂



The GMC staff team: Left to Right: Lily LaRegina, Chloe Miller, Tori Dobbs, Alicia DiCocco, and Rick Dugan.

Vermont's Total Solar Eclipse continued from page 3

others do the same. "There are a lot of better places and easier places to get a good view than the tops of mountains," he says.

However, if you're determined to view the eclipse from a high point, Shea suggests checking ski areas, which may run recreational gondolas or chairlifts to safely reach high vantage points. GMC understands that Stowe Resort and Jay Peak are in the early stages of planning for the eclipse.

GMC's challenge

GMC will work with our partner organizations this spring to inform both visitors and Vermonters how to view the eclipse safely, while protecting hiking trails and fragile summits. The eclipse's expected popularity, and its timing, pose a unique challenge. Trails and summits may be covered by snow and ice, or in unstable postmelt mud. Both weather and footing will be variable. Many trails on state land, like those on Mount Mansfield and Camel's Hump, are closed during the spring mud season. So planning to view the eclipse from a high-elevation trail is not a good idea.

The majority of the 200,000 or more visitors will not know Vermont's landscape, climate, or trail protection principles. We must spread the word regarding how to view the eclipse without damaging trails and vulnerable ecosystems.

YOU can help spread the word! If friends or family will visit, help them plan responsibly. Recommend viewing from the Burlington lakefront, the Champlain Islands, St. Albans, or the shores of Lake Willoughby in the Northeast Kingdom. Follow the state's Vermont Vacation website and GMC's website for more information as the big event approaches.

Resources to Explore

Books

Vermont's Total Solar Eclipse, by Peter Shea, available online and at local bookstores

Websites

greatamericaneclipse.com
nationaleclipse.com
nasa.gov
eclipse2024.org
greenmountainclub.org/eclipse (coming soon)
vermontvacation.com

Programming

ECHO Center, Burlington
Fairbanks Museum, St. Johnsbury

From GMC to you: be safe, have fun, and do your part to protect fragile alpine environments by avoiding mountain trails during the eclipse.

A Lasting Impact

One Donor's Legacy Gift Makes Room for More Programming

BY ALICIA DICOCCO



DURING A COLD DREARY DAY in February of 2014, our executive director, Mike DeBonis, was opening mail in the shared meeting space at our Waterbury Center Headquarters. He turned to those of us in the room, held up an envelope and stated, "this will change the future of our organization." He had just opened a check from the Estate of Joan Sibley.

Joan was a Killington Section life member of the Green Mountain Club who made her first gift to GMC in 1988 for \$25. This was shortly after her completion of the Long Trail, which she did in sections between 1980 and 1987. She was passionate about land conservation and had indicated that she included GMC in her planned giving, but never included an amount. With the gift she left to GMC, we were able to pay off the mortgage on our office building, freeing up our budget to increase what we could spend on direct program costs.

Joan's obituary stated that "she cared deeply for the mountains, waterways, plants, and animals of [Vermont] and was committed to the preservation of wild places everywhere." Because Joan's generosity extended to her planned giving in the form of a bequest, we were able to create a full-time position dedicated to land conservation and stewardship of our conserved lands. While it is coincidental that Joan was so passionate about land conservation and we created this position, I often think about how wonderful it is that her last gift to the Green Mountain Club has such a lasting impact on our work caring for the land she loved so much.

I am grateful for every planned gift we have received because each has provided lasting support that will help us manage the resources for all to enjoy Vermont's hiking trails.

1987-14-1584 Chris Gordon
1987-15-1585 **Joan Sibley**
1987-16-1586 Joanne E. Woodward
1987-17-1587 Stuart McDaniel

Joan Sibley was part of the 1987 class of End-to-Enders, listed in the Summer 1988 *Long Trail News*.

YOU TOO can have a lasting impact by leaving a bequest for the Green Mountain Club.

Sample Bequest Language: I bequest [describe dollar amount, property to be given, percentage, or proportion of your residuary estate] to the Green Mountain Club, a non-profit organization located at 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Center, VT 05677.

Tax identification number:
03-0162865.

QUESTIONS? Contact Alicia, adicocco@greenmountainclub.org

Jean Haigh Cabin Opens for Rentals

A NEW RENTAL CABIN at the Green Mountain Club's Wheeler Pond Camps is now open for overnight rentals! Jean Haigh Cabin, named in honor of the former GMC Board president and founding member of the Northeast Kingdom Section, is a 400-square-foot insulated cabin with sleeping bunks for eight, a woodstove, and a screened porch facing the pond and views of the mountains beyond.

GMC built the cabin in 2023 with funding secured by the Long Trail Legacy Campaign. It replaces the former Beaver Dam Cabin, which was closed in 2016 because of structural deficiencies.

Rentals for the winter and spring opened December 7 for GMC members. In March we will open rentals for all four GMC cabins for the rental year of May 1, 2024 – April 30, 2025. Please sign up for GMC emails to receive information about rentals: greenmountainclub.org/email



PHOTO BY KEEGAN TIERNEY

Construction is nearly complete on November 15, 2023.



PHOTO BY ERIC GEHRING

Two Islands in the Mist at Kent Pond, Grand Prize winner.

Photo Contest Winners

THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB held our annual photo contest online this summer. We honored one overall winner, four category winners, and a Hikers' Choice Winner, voted upon by GMC's online audience.

- Grand Prize: Two Islands in the Mist at Kent Pond, by Erik Gehring
- Hikers' Choice: Winter Footprints on the Butler Lodge Trail, by Susan Larson
- Flora and Fauna: Icy moss at Sterling Pond, by Lisa Hardy
- Hikers: White Rocks Hiker, by Nathanael Asaro
- Trail Features: Butler Lodge Sunset, by Ari Singer-Freeman
- Landscapes and Views: Whiteface Mountain looking south, by Tom Spiltoir

See all the winners at greenmountainclub.org/2023-photo-contest

Stay Informed with Mountain Point Forecasts

YOU'RE PROBABLY FAMILIAR WITH the common hiker advice, "It may be warm and sunny in town but cold and icy on the summits." It's a shoulder season favorite, but mountain weather can be tricky to predict any time of the year. The National Weather Service's Burlington office releases detailed mountain point forecasts for 19 peaks in Vermont, and 25 in the Adirondacks. These twice-daily readings predict windspeed, chance of precipitation, cloud cover percentage, and other details that can help hikers prepare.

Check out current mountain weather forecasts at weather.gov/btv/mountain and read more on GMC's blog: www.greenmountainclub.org/nws-vermont-mountain-weather-forecast

MOUNT MANSFIELD

The forecast for Mount Mansfield, Vermont at 4,393 ft:
Last Updated at 347 AM EST Mon Nov 13 2023

.REST OF TODAY...Mostly sunny through late morning, then becoming cloudy. A chance of snow showers this afternoon. Little or no snow accumulation. Highs in the upper 20s. Light winds, becoming west around 10 mph this morning, then becoming southwest this afternoon.

Detailed Forecast Data:

DATE	Mon 11/13/23						Tue 11/14/23						
TIME (EST)	06	09	12	15	18	21	00	03	06	09	12	15	18
TEMP (F)	17	19	27	28	22	25	28	29	29	25	25	27	28
WIND DIR	NW	SW	SW	S	SW	SW	W	NW	NW	NW	NW	NW	NW
WIND SPD (MPH)	8	4	9	12	14	17	13	11	16	19	20	21	20
WIND GST (MPH)	8	5	10	12	14	17	14	13	17	20	23	23	20
SKY COVER (%)	14	24	70	93	OB	OB	OB	OB	OB	OB	OB	OB	OB
WIND CHL (F)	7	12	18	17	9	12	17	19	17	11	11	13	15

A recent mountain point forecast for Mount Mansfield on November 13 calls for temperatures between 17 and 28 degrees Fahrenheit, and wind chill temperature equivalents of 7 to 18 degrees F.

Artists OF THE Long Trail

See more from these artists and others at greenmountainclub.org/artists-of-the-long-trail

FROM CLIMBS THAT TAKE YOUR BREATH AWAY to the iconic silhouette of Camel's Hump, the Long Trail inspires artists as well as hikers — and has done so for more than 100 years.

The artists profiled below substantiate their love of and inspiration from the Green Mountains on paper — and in the metal working studio, the 3D-printer, and more.

Looking for unique gifts from small business owners and creators this holiday season? Look no further.

Kati Christoffel, Watercolor Wanderer



Kati is no stranger to these pages or to the Green Mountain Club. She just wrapped up her third year as a site caretaker, and we have previously interviewed her about her trailside water colors. She's taught painting classes to GMC audiences both virtually and in person, and regularly shares unique views of the Long Trail's favorite sights, in all seasons and weather.

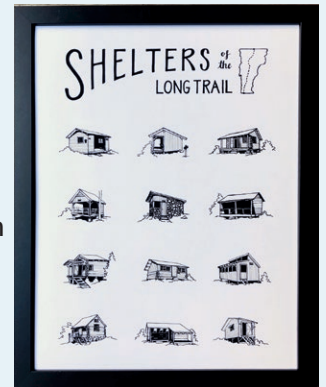
"I love making art 'en plein air,' a French art term for 'outside.' Being right on the mountain allows me to play and react to changing conditions in real time. Watercolor is lightweight, small, and dries quickly, the perfect medium for hiking!"

Kati produces a calendar each year, and the 2024 calendar features a painting of Mount Mansfield in each month of the year. Her original paintings start at \$50, and you can buy on Etsy; at the Artist in Residence Gallery in St. Alban's; and at a variety of markets and craft fairs.

watercolorwanderer.com  [@watercolorwanderer](https://www.instagram.com/watercolorwanderer)
[etsy.com/watercolorwanderer](https://www.etsy.com/watercolorwanderer)

Zarabeth Duell MTN GRL Studio

Zarabeth lives in Lincoln with her family, and is an avid consumer of Long Trail history. Her art takes many forms, but linocut and screen printed posters like "Shelters of the Long Trail," featuring original sketches of 12 popular LT shelters, are her most popular.



"With all my art, regardless of the medium, I try to elicit the feeling you get when hiking. The stacks of mountains fading into the sky, or the scent of that rich alpine forest when the sun warms it up just right."

Stickers and postcards go for under \$10; posters are under \$50. Original work, including hand-cut topographic maps and more, range from \$200 to \$700.

[Mtngrlstudio.com](https://mtngrlstudio.com)  [@mtngrlstudio](https://www.instagram.com/mtngrlstudio) [mtngrlstudio.etsy.com](https://www.mtngrlstudio.etsy.com)

Cindy Griffith



Cindy is a lifelong Vermonter, an LT hiker, and an artist. She's also a longtime GMC volunteer who runs the Barnes Camp Visitor Center in summer and fall, and serves on the GMC Publications Committee.

"My primary medium is pastel, but I use acrylic and oil as well. It really depends on the scene and what I want it to say. My LT art comes from a deeply emotional place, and after taking significant time contemplating my approach...the artistic process unfolds."

Buy Cindy's art as originals, or try one of her suncatchers, which is an image of a piece printed on acrylic panels to be hung in windows (starting at \$40). Cindygriffithart.com

Nika Meyers



Nika is no stranger to the Long Trail, having experienced it as a GMC trail crew member and site caretaker, a Fastest Known Time record holder, and now a GMC Board member. Although she now calls Colorado home, Nika has “worked, built, hiked, run, painted and skied along the Long Trail.”

Nika's watercolor and ink paintings combine natural scenes with geometric lines and shapes. “There is no way to fully re-create a sunrise dancing across a high ridge or the emotion that comes from being present for a miracle, or the gratitude for having an unforgettable conversation, but I strive to bring parts of that energy into my work.”

Browse or purchase Nika's work on her website, or at galleries in Aspen, Colorado.

 [@earlybirdhikes.art](#)  [@nikameyers.art](#) [nikameyers.com](#)

Sarah Beal, Common Deer

Sarah is a cofounder and the owner of the downtown Burlington curio shop Common Deer, which features many Vermont makers. A signature print from the store was created by Sarah herself. The “Mountains of Vermont” features pen-drawn silhouettes of about 100 Vermont peaks placed geographically correctly.



“This artwork had been stuck in my head for a long time, as inspired by [the band] Joy Division's unknown pleasures album cover. Creating the silhouettes from photos of the 100-plus peaks in the piece was challenging.”

You can get the print as a poster, print, t-shirt, tote bag, and more at Common Deer in downtown Burlington or [commondeer.com](#).

Rob Mullen, Paint and Paddle Studio

[see image on back cover]

Rob Mullen grew up hiking sections of the LT, and did a thru-hike in fall 2020, painting all the way.

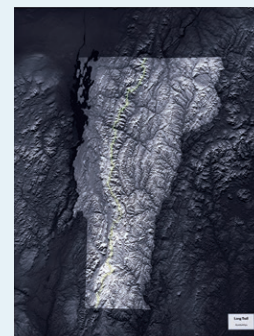
“[My End-to-End hike] catalyzed a growing desire to focus my entire career back home in Vermont.”

“I paint [everything from bugs to bears,] and landscapes,” Rob explains of his acrylic and oil paintings. He has a science background, including a B.S. in biology, so elements of natural history often rise to the surface in his work. Landscapes painted in the field often strike a more impressionistic tone, simply because of the limited time available for painting them.

Paintings retail for roughly \$10 per square inch, and are available on Rob's website, [robmullen.com](#)

Matt Parrilla, Ramble Maps

Waterbury-based map artist Matt uses high resolution elevation data to create two dimensional prints of mountains, parks and trails, including the Long Trail. Printed on metal or metallic photo paper, the resulting piece appears three dimensional and is a unique and dynamic representation of the Earth.



He first created his Long Trail map as a gift for a friend who had completed an end-to-end hike. “My wife is halfway through section hiking it herself, and we hope to hike it together someday with our six-month-old son, Henry.”


Maps start at \$249, and come ready to hang: [ramblemaps.com/long-trail-map](#)

Leah Rogstad, Postal del Camino

[see image on back cover]

Leah hiked the Long Trail this year, and the trail was the perfect subject for one of her playful trail maps depicting landmarks, and featuring details that will be all too familiar for many hikers.

“I like to capture a space through black ink lines and watercolor. I sometimes draw on sight, and other times as a practice of reflection after experiencing a place. My pieces celebrate the details of the places we walk and call home.”

Get Leah's prints as posters, tea towels, or tote bags, starting at \$20. [postaldelcamino.etsy.com](#)  [@postaldelcamino](#)



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Need some gift inspiration for the Long Trail hiker in your life?



Rob Mullen uses his biology background to paint the trail's creatures.



Leah Rogstad penned iconic features from her 2023 End-to-End hike.

INSIDE: Eight local artists inspired by the Long Trail and Vermont's nature. Read about their artistic methods, type of art, and where to buy. Pages 14-15.

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