

# Long Trail

NEWS > SUMMER 2025



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# Long Trail NEWS

Summer 2025, Volume 85, No. 2

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

**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.

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!** Email the editor with your feedback at [cmiller@greenmountainclub.org](mailto:cmiller@greenmountainclub.org).

## *Dear friends of the Long Trail,*

Two years ago, I became president of the Green Mountain Club a year earlier than I expected, just days before the annual meeting. I felt overwhelmed and ill-prepared for such a responsibility.

I had been mentored, but was it enough? It wasn't all that different from the way I felt taking my first steps on the Long Trail on my end-to-end hike. Did I have the right equipment? Can I finish? Can I meet the challenges I will encounter along the route? Now I am near the Journey's End of my GMC presidency, and I have time for a moment of reflection.

First, it has been a true honor to be president. Like a "tramily," or trail community on a hike, I have been supported by a dedicated and talented board, an extremely competent and professional staff, and members like you.

Together we have accomplished so much. We completed a five-year strategic plan to guide us through 2028; implemented a volunteer code of conduct to foster inclusion; and developed a strategic land conservation plan to continue the important work of protecting the trail.

With your support, we conserved additional miles of trail and achieved impressive trail and backcountry construction, including the replacement of the last pit toilet and the major rebuild of the Burrows Trail on Camel's Hump. We published a new edition of the *Long Trail Guide*, and opened the new energy efficient Rothberg-Birdwhistell Visitor Center in January – please visit!

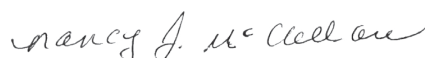
There have been difficulties as well, from tight budgets to damage by severe weather to uncertain federal funding. But the trail management team rebuilt bridges and rehabilitated trails to be more climate resilient. The financial and development teams strengthened the club's fiscal position with strong fundraising and disciplined expense management to end the year in the black.

Club leadership is planning ahead to counteract rising health insurance costs, the prospect of escalating costs driven by tariffs, and potential reductions in federal funding for field programs. A governance committee is reviewing the club's bylaws and governing structure, which was last done nine years ago.

Today GMC is strong and resilient, and we must also look toward the future to energize our members and attract a new generation of advocates and volunteers passionate about preserving Vermont's hiking trails for generations to come and welcoming new cohorts of hikers and backpackers into our community.

I have great confidence in the ability of the club's staff, board, partner organizations and members to keep this 115-year-old dream alive. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president. It has been great honor.

See you on the trail,



Nancy McClellan



Nancy McClellan

**FRONT COVER:** Nicole "Puff Trash" Kimball is one of 335 new End-to-Enders. See their stories on page 8.

## New Volunteer Pilot Program Begins

After years of preparation, the pilot version of a GMC Volunteer Trail Steward program will station volunteers at the Mount Mansfield Visitor Center at the top of the Stowe Auto Toll Road starting in July.

The program is designed to supplement the long-running caretaker program. Professional caretakers (who will be stationed at popular summits and ponds as usual) have long helped visitors learn how to help protect vulnerable places on the Long Trail System. But as visitor counts rise, public interaction can consume all of a caretaker's time, shortchanging maintenance of trails and privies, and other essential tasks. Volunteers can help educate the public during busy times, like the fall foliage season.

Club staff will train the new corps of volunteers on the principles of effective and inclusive communication, alpine ecology, hiker safety, and basic emergency protocols. Volunteers will record visitor counts and report them after each shift, enabling the club to modify the program as needed to better serve hikers.

While phase one volunteers have already been recruited and trained, we will be accepting applications for volunteer trail stewards on a rolling basis. We may run a fall training for volunteers if there is interest. If you are interested, please fill out an application at [greenmountainclub.org/volunteer-trail-steward](https://greenmountainclub.org/volunteer-trail-steward).

## Create Your Legacy with a Bequest

One 1982 end-to-end described their recent bequest to GMC as "just an anonymous donation from someone who gained so much from the LT through the '60s, '70s and '80s, and wanted to give something back."

You too can give something back by including the Green Mountain Club in your will. Sample language for this is, "I bequest [a dollar amount, a percentage, or a proportion of my residuary estate] to the Green Mountain Club, a non-profit organization at 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Center, VT 05677, whose tax identification number is 03-0162865." Contact Deputy Director Alicia DiCocco for more information: [adicocco@greenmountainclub.org](mailto:adicocco@greenmountainclub.org); 802-241-8322.

## New ROTHBERG-BIRDWHISTELL VISITOR CENTER Hosts Programming



End-to-End Panelist Brock Quesnel talks to attendees about the gear he carried on his Long Trail thru-hike. The new visitor center has served as a gathering place and venue for programs including the James P. Taylor Outdoor Adventure Seeker Series, Backpacking 101, Essentials of Map and Compass, and an in-person End-to-End Panel and *Long Trail Guide* Book Launch Event.



Thank you to Edelweiss Mountain Deli, in Stowe, and owner Jeff Clarke, for their generous donations of refreshments for Visitor Center events.





# Battell Shelter

## A LOOK BACK AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

BY MIKE DEBONIS

**AT 3,300 FEET ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF MOUNT ABRAHAM, JUST UNDER A MILE FROM THE SUMMIT, THE LONG TRAIL HIKER COMES UPON BATTELL SHELTER.**

The three-sided Adirondack-style lean-to, built in 1967 by work parties from Farm and Wilderness Camp in Plymouth, sleeps eight.

Battell Shelter is one of the highest three-sided shelters on the Long Trail System. Popular among Long Trail end-to-end hikers, and only about two miles from the nearest trailhead parking, it is also popular

among novice hikers seeking a Long Trail overnight and to climb one of Vermont's 4,000-foot summits.

In the early 1980s I was one such hiker. It was January, and my Scout troop planned an over night at Battell. It was my first overnight camping trip, and a memorable one. After dinner, we lay outside to look at the stars and a lunar eclipse. Tucked into the warmth of our sleeping bags, we read Jack London's short story *To Build a Fire*, and I felt thankful I didn't have to build a fire to survive that night.

Early the next morning we hiked to the summit to enjoy crisp mountain air and the 360-degree view of the surrounding countryside. Climbing Mount Abraham and staying over night at Battell in winter made a profound impact on me. It sparked a lifelong interest in astronomy, winter hiking and climbing, and led me to a career in natural resource management.

Today's Battell Shelter is almost 60 years old, but it is actually the fourth shelter on the mountain. The first was built in 1899 by Col. Joseph Battell for use by friends, family



## ◀ Battell Lodge (rebuilt in 1927) in the 1930s.

and guests staying at his inn in Ripton at what is now the Breadloaf Campus of Middlebury College.

Col. Battell was a publisher, philanthropist, and early conservationist. When he died in 1915 he was Vermont's largest landowner, having accumulated properties totaling 30,000 acres, which he bequeathed to Middlebury College and the State of Vermont to be preserved as "wild lands." They include today's Joseph Battell Wilderness, Breadloaf Wilderness, and Camel's Hump State Forest.

Unfortunately, the original Battell Lodge didn't last as long as the Colonel's holdings. Not long after his death, Battell Lodge fell into disrepair.

The 1926 *Long Trail Guide* read: *"This Log cabin in bad repair: affords shelter, is apt to be dirty for picnickers. Stove inside fair. No bunks. Simple cooking utensils. Fine water 1/8 mile south on trail. This Lodge built by Col. Joseph Battell in 1899 for use of his guests, fitted complete with everything needed by campers and kept open for their use. Looted and wrecked by hunters."*

In 1926, the Forestry Department of Middlebury College built a new Battell Lodge to replace the original. More modest than the original, it was nevertheless popular among hikers, with an open front, bunks for 10 to 12, a wood stove, and a large fireplace against a giant rock. It burned mysteriously in 1937.


The Long Trail Patrol, led by Roy Buchanan, built a third structure, Battell Shelter, on the site of the current shelter. This was a classic Adirondack-style open-front lean-to built of logs harvested onsite. It is reported that the privy was also made of logs to match the shelter. This shelter was

replaced by the current shelter in 1967 by the U.S. Forest Service, which defines it as a Mid-Century Modern iteration of the classic Adirondack open camp style.

In the 1950s and '60s the Forest Service began to modernize existing overnight facilities and build new ones to handle increasing participation in outdoor recreation. Shelter plans reflected post-war modern touches, like milled sheathing and dimensional framing instead of logs, three-tab asphalt roofing shingles, and poured concrete piers. The minimalist design emphasized function over aesthetics, and could be prefabricated offsite and airlifted to a site.

As GMC begins our 2025 field season, we are working with the Forest Service to plan the next iteration of the Battell overnight site. We need to increase capacity and improve the hiker experience while protecting vulnerable high-elevation vegetation from impacts of overuse. Because of the current shelter's historical and architectural significance, we will likely build a new shelter next to it rather than

replace it. The club will continue to station a backcountry caretaker at the site in the hiking season to help manage it. We will share details of the final plans later this year.

As the Battell Shelter site continues to evolve, it will undoubtedly remain important and popular for generations of hikers traveling Vermont's footpath in the wilderness. Thanks to the ongoing support of members and donors like you, we can preserve both the historic shelter site and the fragile alpine vegetation surrounding this beloved overnight site. 



Battell Shelter, built 1938 in the classic Adirondack lean-to style.



Battell Shelter in 2025 shows the need for repairs and expanded capacity.

COURTESY OF UVM SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

PHOTO BY KEEGAN TIERNEY



# A Day in the Life: Section

**SPRING IS MUD SEASON, WHEN CONSCIENTIOUS HIKERS AVOID MUDDY TRAILS TO PREVENT DAMAGE.** But an acceptable and even commendable way to enjoy trails in May is to join a GMC section spring trail work outing.

Each of the Green Mountain Club's 14 sections maintains a section of the Long Trail or the Vermont Appalachian Trail (hence GMC's idiosyncratic term "section," rather than "chapter"). The longest section of trail is 45 miles long, but most are 10 to 15 miles.

A section's volunteer trail maintainers organize spring work days to ensure every mile of trail is ready for hikers. They clip back brush, clean waterbars, repaint blazes, and clear trees felled by winter wind or the burden of snow and ice. Volunteers also note emerging problems that might require a professional trail crew's attention.

Without this seasonal maintenance, trails and surrounding areas are prone to damage, whether from erosion by inadequately drained water, or through widening by hikers bypassing obstacles.

Section work days are open to all, including nonmembers, and they are a great way to connect with other club members in your area. If you wonder how it goes down—and how it complements GMC's overall trail management mission—spend a day on the trail with us.

Saturday, May 3, was the first of the Burlington Section's four spring work days. Every Saturday in May, a crew of 10 to 15 volunteers meet at the Richmond Park and Ride on I-89. Trails and Shelter Co-Chairs

Scott Albertson and Pete Saile have divided their section of the LT (from Route 2 to Butler Lodge) into stretches manageable in a day.

**8:30 a.m.:** We gather in the parking lot. Trails Co-Chair Scott Albertson gives us our instructions: a trail clear enough that someone could walk along carrying a four-by-eight-foot sheet of plywood ahead of them vertically without hitting brush or deadfalls. Scott splits the 13 of us into three groups, and doles out tools: clippers, a hand saw or two, a hazel hoe for clearing waterbars, and a chainsaw kit and a certified sawyer per team.

**9 a.m.:** We've carpooled to our starting point—for my group, that's the Long Trail parking lot on Route 2—and we quickly turn onto the Long Trail north from Bolton Notch Road. Progress is fast at first: the trail is dry, and there's minimal small growth to clip. We chat about our interests and background in hiking and trail work, and admire spring wildflowers popping up all over the trail.

**9:48 a.m.:** As we walk, David Hathaway points out evidence of beech bark disease afflicting most beeches. A fungal infection spread by an insect, it causes patterned pock marks on the bark, and many of the fallen trees the section must clear are diseased beeches. Ira Powsner uses a handsaw to remove a few fallen branches and small trees from the trail.

**10:50 a.m.:** A light drizzle has started as we ascend an old logging road portion of the trail, built in 2015 as part of the



Volunteers Ira, Pete, and David on a Burlington Section Spring Work Day.



BEFORE: The messy blowdown in question.



# Spring Maintenance Outing

BY CHLOE MILLER

Winooski Bridge construction and the accompanying trail reroute. David clears waterbars as we go, scraping masses of wet leaves out of the channels down to stable mineral soil. He's careful not to dig deeply close to the rocks that form the bar itself. Cleaning each waterbar is of utmost importance, because if a heavy rainstorm overwhelms one waterbar, an increased volume of water flows down the trail beyond it, overwhelming the rest of the waterbars like a watery chain of dominoes.

**11:15 a.m.** Pete facetiously laments carrying the heavy chainsaw with no occasion to use it—until now: we encounter a righteous Tetris of fallen trees and debris. One tree has uprooted, rootball and all, taking another tree with it, right at a switchback corner in the trail, so the mess covers the trail on both legs of the turn. We begin examining the jumble, analyzing potential compression and tension stresses (also called “binds”) to try to predict what will happen when we start making cuts.

Pete dons the required personal protective equipment (PPE) for safe chainsaw operation: chaps, helmet, gloves, ear and eye protection. David, certified for chainsaw use via the Game of Logging training program, suggests where to start. As Pete carefully cuts, David, Ira, and I muscle freed chunks of logs into the forest away from the trail, where they will decay and provide soil nutrients.

**12:00 p.m.:** The blowdown mess neatly dispatched, we move on, repeating the same three tasks (brush, waterbars, blowdowns) until we meet the crew working toward us. We all


break for lunch, then hike back the way we came.

**2:00 p.m.:** At the parking lot we share refreshments and reports of conditions. Teams working at higher elevations often encounter more deadfalls than those lower down, and they may contend with snow or other early-season difficulties as well. We head home, tired but happy, having made a difference on the trail, and eagerly anticipating the hiking season.

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All GMC sections have the same basic responsibilities, but their approaches may differ. The Burlington Section is GMC's largest, with a consistent turnout of volunteers. Some other sections have many fewer volunteers, and they may be forced to triage, focusing mostly on making the trail passable by removing downed trees.

GMC's professional trail crews and individual trail adopters often join forces with sections when needed. We encourage readers to join a work party and see what it's like. Helping clear the trails you hike is a wonderful way to connect with the Long Trail System.

Without the consistency and commitment of the Green Mountain Club's 14 section volunteers, the Long Trail System might return to the overgrown, tangled, flooded mess it became through neglect during World War II. As Vermont dries from mud season and hikers look forward to another year, GMC sections take to the woods every weekend, preparing the Long Trail, the Vermont Appalachian Trail, and their side trails for another season. *Will you join them?* 



In progress removing the blowdown.



AFTER: the trail is clear!



# 335 CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2025\* New End-to-Enders!



PHOTO BY EVAN METCALFE

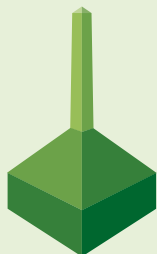
Monica "Moss" Aguilar, Walpole, MA  
Joanne "Dorothy & Toto" Alvarez, Annapolis, MD  
Samara "Sister Wives" Anderson, North Ferrisburgh, VT  
Giovanna "Fern" Angiolini, Montville, NJ  
Alysse Anton, Burlington, VT  
Ernie "Jerzy" Bailey, Stockholm, NJ  
Ryan "Pineapples" Baldwin, Crownsville, MD  
Amy "Road Runner" Barkauskas, Anchorage, AK  
Mckenzie "Giggles" Barone, Suffolk, VA  
Jake "Sweets" Barrella, Rye Brook, NY  
Scuba "Wood Chipper" Beaumont, Valley Cottage, NY

Robert "Animal Accountant" Beaumont, Anchorage, AK  
Pierre "Long Trail" Beaugard, Granby, Québec  
Pamela "Smiling Coyote" Beckvagni, Nashua, NH  
Randy "Tangerine" Behm, Sussex, WI  
Christopher "T-trex" Beland, Gorham, ME  
Talya Benzer-Shuman, Ithaca, NY  
Jordie "Ducky" Beresin, Portsmouth, NH  
Michael "Unleaded" Berti, Chittenango, NY  
Brooke "Slim Rims" Black, Sioux Falls, SD  
Andrew "Andy B" Blount, Jeffersonville, VT  
Susan "Patchwork" Boedy, South Burlington, VT  
Cory "Salad" Bolton, Leland, NC  
Zachary "Prototype" Boston, Sanford, ME  
Steven "Last Call" Brady, Mannington, WV  
Ryan "Captain Soggy" Breault, Longmont, CO  
John "Turbo Stache" Brennan, Sodus, NY  
Ilana "Fig Newton" Brett, Lincoln, VT  
Gary Bristol, Stowe, VT  
Madison "Veggie Straw" Brooks, Manchester, NH  
Amanda "Cappy" Buck, Raleigh, NC  
Sue "Speed Stick" Buckingham, Homewood, AL  
Jack Buffington, Enfield, NH  
Tasman "Firefly" Burau, New London, CT

Mark "Acorn" Burch, Saylorsburg, PA  
Edward "T.Rex" Busheme, Heath, TX  
Cassandra "Red, White, And Bruised" Bushey, Milton, VT  
Linda "Bliss" Caamano, Danville, VT  
Susan "Stray Cat" Campbell, Forney, TX  
Gina "Bear Cub" Cannasta, Colchester, VT  
Liza "Goblin Mode" Cannon, Burlington, VT  
Thomas Cayer, Whitefield, ME  
Melody "Bio" Chan, Beverly, MA  
Benny "Kratos" Chavez, Palmer, MA  
Chloe "Cheeto" Cho, Ithaca, NY  
Wendy "Shin Guard" Christensen, Raleigh, NC  
John "Belt Buckle" Christensen, Raleigh, NC  
Taylor "Sunrise" Ciambra, Portland, OR  
Claudia "Banana" Ciccone, New Orleans, LA  
Julian "Jc" Cichoskikelly, Hinesburg, VT  
Kaitlin Clark, Philadelphia, PA  
Laila "Damsel" Cohen, Atlanta, GA  
Aminta "Minty" Conant, St. Johnsbury, VT  
Bethany "Layers" Conerly, Webster Groves, MO  
Meghan "Patches" Considine, North Adams, MA  
Joe Cook, Dummerston, VT  
Meghan "Food Truck" Cooper, Fruita, CO

## CLASS of 2025 End-to-Enders

**91** hikers hiked in sections;  
**244** completed  
a thru-hike  
**20** hikers had  
completed the  
Long Trail before



*\*End-to-Enders can complete their applications at any time after completing an end-to-end hike. Of the 335, 294 completed their hike in 2024. These names and stats reflect applications received between March 1, 2024 and Feb 28, 2025.*

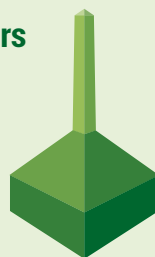


Caroline "Sam" Cormier, Saint-Hyacinthe, Québec  
 Simon Côté, Sherbrooke, Québec  
 Lily "Boss" Coughlan, Wellesley, MA  
 Laura "Pickles" Coughlin, Pembroke, MA  
 Rick Cushing, Norwood, MA  
 Ciaran "Legs" Cusick, Baltimore, MD  
 Tim Cutler, Vicksburg, MS  
 Jessica DeGrechie, Wilder, VT  
 Terry "TDQ" DelliQuadri, East Burke, VT  
 Levi "Topo" Desautels, Jericho, VT  
 Taylor "Laptop" Dewey, Alexandria, VA  
 Paul Dickie, Newington, CT  
 Erin Dietz, Boston, MA  
 Chantal Diodati, Northwood, NH  
 Griffin Diven, Washington, DC  
 Gordon "Mason" Dixon, Stowe, VT  
 Madilyn "Radmad" Downer, Barnet, VT  
 Kathyanne Doyle, Chino Valley, AZ  
 Brekton "40 Watt" Drougas, Northampton, MA  
 David "Mt. Mime" Dueck, Stevens, PA  
 Jacob Dwinell, White River Junction, VT  
 Ron Dwinell, White River Junction, VT  
 Arielle "Pinky" Edelman, Duxbury, VT  
 Fatimazahra El Shami, Germantown, MD  
 Whitney "Cool Trail Mom" Ellis, Golden, CO  
 Cryptic "Fluffernutter" Emberz, Marlborough, MA  
 Caroline Emond, Longueuil, Québec  
 Stephen "Chunks" English, Nashville, TN  
 Robert Evangelista, Woodstock Valley, CT  
 Thomas "Far Out" Evans, Rehoboth, MA  
 Maya "Bows" Fabozzi, Concord, NH  
 Gabriel Falcione, Burlington, VT  
 Lily "Swampy" Falk, Halifax, Nova Scotia  
 Emer "Tuff Ol' B (T.O.B.)" Feeney, Burlington, VT  
 Fiona "Wildfire" Ferguson, Squamish, British Columbia  
 Jonathan "Rad Jesus" Ferguson, Gardiner, Maine  
 Stephen "Fancy Pants" Fernandes, Rutland, VT  
 Sherry "Sweeper" Ferno, Palmer, AK  
 Angela "Detour" Ferrante, Colchester, VT  
 Michael "Stretch" Ferro, Holderness, NH  
 Thomas Finan, Exeter, NH  
 Jack Fince, Manchester, NH  
 Kelly "Blackbird" Fletcher, Guilford, VT  
 Abby "Splash" Foley, Intervale, NH  
 Alan "Loki" Foljambe, Kingston, Ontario  
 Quinten "Snow Gun" Forkas, Iowa City, IA  
 Ethan Foster, Weston, VT  
 Ryan Freebern, Richmond, VT  
 Cameron "Aesop" Fuller, Urbana, IL  
 Caroline "Oscar" Gambell, Colchester, VT  
 Russell "Mr. Friendly" Gamble, Bangor, ME  
 Karen Garmire, Vancouver, WA  
 Fred Garmire, Vancouver, WA  
 Kristin "Silver Spoon" Gaudet, Chelsea, VT  
 Robert "Highwayman" Gillespie, Kintnersville, PA  
 Jim "Landcruiser" Gilmore, Fairfield, CT  
 Emmett Gohacki, Hinesburg, VT

## CLASS of 2025 End-to-Enders

The youngest hikers  
were **14**;

the oldest hiker  
was **78**



Nicole "Seabiscuit" Golba, San Diego, CA  
 E. Claire "Newt" Goodwin, Colchester, VT  
 Mary "Poppins" Grace, Stone Mountain, GA  
 Nick "Trashfed Vegetarian" Graceffa, Burlington, VT  
 Marianne "Tank" Graham, Woburn, MA  
 Arthur "Wicked" Graves, Marblehead, MA  
 Andrew "Emersion" Green, Rockvale, CO  
 Floyd Greenwood, Andover, MA  
 Morgan "Lumber Slumber" Gregory, Derby, VT  
 Chase Gregory, Glens Falls, NY  
 Hallie Grossman, Craftsbury Common, VT  
 Andreas Gruenhage, Bueckeburg, Germany  
 Leah "Timex" Gump, Conway, MA  
 Dale "Rabbit" Haas, Red Creek, NY  
 Sue "Strong Like Bull" Hackney, Montpelier, VT  
 Blair "Chug" Haft, North Palm Beach, FL  
 Leah "Anon" Hagen, Lake Wales, FL  
 Amanda "Mantis" Hagen, Madison, WI  
 Andrew "Flash" Hall, North Adams, MA  
 Melissa "Stitch" Ham-Ellis, Rutland, VT  
 Tina "H2O" Hartell, Weston, VT  
 Noah "Stubblehoof" Hastings, Chicago, IL  
 Jamieson "Hatter" Hatt, Coldwater, Ontario  
 Everett "Gravy" Hazelton, East Dorset, VT  
 Leo "Lumpy" He, Quincy, MA  
 Allan "Arnold Benedict" Heathman, Woodsville, NH  
 Karyssa "Tweedle Dum" Hiller, Burlington, VT  
 Kenneth "Kenny" Hippe, Oakton, VA  
 Stephen "Gaucho" Hodin, Jamaica Plain, MA  
 Alex "Clover" Holst, Londonderry, NH  
 Lucia "Red" Hopkins, Stillwater, NY  
 Teddy "Chickadee" Howard, East Greenbush, NY  
 Sebastian Huber, New Haven, VT  
 Logan "Tailwind" Huff, Winchendon, MA  
 James "JT" Huff, Winchendon, MA  
 Logan "Tailwind" Huff, Winchendon, MA  
 Amanda "Ralph" Hughes, Howell, MI  
 Molly "Oats" Hull, Morgantown, WV  
 John Jaeger, East Falmouth, MA  
 Eric "Steady" Janson, Wayne, PA  
 Susanne "Blue Moon" Jarnryd, Concord, MA  
 Claudia "Pacha" Jauregui, Milton, MA  
 Ralph "Stache" Jesseman, Milan, NH  
 Samuel "Bucksnot" Jewson, Wabasha, MN  
 Luke "Summit" Joanis, White River Jct., VT  
 Victoria "Bluegrass" Jofery, Moscow, ME

## My most memorable experience

was our last overnight section hike. The year prior we had to skirt around Mt. Mansfield due to extremely inclement weather. We had planned a trip back to summit Mansfield and finish the last fairly grueling 17 miles. Unfortunately, the weather on this trip was no better, but we decided to push through anyway. We summited Mansfield in sideways rain and wind, no one else around, and absolutely no view. We got to a more protected area, and Kris stopped and out of his bag pulled out an engagement ring, and asked me to marry him. I said yes!



At the end of the trail, in the parking lot, he surprised me with both of our families waiting to celebrate both our engagement and our completion of a three-year-long hiking project! It is a memory I will never forget.

*From Amy Matta and fiancé Kristan Reutlinger, who section hiked the trail from 2020 to 2023. CONGRATULATIONS!*





# Take a Load Off!

This year's class of End-to-Enders know that breaks are essential!

Off My Feet — Matt Pavlich



Reading — Meghan Considine



In for the night — Sue Hackney (Resting at Seth Warner Shelter)





All Smiles — Greg Moyerbrailen



Morning Coffee — Hannah Woroniak



Chilling — Chloe Cho



Trail Magic — Jack Buffington

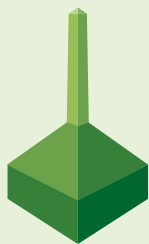


Backpack or Backrest — Thomas Nolan



## CLASS of 2025 End-to-Enders

Represent **35**  
U.S. States and  
**5** different  
countries



Marilynne Johnson, Richmond, VT  
Garrett "Thumper" Johnston, Boulder, CO  
Carson Jones, Lebanon, NH  
Madeline "Cartwheel" Kallin, Dresden, ME  
Matthew "Shuttle" Kearney, Williston, FL  
Patricia (Patti) "Trooper" Kellogg, Simsbury, CT  
Peter "Rooster" Kellogg, Simsbury, CT  
Kristine "Chaser" Kenison, Wolfeboro, NH  
Andrew "Blue Trail" Kenney, Newbury, MA  
Elise "Pisa" Killian, Richmond, VT  
Nicole "Puff Trash" Kimball, Burlington, VT  
Libbie "Jewelweed" Kirkpatrick, Cambridge, MA  
Faith "Gutsy Rabbit" Kisacky, Oak Harbor, WA  
Mike "Mike" Klussman, Mountain Dale, NY  
Jeremiah "Weatherman" Knowles, South Windsor, CT  
Dennis Krahn, Shediac, New Brunswick  
Claire "Baguette" Kubicki, Gold River, CA  
Ethan Lamb, Grantham, NH  
Meagan "Little Debbie" Langton, Burlington, VT  
Michelle Leary, Hadley, NY

Mackenzie "Tweedledee" Lebuhn, Sonoma, CA  
Scott "Bad Frodo" Lehman, Ocala, FL  
Steffen „Walking Bare" Lingnau, Mönkeberg, Schleswig  
Holstein, Germany  
Diane Lloyd, Brooklyn, NY  
Paul Lotterer, Wilbraham, MA  
Tad Loud, Northfield, MA  
Alex Loud, Northfield, MA  
Derick "Mr Fabulous (Fab)" Lugo, Asheville, NC  
Christopher "Hops!" MacArthur, Clarksville, TN  
Connor "Ninjabeanman" MacEachern, Grafton, VT  
William Maddaluno, Bellmore, NY  
Madeline "Lash" Maddox, Roanoke, VA  
Swan "Birchbark" Malone, Randolph, NY  
Donald Mansius, Appleton, ME  
Amy Matta, Philadelphia, PA  
Bill "LT" Mayo-Smith, Weston, MA  
Aidan "Chef Smallspace" McDougall, Burlington, VT  
Terrance "Long Way" McGovern, Staten Island, NY  
Steven "Lightwalker" McGuinness, Southington, CT  
Irena "Gratitude" McQuarrie, Scarborough, ME  
Valerie "Bear" Melendez, Peabody, MA  
Katie "Ibex" Melsky, Lexington, MA  
Evan Metcalfe, Perth, Ontario  
Melinda "Inchworm" Mingus, Shelburne, VT  
Lee "Diesel" Mobley, Young Harris, GA  
George "Mud" Moehrl, Frederick, MD  
Melissa "Plastic" Moore, Watertown, MA  
Mackenzie "Profanity" Morgan, Winhall, VT  
Gabriela Moroz, Centerville, MA  
Ferrell "Daddy Long Legs" Moultrie, Roswell, GA

Gregory "Sticky Dust" Moyerbrailean, Burlington, VT  
Millie "Early Bird" Mugica, Hollis, NH  
Dylan "Slurpee" Mullaney, Milton, MA  
Danielle "Dan Gogh" Murphy, South Royalton, VT  
Hunter "Criter" Myers, Burlington, VT  
Justine "Swish" Myers, Minneapolis, MN  
Tessa Napolitano, Burlington, VT  
Enzo Napolitano, Burlington, VT  
Dante Napolitano, Burlington, VT  
Chris Napolitano, Burlington, VT  
James "Retro" Neff, Quaker Hill, CT  
Andy Neuman, Amherst, MA  
Amy "Ghost Pipe" Newell, Brookline, MA  
Sophia "Santa" Nickolas, Marblehead, MA  
Diana "Bigglesworth" Niland, Cortland, NY  
Thomas "Bus" Nolan II, Syracuse, NY  
Sarah "Backtrack" Norton, Arlington, MA  
Braden O'Donnell, Calais, VT  
Cristin O'Donnell, Calais, VT  
Tegan O'Donnell, Calais, VT  
Finnegan O'Donnell, Calais, VT  
Patrick O'Donnell, Calais, VT  
Madeline Ogle, Morro Bay, CA  
Simon "Seaweed" Page, Burlington, VT  
Anthony "Swamp Foot" Parente, Pawtucket, RI  
Lauren "Madam Morel" Parry, Worcester, MA  
Matt "Diehard" Pavlich, Shelton, CT  
Etienne "Insignificant Boy" Pinard, Sherbrooke, Québec  
Peter "Badger" Pitt, Craftsbury, VT  
Tom "Slowgait" Platt, Clemson, SC  
Brian "Sligo" Plumb, Hopkinton, MA

## End-to-Enders' Favorite Sections of Trail Include...



In Devil's Gulch. Photo by Hunter Wasser.

### Monroe Skyline (Lincoln Gap to Camel's Hump)

"...a long ridge walk that's not overly busy with great views from the summits of Mt Abraham, Lincoln Peak, Mt Ellen, and Stark Mtn..." — *Randy Behm*

...It's such a beautiful and tactical portion of the trail... the fun challenge of the ladders and rungs." — *Danielle Murphy*

### Devil's Gulch

"...wicked eerie and Jurassic feeling..." — *Zachary Boston*

"...the scenery, the natural air conditioning, and the fun rock scrambles made that the best stretch..." — *Madison Brooks*

### White Rocks Area

"...I laid on those giant white rocks for an hour just staring up at the blue sky and smelling the pine trees...." — *Taylor Ciambra*

"...the dense firs and the extensive carpet of moss underneath." — *Liza Cannon*



Stephen Porter, Stamford, VT  
 Maria "Oyster-Boss" Prokos, Baltimore, MD  
 Kayla "Navigator" Prouty, South Hero, VT  
 Brock "Megamind" Quesnel, Whiting, VT  
 Nicolas Racine, Rosemère, Québec  
 Jeremy "Fallen Kale" Ravenelle, Burlington, VT  
 Christine "Lady Unicorn" Reed, Littleton, CO  
 Mimi "Ooof" Reeves, Milton, VT  
 Kristan "Fajitas" Reutlinger, Philadelphia, PA  
 Ray "Geared Up" Reynoso, Oregon City, OR  
 Vincent Rivard, Longueuil, Québec  
 Alexandro "Snail Male" Rivera, San Francisco, CA  
 Toby Rivkin Brennan, Brooklyn, NY  
 Robert Roberts, State College, PA  
 Casey "Professor Brooke" Robidoux, Spencer, MA  
 Kevin Robinson, Swanton, VT  
 Brian Rogers, Gibson Island, MD  
 Ella "Pantless" Rohm-Ensing, San Francisco, CA  
 North Ross, Ottawa, Ontario  
 Aeryn "Wikipedia" Rowe, Somerville, MA  
 Drew "The Runaway" Rowland, Greenville, SC  
 Halle Rudman, Centerville, MA  
 Matthew Ruggiero, Boston, MA  
 Jonathan "Gogo" Russo, Hinesburg, VT  
 Adam "Dreamer" Salinger, Sacramento, CA  
 Anthony Samani, West Dover, VT  
 Timothy "Not Yet" Scales, Philadelphia, PA  
 Steven "Hawk" Schindler, Rutland, VT  
 Mary Schindler, Rutland, VT  
 Chase "Shaggy" Schomp, Burlington, VT  
 Ren "Glutino" Schram, Burlington, VT  
 Erik Schwarz, Montpelier, VT  
 William "Thrill" Sclater, Bondville, VT  
 David "Tie Dye" Scott, Lexington, MA  
 Amanda "Mule Mode" Scott, Sherburne, NY  
 Eric Shaw, Foxboro, MA  
 Anne-Marie "Splash" Sheerman, Easthampton, MA  
 Grace Shelton, Thetford, VT  
 Jessica "Gaia" Siegel, Florence, MA  
 Scott "Aqua Man" Simpson, Reading, MA  
 Adam "Ice Axe" Simpson, Bullhead City, AZ  
 George "Old Man" Smith, Monroe, GA  
 Glen "MacGyver" Smith, Lucky Lake, Saskatchewan  
 Thayer "The Thighs" Smyth, Winooski, VT  
 Hannah Snyder, Portland, OR  
 Edward "B Woods" Solar, Atlanta, GA  
 Bernard "Goose" Soubry, Montréal, Québec  
 Laurie "Destination" Spaulding, Newark, VT  
 Andrew "Wizard" Spencer, Arlington, VT  
 Randall "Mambo" Stafford, Felton, DE  
 Gwyn "Boot Confetti" Stahl, Lyndonville, VT  
 David "Bull" Stevens, Durham, NC  
 James Stewart, Montpelier, VT  
 Phoebe "Pippy" Stoddard, Orleans, VT  
 Meryl "Happy Feet" Sudeith, Edina, MN  
 Carol "Vitamin C" Sullivan, Underhill, VT  
 Violet "Lavender" Tabacco, Montpelier, VT



PHOTO BY JORDAN THOMAS

Descending in the rain.

Scott "Cajun" Tanner, Bushkill, PA  
 Margaret "Mosey" Taylor Picard, Athens, Ontario  
 Travis Terrill, Daytona Beach, FL  
 Jordan "Camel" Thomas, Jacksonville, FL  
 Graham "Professor" Thomas, Beverly, MA  
 David "Christian" Thurston, Halifax, MA  
 Wendy "Shade Tree" Toole, East Lyme, CT  
 Max "Mousse" Troizier-Cheyne, Vincennes, Seine  
 St Denis, France  
 Mark "Bubblehead" Turner, Port Orange, FL  
 Faolán "Gourmet" Twomey, Beverly, MA  
 William "Woody" Tyler, Benson, VT  
 Ty "Misty Steps" Van Liew, Burlington, VT  
 Lilliana Vitelli, Appleton, ME  
 Griffin "Two Tarps" Wagner, Hilliard, OH  
 Jeffrey "Albertsons" Wallis, South Burlington, VT  
 Matthew "Mello" Walsh, Great Barrington, MA  
 Tara "The Bear" Ward, Cranston, RI  
 Abby "Oreo" Washburn, Norridgewock, ME  
 Hunter "GPS" Wasser, Richmond, VT  
 Libby "Topknot" Waterfall, Reading, VT  
 Mark Waters, South Burlington, VT  
 Henry Weatherford, Chesterfield, VA  
 Branden "Rudolph" Wedwick, Phoenix, AZ  
 Jay "Batwing" Weed, Hanover, NH  
 Dawn "No Name" West, Easthampton, MA  
 Elisabeth "Slow Gin Lizz" Westner, Waltham, MA  
 Chloe Wexler, Montpelier, VT

## CLASS of 2025 End-to-Enders

### Top 5 Home Locations

**97** Vermont

**58** Massachusetts

**20** New York

**19** New Hampshire

**17** Canada



Lea "Sparkles" Wilczynski, Troy, NY  
 Tony Williams, Montpelier, VT  
 Paul Wiza, Pewaukee, WI  
 Kayla "Hodgepodge" Wojcik, Middletown, CT  
 Rick "Cheddar Rick" Woods, Proctorsville, VT  
 Hannah "Moose" Woroniak, Strafford, NH  
 Rylee "Leela" Wrenner, Somerville, MA  
 Lindsay "Santa's Helper" Wright, Belchertown, MA  
 Joe "Hackysack" Young, Rockville, MD  
 Amy "Ducky" Ziobron, Swanton, VT



## Side-to-Siders

These hikers have completed all 88 side trails that intersect  
 the Long Trail. Learn more about hiking side-to-side:  
[greenmountainclub.org/side-to-side](https://greenmountainclub.org/side-to-side)

Kevin Robinson, Swanton, VT  
 Jake Perkinson, Burlington, VT  
 Ephraim "Bucksnot" Maciejowski, Jericho, VT



# FIELD NOTES

BY KEEGAN TIERNEY, DIRECTOR OF FIELD PROGRAMS

**PLANNING AND MANAGING FIELD PROJECTS IS ALWAYS MARKED BY UNCERTAINTY.** Seasonal staff hiring, weather, and fluctuating funding are never predictable. This season has been no exception.

The flurry of White House executive orders has caused several changes to our program plan since I wrote my spring 2025 season preview. New federal funding agreements have been put on hold, and layoffs at our partner agencies have slowed project planning and permitting. Still, our federal land management partners have worked hard to minimize impacts on access to public land, and in turn to ensure that the Long Trail System remains accessible.

Through their efforts, we have a key signed agreement for recovery work for damages from the 2023 floods. Between the 2023 and 2024 floods, GMC worked with them to submit reports with repair estimates totaling more than \$500,000. The recent agreement with the U.S. Forest Service will fund \$330,000 of that work, to be done in 2025 and 2026. Over the two years, the Forest Service agreement will replace a major bridge, repair another bridge, and restore eight sections of trail, including more than two miles of trail relocation. We hope to receive the remaining funding from FEMA for projects on state land.

This year crews will repair the **Black Brook Bridge**, just south of Stratton-Arlington Road, and restore tread on the **Lye Brook Falls Spur Trail** and the **LT/AT north of Route 9**. This work would be impossible without federal disaster relief funding.

We are planning the remaining work for 2026, but it is still in the permitting phase. We hope the reduction in compliance staff at the Forest Service, which handles the permitting process, will not derail these projects before the funding agreement expires.

A pause in anticipated work agreements with the Forest Service has delayed other projects planned for 2025. We expect replacement of the **Peru Peak Shelter Bridge** will be postponed until 2026, as will the start of the **Taft Lodge** restoration project described in the spring issue of the *Long*



PHOTO BY KEEGAN TIERNEY

**The Long Trail north of Route 118 is a muddy, unsustainable layout. We will construct a 1.5-mile reroute this season.**

**Trail News.** Taft Lodge is on state land, but we cannot justify the cost of a helicopter airlift there without spreading it out among several other projects as well. We had planned to use a multi-project airlift for expanding and restoring **Battell Shelter** (see page 6), but we are exploring other methods to pack in materials so the project can continue this year.

Other work for 2025 includes continuing the relocation of the **LT/AT between the Massachusetts state line and County Road** in Stamford; stone stairs and a short relocation of the **LT north of Bromley Mountain**; relocation of the **LT between Route 118 and Belvidere Summit**; a relocation on the **Sterling Pond Trail**; completion of a stretch of turnpike\* begun in

2024 on the **Sucker Brook Trail**; and a significant installation of native puncheon\*\* on the LT **between Hazen's Notch and Route 242** to alleviate muddiness.

Construction projects this year include restoration of **Beaver Meadow Lodge**; a new entry ramp and stairs at **Minerva Hinchey Shelter**; and repair of sill logs at **Spruce Peak Shelter**. Our senior trail technicians will also build a woodshed and universally accessible trail at **Jean Haigh Cabin**, one of GMC's rental cabins in the Northeast Kingdom.

Caretakers will continue the stewardship, public engagement, and backcountry sanitation work at which they have excelled for more than 50 years. Southern caretakers will help conduct a tread assessment survey with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. This work will aid planning for use of Legacy Restoration Funds through the Great American Outdoor Act. The geographic information system data obtained will also be used in the sustainable trails assessment that the club is starting this summer.

We have adapted to various kinds of uncertainty by hiring highly skilled field staffers, and scheduling extra time so they can fill unexpected staffing gaps as necessary. We also seek multi-year funding agreements when we can get them. Thus the field program and organization are as resilient as we can make them.

In the future less of our work may be federally funded. That will not be ideal, but the club is committed to continued maintenance and management of the Long Trail System. We have the flexibility, the drive, and the support of our dedicated volunteers, members, and donors to make that happen. Thank you for your continuing support. 🐾

\* **Turnpike** – A gravel or crushed rock path across a muddy area, usually edged by logs or stones to keep the fill in place.

\*\* **Native puncheon** – A raised walkway across a muddy or flooded area, made of locally cut logs split in half lengthwise and installed flat side up.

## Clarendon Gorge Bridge Repaired

On April 17, we closed the Clarendon Gorge Bridge due to a structural failure (a suspension cable had worn through). Due to land use in the area, there was no convenient reroute and we encouraged early season hikers to arrange a shuttle or road walk 7 miles from Route 140 north to Route 103 to avoid the Gorge.

Through quick action and cooperation with our management partners, we had senior trail technicians out at the bridge in early May. They fixed the cable and reopened the bridge on May 15.







# FIGHTING Invasive Species ON THE Appalachian Trail

## THE EMERALD ASH BORER HAS SPREAD THROUGHOUT VERMONT IN RECENT YEARS

BY ROWAN KAMMAN

**SPEND TIME IN VERMONT FORESTS AND YOU'LL ENCOUNTER ASH TREES.** These common trees have distinctive X-patterned corky bark, branches opposite each other on the trunk, and spearhead-shaped leaves. Three ash species grow in Vermont: green ash is sometimes planted along city streets. Black ash loves to get its feet wet in swampy areas, and is a traditional basket-weaving material, especially among the Abenaki. White ash abounds in hardwood forests, and is what hikers will see most often. Ash trees can grow very large by Northeastern standards: one in southern Vermont measures almost 44 inches in diameter!

Enjoy ash trees while you can, because sadly many will soon disappear. The emerald ash borer (EAB), an invasive wood-boring beetle native to Asia, is sweeping through the Northeast. It lays its eggs in ash bark, where the hatched larvae bore telltale S-shaped tunnels as they bore into the living tree tissue to feed, later emerging as adults. Infestations last for years, and are usually fatal for the afflicted trees.

First detected in northern Orange County in February 2018, EAB has since spread to most of Vermont. Beetle larvae easily travel in transported wood, and probably that's how the species arrived from overseas. This is why bringing firewood into the state is banned.

Adult beetles emerge in late May or early June, and are shiny emerald green, between  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long. Signs of an infested tree are sinuous tracks under the bark, small D-shaped holes in the bark where the beetles emerged, and large swaths of bark removed by woodpeckers searching for larvae. Experts expect most of Vermont's ash trees will die in the coming decades. Insecticide treatment works, but it is expensive and laborious, so many landowners choose to harvest ash instead of treating them.

However, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) have decided on long term treatment of four stands of ash along the AT with insecticide. They are in West Hartford, in Pomfret near Thistle Hill and near Stage Road, and in Bennington south of Route 9, where the Appalachian Trail and the Long Trail coincide.

Dan Hale, ATC's Senior Natural Resource and Land Stewardship Manager, says they chose these stands for their proximity to ecologically significant zones, and trail infrastructure like shelters. The treatment aims to both preserve ash tree genes for the future, and preserve biodiversity around the selected trees. Removal of a tree species can have adverse ecological effects in the surrounding area, especially on rare species and around vernal pools. So far, the treated stands include only white ash. But ATC would like to find suitable black ash candidates, and



◀ **OPPOSITE: A closeup of the emerald ash borer. Photo courtesy of USDA.**

**RIGHT: GMC's Senior Trail Technician, Matt Vezina, injects an Ash tree near Bennington with insecticide. Photo by Dan Hale. ▶**

encourages hikers to report any black ash they find along the AT.

Ash treated by ATC is identifiable by blue paint markings and metal ID tags. Every three years, Forest Service and ATC staff inject insecticide into a series of holes drilled around the tree's base. The insecticide, emamectin benzoate, is considered safe for pollinators, because it is contained in the trees' tissues (also, ash trees don't attract bees). Technicians insert an arbor plug in each hole, essentially a one-way valve that retains the insecticide.

Five milliliters of insecticide is injected per inch of tree diameter at breast height, with 10 milliliters injected per hole, rendering a tree toxic to EAB. The Forest Service and the ATC are encouraged by positive results that may allow lower doses in the next four-year cycle. Their efforts should help sustain these sylvan neighbors for years as survivor populations that could last indefinitely if other methods of controlling EAB are eventually developed. 🐛

*Rowan Kamman joined GMC in 2025 as the new Land Stewardship Coordinator. He brings experience from other Northeastern nonprofits focused on conservation, stewardship, and education. The Long Trail and the Green Mountains have been important to Rowan since he could fit in a backpack. He will coordinate GMC's volunteer corridor monitoring program, which maintains the boundaries of conserved lands along the Long Trail and the Vermont Appalachian Trail.*



## HAVE YOU SEEN

**any black ash on the southern LT or AT in Vermont? Please tell Dan Hale by email at [dhale@greenmountainclub.org](mailto:dhale@greenmountainclub.org)**

**Black ash has gray, flaky bark. ▶**



PHOTO BY JOCARTEN/NATURALIST



# Forty-Eight by Four

WHITNEY AND LYDIA PEARSON  
HIKED ALL OF NEW HAMPSHIRE'S 48  
4,000-FOOTERS IN A YEAR —  
AND HAVE SOME TIPS FOR YOU

BY CHLOE MILLER



**CLIMBING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S 48 PEAKS OVER 4,000 FEET IS AN ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR ANY HIKER.** Every year, several hundred hikers seek recognition and a patch from the AMC 4000 Footers Club, listing the dates of their hikes. At the annual awards event in April, the organization honors both the youngest and oldest finishers that year.

Many hikers take much of a lifetime, or at least several years, to plan and ascend 48 mountains. But starting when she was three, four-year-old Lydia finished the 48 peaks on her own two feet in less than a year. Accompanied her mom Whitney and younger sister Demi in a baby carrier, they completed their hikes from June 29, 2023 to June 16, 2024. Lydia is the youngest recorded finisher of the NH48 on her own two feet.

Sound impossible? Well, Lydia, now five, is the oldest child in a hiking family. Whitney Pearson, who is also mom to two-year-old Demi and infant Moriah, has been hiking in the White Mountains all her life. After Lydia's birth in 2020, Whitney boosted her training level, and started competing in ultramarathons and trail running challenges.

When Lydia was four months old, Whitney finished a round of the NH48—her sixth—with Lydia in an infant carrier. When Lydia could walk, she was hiking, too. She got interested in doing the NH48 challenge.

They started with three summer hikes, including Cannon Mountain. Lydia's interest in the challenge increased in the fall, when they tackled 15 peaks on 12 day hikes. Then came 12 peaks on eight outings in the winter, and they finished in the spring with 16 peaks knocked out in just nine outings, six of which included an overnight in a tent, backcountry shelter, or Appalachian Mountain Club hut.

◀ Lydia, mom Whitney, and sister Demi in the carrier.



Whitney showed Lydia how to make safe decisions when hiking. On Mount Isolation on a warm, lated winter day, Lydia happily hiked along while Whitney post-holed every step on snowshoes. Whitney helped Lydia see that it was a good idea to turn around and try again in the spring.

Some have questioned whether a toddler would really want to or can hike all those miles. Whitney explains, "The outdoors has always been a huge part of my family's life, and I've enjoyed sharing it with my children and seeing them develop a passion for it. I make sure they have other activities in their life so they don't get burnout from hiking, and we take plenty of breaks from it when needed and find other ways to enjoy nature... Lydia is getting to the age where she can really help make decisions in our hiking plans too! I hope it's something we can continue to pass on to other generations, and I can have an impact by inspiring others to get outdoors with their children."

Whitney and Lydia's hiking experience is impressive to say the least. But you can start hiking with babies, toddlers, and kids at any level and nearly anywhere – these tips might help get you started!

**Eat for fuel – and fun:** Snacks power any hike, but many parents know they are also a great motivator. Whitney involves her kids in hike preparation and planning by allowing them to pick their snacks in the grocery store. This doesn't always create a well-balanced meal: Lydia displayed Goldfish crackers, Pringles, a cookies n' cream chocolate bar, and soda during a GMC virtual presentation with Whitney in February. But it keeps kids happy!

**Start them young:** Whitney's kids started by staying close to mom in a front-facing baby carrier. Other parents prefer backpacks; either works. Whitney likes the front carrier because she can more easily keep an eye on her kids' comfort and temperature, and it provides better balance.

**Select routes carefully:** If possible, start hiking on trails you know, tailoring them to your kids' needs. If you're just getting started yourself, start with town or municipal trail systems that don't go far from a road.

There are often several ways to summit a mountain, in both Vermont and New Hampshire. Whitney used her knowledge of White Mountain trails to choose routes smooth enough for short legs and with comparatively gentle grades.

**Camp in the back yard first:** Lydia loves camping, as she and Whitney did several times on their outings. But before backpacking they did plenty of backyard campouts to test gear and see how



Lydia Pearson and little sister Demi on one of their hut stays.

changing their routines would go. Some kids sleep well anywhere; others need the routine of bedtime at home. Test your child's adaptability where you can easily pivot.

**Be flexible:** Letting Mother Nature call the shots is good advice for anyone, and even better with kids. Many peak baggers combine multiple clustered summits into one outing, but for Lydia it was often better to tackle those on separate hikes.

**Embrace the seasons:** Snow can smooth the most rugged trails for small children, and entertain them too. Lydia loves sliding down trails on her bottom, passing miles quickly. Of course, Whitney urges great caution when reviewing weather reports for safe winter conditions. She uses [mountain-forecast.org](http://mountain-forecast.org).

**Find what excites your kids:** Lydia was eager to finish her NH48 hikes on Mount Washington, not because it's New Hampshire's highest, but because the summit building reminded her of a castle. Lydia pretended to be the Disney princess Elsa, and slept in a castle after finishing her final hike! Of course, Whitney encouraged Lydia's imagination.

**Go with friends or find a group:** This helps keep kids engaged, and provides backup when hitting the trail with kids.

Hiking can benefit kids from a surprisingly young age. Whitney saw her daughters' confidence blossom as they took on challenging trails. They also developed an appreciation for the natural environment. After completing the 48 hikes, Whitney taught Lydia how to give back. They volunteered on a few trail crew days and learned Leave No Trace principles on their hikes. Then Lydia became hyperfocused on picking up litter on hikes and neighborhood walks. Such an interest is another great way to engage kids' brains and bodies while on the move. 🌿



# Recreation Survey Finds Hiking Tops the List

**WALKING AND HIKING ARE AMONG THE MOST POPULAR OUTDOOR RECREATION ACTIVITIES IN VERMONT**, according to a recent statewide survey. Move Forward Together Vermont, the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), is a guide for where and how to direct state investments in outdoor recreation.

In 2023 and 2024 thousands of people participated in focus groups and surveys, providing feedback to inform the vision and set priorities for the five-year outdoor recreation plan.

Survey results were based on responses from two groups: a statistically valid sample of 565 Vermont residents, called a Representative Panel survey, and an Invested Users survey with 1,831 responses that was open to anyone.

## Key Findings:

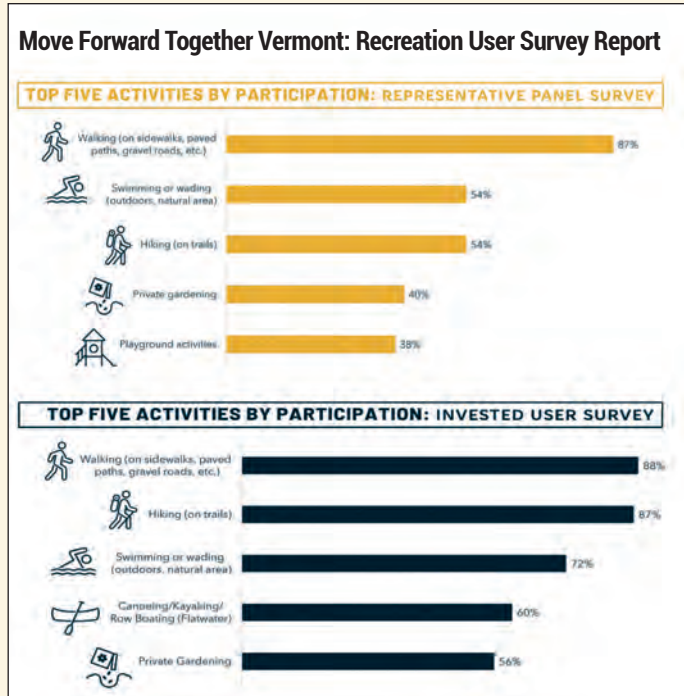
- Many Vermonters enjoy the outdoors. Ninety-three percent of the Representative Panel engaged in outdoor recreation in the year before the survey. Virtually all (99.7 percent) of Invested Users participated in outdoor recreation activity that year.
- Walking was the most popular outdoor activity among both surveys, with 86.7 percent of Representative Panel survey respondents walking and 87.7 percent of Invested User respondents walking in the year covered by the survey.

- Swimming or wading scored the second-highest level of participation among the Representative Panel. Hiking showed the third-highest level of participation among the Representative Panel (53.6 percent) and second-highest among Invested Users (86.8 percent).

Private gardening and playground activities rounded out the top five for the Representative Panel and Invested User surveys, with participation rates at 39.8 percent and 38.3 percent respectively. Rates for the Invested Users were 56.0 percent and 20.8 percent, respectively.

For most activities (77 percent), Invested User Survey participants reported a higher participation rate than Representative Panel respondents. This is not surprising, because Invested User Survey respondents were highly engaged and likely were an unusually dedicated group.

When the participation rate is combined with frequency of use, walking and hiking emerged as the most popular two activities among the Representative Panel. Popularity scores generally corresponded with participation rates. However, frequency rates were higher than participation rates in activities like jogging and running, but lower for others like camping and backpacking, which were popular but require too much time to be done often.



## What does this mean for the Green Mountain Club?

Confirmation of the popularity of walking and hiking justifies pride in our maintenance of excellent hiking trails for Vermonters. Other information in the survey data can help us improve our workshops and programs to serve Vermonters even better.

Given current economic pressures and increased cost of living, we anticipate participation in hiking to grow, due to its relative economic accessibility. Your support makes it possible for the Long Trail System to be free and open to all, and for GMC to offer free and low-cost hiker education resources and workshops to help equip more Vermonters to walk and hike outdoors.

To learn more, please visit: [fpr.vermont.gov/move-forward-together-vermont](https://fpr.vermont.gov/move-forward-together-vermont)

— MIKE DeBONIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## IN MEMORIAM

# Doris Washburn



**DORIS WASHBURN, 94**, a longtime beloved Green Mountain Club member and volunteer for 61 years, passed away last winter. She held multiple offices in the Montpelier Section, and was a trip leader and trail maintainer.

In addition, Doris volunteered at GMC Headquarters regularly for almost 30 years. She began on weekends, then joined the "Thursday volunteers" preparing and mailing membership packets and thank-you letters; typing Long Trail News articles; filing; inventorying merchandise; shipping orders; arranging meeting and program spaces; and just about anything else that needed doing. She even had a swivel chair marked with her name and a dedicated parking space at HQ.

"Her personality radiated happiness and a joy of living," fellow Thursday volunteer Joe Bahr recalls. "She was easy to be around, and full of good cheer."

Although Doris had retired from regular volunteering when my tenure at GMC began, I met her at club events, and we became friends. For her 90th birthday, we surprised her with a small party at Bolton Lodge. When her niece drove her to the parking lot on the Bolton Valley Access Road, she thought we expected her to hike up to the lodge—and she was game! However, she was relieved to ride instead.

I can only aspire to the wonderfully active and meaningful life she led. We miss you, Doris.

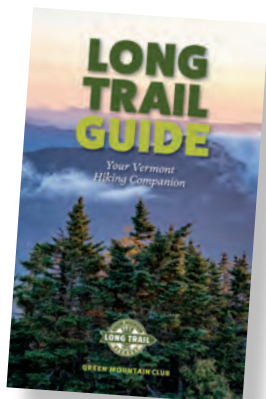
— KRISTIN McLANE, FORMER GMC MEMBERSHIP AND COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

## Two New Books for Your Next Hiking Adventure

### **Long Trail Guide, 29th Edition**

Enjoy cleaner, more readable maps; updated hiking guidelines; inspiration from former Long Trail End-to-Enders; and all the most current, comprehensive trail and shelter information for the Long Trail and the Appalachian Trail in Vermont.

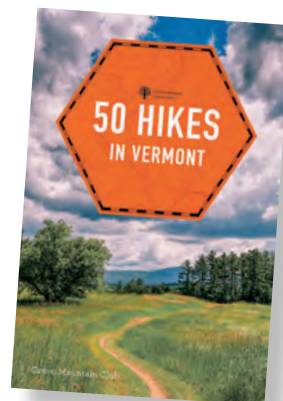
\$19.95 paperback, \$9.95 eBook. Twenty percent off for GMC members at the Visitor Center store or online at [store.greenmountainclub.org](https://store.greenmountainclub.org).



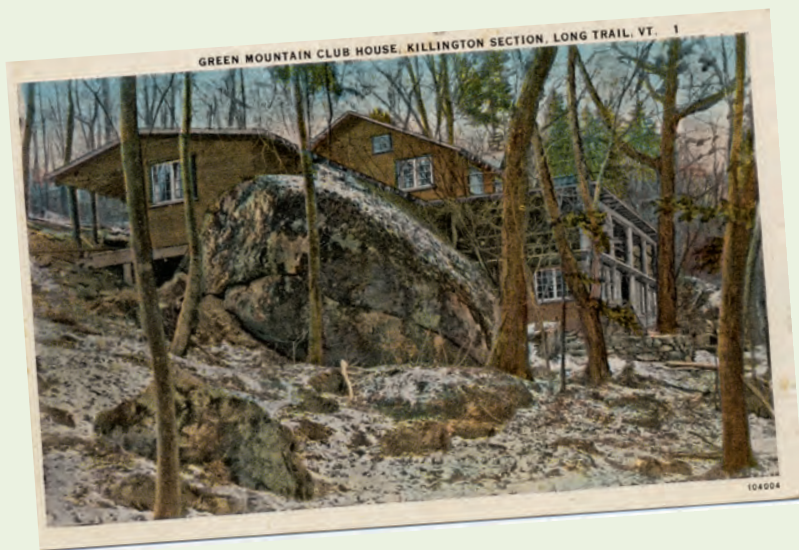
### **50 Hikes in Vermont, Eighth edition**

Seeking hiking inspiration off the Long Trail System? This updated guide may be for you. Published by Countryman Press in collaboration with GMC, it includes both popular and less well-known trails in Vermont, from a half-mile stroll to overnight backpacking routes.

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# NEW Historical Marker Honors THE Long Trail Lodge

BY CHLOE MILLER

**THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB HAD MANY HOMES BEFORE TODAY'S HEADQUARTERS ON ROUTE 100 IN WATERBURY CENTER.** We got our first home in 1924, a magical rustic structure enclosing giant boulders and other natural elements high on Sherburne Pass. The Green Mountain Club House was a gathering place for club members, hikers and visitors to the Killington area.

Renamed the Long Trail Lodge in 1925, it generated income as a guest house from 1924 to 1953. GMC leased it to Treadway Inns, an experienced hotelier, in 1933, then sold it (to Treadway) in 1953 to help pay down debt and start a trust fund, the seed for today's endowment. It continued operations until it burned down in 1968, and some ruins are still visible, though screened from the highway by dense woods.

GMC's Killington Section has been working to preserve the history and remains of the unique building. They reached a

milestone this spring: A Vermont State roadside historical marker is ready for installation on Route 4 near the site.

## Lodge History

The Club House was a generous donation by Mortimer Proctor, an early club supporter who became GMC's President and later Vermont's Governor. With vision and location in mind he hired Paul Thayer, an architect specializing in rustic style. Use of the surrounding landscape was the most notable characteristic of the lodge.

"The huge boulders deposited on its site in pre-historic time by some glacier or fallen from the cliff opposite...are a unique feature, being enclosed in the house in several places, forming parts of the wall, with ferns moss, and lichens growing on them as vigorously as outside," the April 1924 *Long Trail News* commented.

Perhaps its most remarkable inclusion of the outdoors was the Long Trail itself, which ran right through the lodge, marked by



The new historical marker was installed at Sherburne Pass in May 2025.



Some ruins of the Long Trail Lodge remain, like this stone fireplace.



◀ A Postcard shows the lodge with its original name and the boulders that formed part of the walls.

indoor white blazes. According to historian David Wright, whose uncle was lodge manager for many years, "It came in through the south on the second level of the building, out the door, down through the porch, and out the main entrance of the building."

The Long Trail and Appalachian Trail continued near the ruins of the lodge until 1999, when 4.2 miles of the LT/AT were relocated about a mile west to accommodate ski area expansion. The original route is now an official blue-blazed side trail, the Sherburne Pass Trail.

The interior décor of twisted roots, bark on logs, and taxidermied animals fully immersed the visitor in the spirit of the outdoors. It was intended as a home base for hikers, since Killington, Pico, and Carmel Mountains and Deer Leap provided numerous hiking opportunities. Like trailside hostels today, it offered comfortable beds, hot meals, and a chance to clean up and rest for end-to-end Long Trail hikers.

The Club House opened in 1924, shortly after the *Long Trail News* warned, *"Too much should not be expected of the results of the first season, which will be experimental."*

At first, only club members and their recommended guests were served, but service quickly expanded to the public. It hosted the Green Mountain Club annual meeting every year until its demise. The facility was significantly enlarged in its first few years, with administrative and facilities outbuildings and cabins.

Deer's Leap Annex was built across the road in 1939 for winter use. That building is now the Inn at Long Trail, still popular with Long Trail hikers.

### Preserving LT History

The Killington Section has been interested in preserving and restoring the lodge site for almost ten years. Installation of the new roadside historic marker is a major step in their plan to commemorate the GMC's first home. "It means more people will learn about GMC's first headquarters and the original location of the Long Trail," says Killington Section President Herb Ogden, who visited the lodge as a teen.

The Long Trail Lodge roadside historical marker is the third one commemorating the impact of hiking in Vermont. The Long Trail historical marker, created in 1949, is now at the Long Trail parking lot at Route 2 in Bolton, and is visible from Interstate 89.

In 2022 the Burlington Section completed an application, and a Green Mountain Club historical marker was subsequently installed at the former site of the Van Ness Hotel, where Long Trail visionary James P. Taylor first met with 11 contemporaries to found the club in 1910. It is on the corner of Pine and Saint Paul Streets in Burlington.

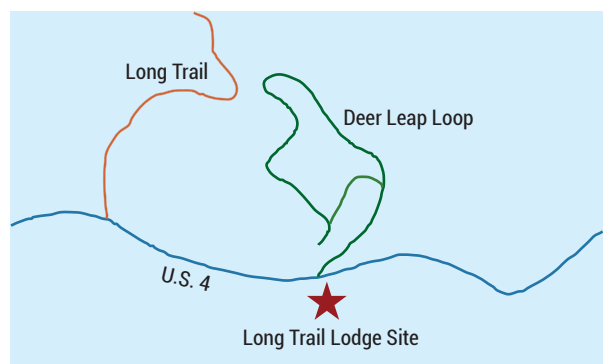
The Long Trail Lodge marker was installed in May by the Vermont Department of Transportation. The Killington Section will host an unveiling ceremony at a later date; check their website for the latest information. 🗺️

## Hike It!

To see the new marker, stop at the roomy parking lot at the Sherburne Pass Trailhead, on the south side of Route 4 and across from the Inn at Long Trail. The former site of the Lodge is just west of the parking lot.

To explore the surrounding area, hike the Deer Leap Trail on the north side of the pass, which leads to an impressive rock outcrop overlooking Sherburne Pass. From the small lower parking lot at the Inn at Long Trail, enter the woods and wind uphill for 0.5 mile on the Sherburne Pass Trail. Reach the junction with the AT, and turn left for 220 feet. Then, hike the Deer Leap Trail 0.4 mile to the Deer Leap Overlook Spur. The 0.2-mile spur leads you to dramatic views of the Coolidge Range. Return the way you came, or make a loop: continue north on the Deer Leap Trail for 0.9 mile, summiting Deer Leap Mountain, and return eastward (trail north) on the AT (0.9 mile) and Sherburne Pass Trail (0.5 mile).

"One of my favorite early memories about Long Trail Lodge is climbing Deer Leap with my brothers," David Wright recalls.







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## A Hike-a-Thon for Vermont's Trails

Saturday, September 20

LONG TRAIL DAY 2025  
A Hike-a-Thon for Vermont's Trails

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