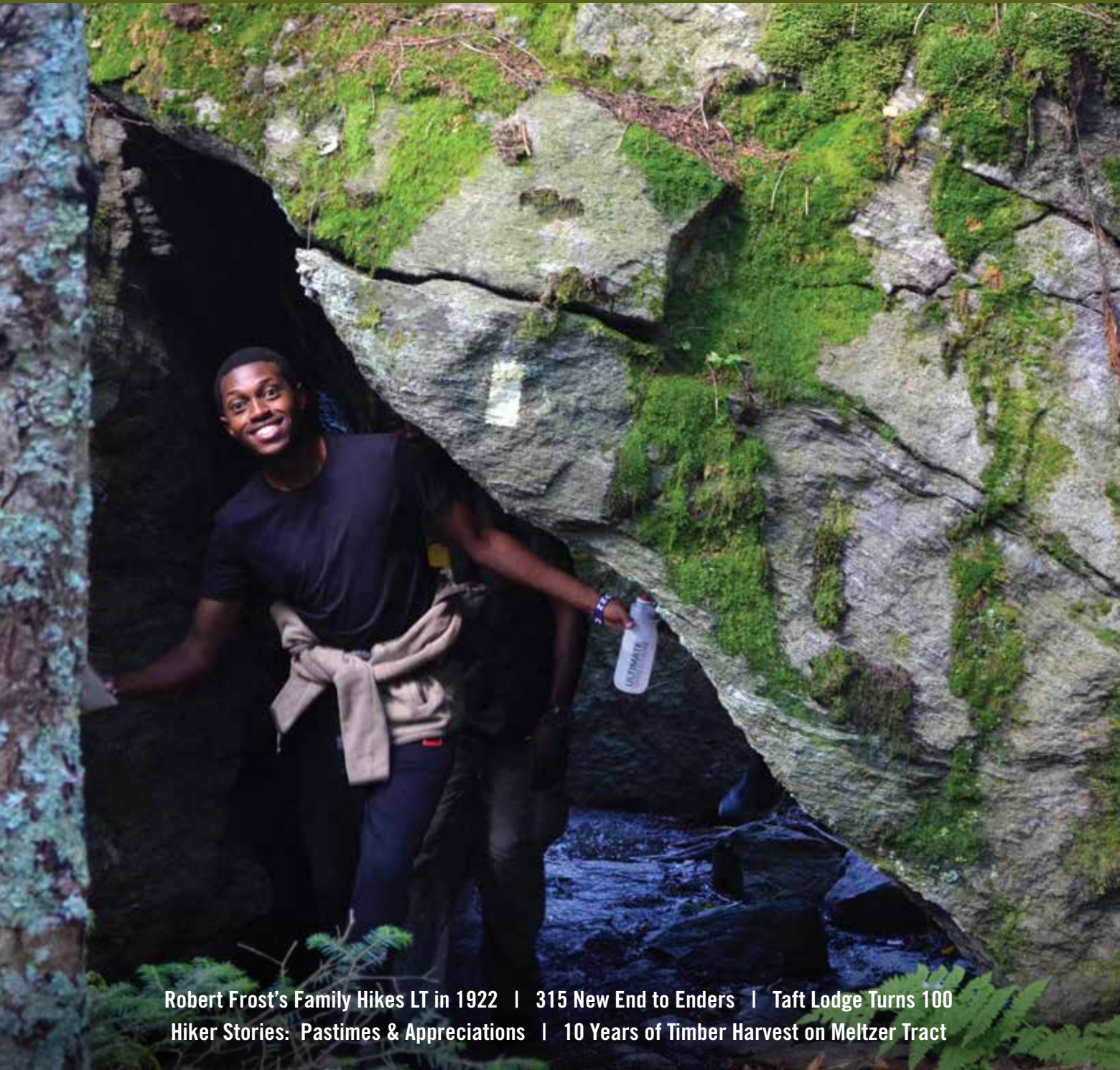


# Long Trail NEWS



Quarterly of the Green Mountain Club

SUMMER 2020



Robert Frost's Family Hikes LT in 1922 | 315 New End to Enders | Taft Lodge Turns 100  
Hiker Stories: Pastimes & Appreciations | 10 Years of Timber Harvest on Meltzer Tract



# Long Trail NEWS

The mission of the Green Mountain Club is to make the Vermont mountains play a larger part in the life of the people by protecting and maintaining the Long Trail System and fostering, through education, the stewardship of Vermont's hiking trails and mountains.

## Quarterly of the Green Mountain Club

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

The opinions expressed by *LTN* contributors are not necessarily those of GMC.

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**FRONT COVER:** Hikers passing through the Needle's Eye on Mount Mansfield just south of the Forehead. Photo by Jocelyn Hebert.

**BACK COVER:** 2019 End-to-Enders Ava "Watch" Donovan and Schneider standing proud on Camel's Hump. Photo by Jessie "Medic" Donovan.



In October 2019, Vermont native Nika "Early Bird" Meyers set a new women's self-supported southbound record hiking the Long Trail in six days, 11 hours, and 40 minutes. She bested the previous record by 28 hours.

Nika was GMC's VHC AmeriCorps group outreach coordinator, a backcountry caretaker, and member of the Long Trail Patrol. Today she is a Triple Crowner, having hiked the Pacific Crest Trail, Appalachian Trail, and Continental Divide Trail.

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## From the President

At the January board meeting I reported the club was doing extremely well. The budget was close to balanced. GMC had a full staff of excellent professionals. Membership was increasing, and outreach programs were expanding. Land vital to the protection of the Long Trail was under contract, and summer field staff positions were filled. Long deferred improvements were scheduled for the northern Long Trail and the Stratton Pond area, and a record of five new state-of-the-art privies were planned.

A worldwide pandemic was not in our plans. The club had to respond and adapt quickly when COVID-19 reached the state in early March and the governor issued a Stay Home/Stay Safe Order. Since then, staff and volunteer leaders have been working hard to ensure public safety while essential operations continue.

At the first warnings staff developed a plan with several possible courses of action for the field season. The plan was amended as the crisis unfolded using advice and guidance from key health authorities and the governor's orders.

The Club canceled all in-person events, turned to online videoconferencing platforms for board and committee meetings, and annual meetings of the club and sections. Lectures, educational workshops, and other outreach to the public also were adapted for online presentation.

In early April, the Long Trail and side trails on state land were closed to help limit the spread of the virus and to protect trails during

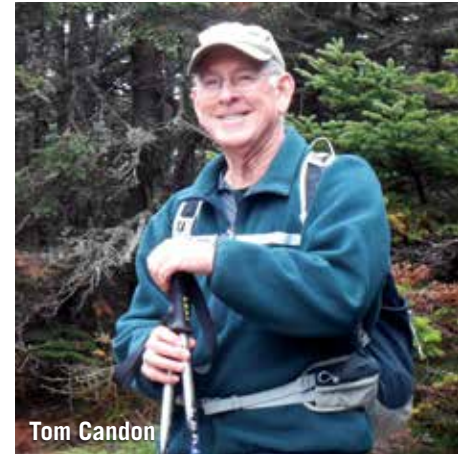
mud season. People were encouraged to stay close to home and recreate locally.

GMC received passionate feedback from members both in support of and opposed to closure of trails, including many valid points and concerns. We understood that it seemed counterintuitive to close the trails when our lives were constricted and our need for nature was great. But it was necessary for everyone to do their part to slow the spread of the virus and protect the vulnerable trail system during mud season.

Despite trail closures and the stay at home order, the Long Trail System received unprecedented spring use. Parking lots at trailheads became highly congested as both visitors and many Vermont residents flocked to distant trails for fresh air and exercise. Normally we would be pleased by such an increase in the popularity of hiking, especially by many first-time users. But we feared overuse of trails, shelters, and privies unreachable by maintainers could do a lot of damage, in addition to our concern for the risk of transmission of the virus in crowds.

In early May, the governor permitted the resumption of most outdoor recreation activities, including hiking on "trail networks," as long as hikers maintained physical distancing and protocols for hygiene consistent with guidance from the Vermont Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control.

A small corps of staff and volunteers have been busy getting the highest priority trails, shelters, and privies ready for the season.



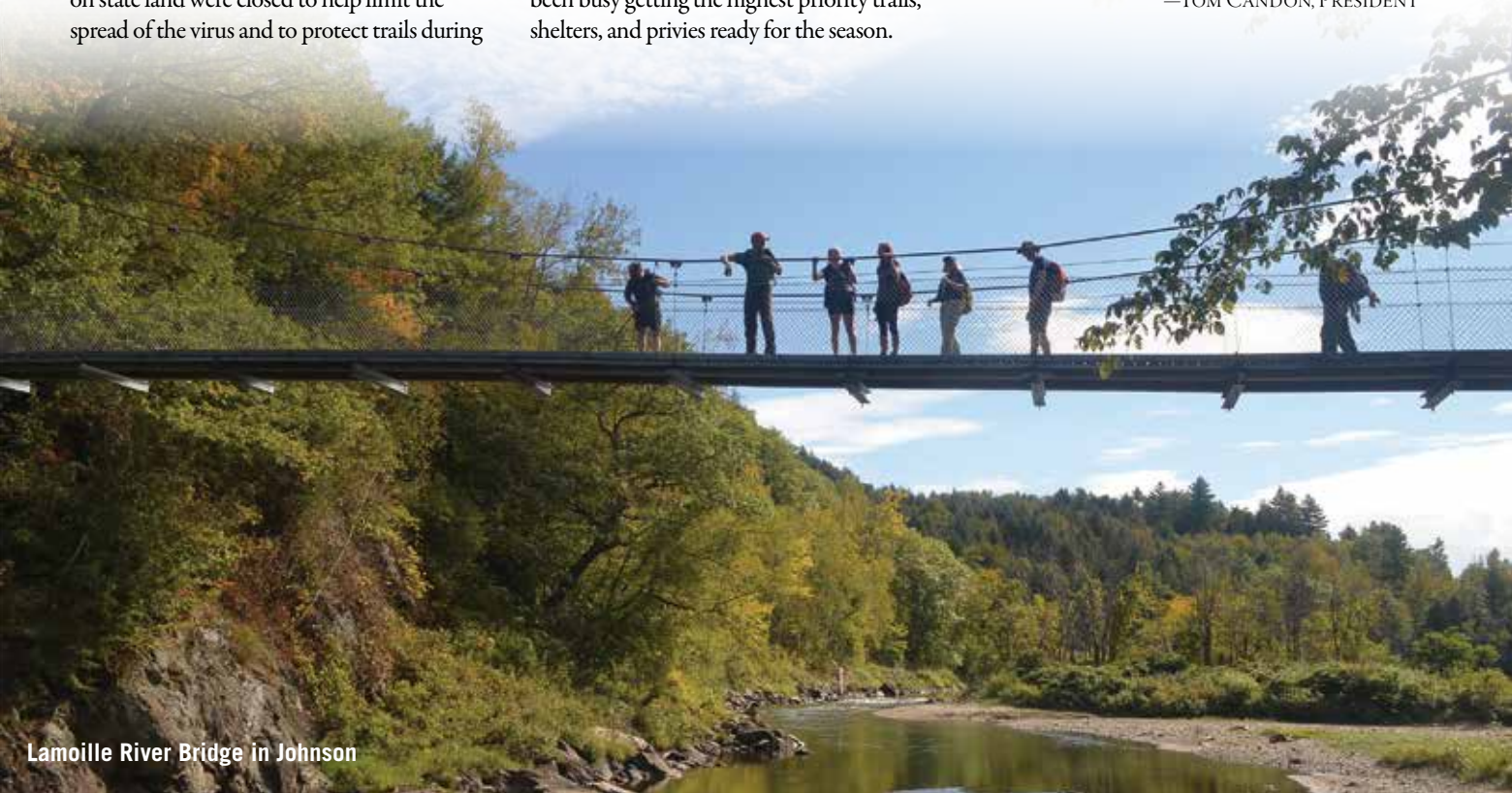
Tom Candon

The 2020 hiking season is certainly going to look different and at press time, the club and partners were working to develop new safety etiquette guidelines for hikers and backcountry campers.

We hope this edition of the *Long Trail News* gives your eyes a rest from online viewing and you enjoy the stories about Robert Frost's family hiking the Trail in 1922, Taft Lodge turning 100, and how hikers coped with restrictions placed on them this spring.

On behalf of the Green Mountain Club board and staff I thank all of you who continue financial support for our work in these challenging times. We will need your generosity and commitment as the consequences of the pandemic are fully revealed in the coming months.

—TOM CANDON, PRESIDENT





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## Conservation Comes Later

In his book *The History of the Sierra Club*, Michael P. Cohen observed that “[Many] people join a club like the Sierra Club because they like the out-of-doors, and they want to be with kindred spirits and share enthusiasms. Conservation comes later.”

The spring 2020 *LTN* proves this insight is evident in today’s Green Mountain Club. Kati Christoffel came to the trail to hike, but stayed to paint beautiful landscapes of the region and become a critical member of the caretaker program. Ilana Copel joined field staff as a summer gig in college to be around like-minded people, and ended up staying for eight years, essentially keeping the trails program alive during a major transition of leadership. Daan Zwick was introduced to the outdoors by his family and the Boy Scouts, and eventually became a critical financial donor for the Winooski River suspension bridge project. We’ve even got a nine-year-old who loves hiking so much he donates his allowance to the club every month!

Despite [some] complaints of overcrowding, the club should continue, with vigor, to inspire new people to have meaningful experiences in the Green Mountains and with the club.

You know what they say, you can bring a hiker to the mountains, but you can’t make them think. That’s something only the mountains can do.

—JORDAN ROWELL

## Praise for GMC Section Presidents

Each day during this current crisis I’ve been taking a few minutes to express gratitude to someone or a group of people whose work often goes underappreciated but is essential to make Vermont the amazing place it is. Today I thank you for your efforts as section presidents for the GMC.

I finished the Long Trail this November and cannot overstate how powerful the experience was. It replenished my soul, though it wrecked the soles of some running sneakers! My connection to Vermont has become even richer than it already was. And I know that sight unseen, the trails and the whole experience are possible through the efforts of Mike [GMC executive director] and his crew but also people like you and many other volunteers.

—TIM ASHE, VERMONT STATE SENATOR  
PRESIDENT *PRO TEM*

## Trail Closure Disappointing

Thank you for the thoughtful notice of updated GMC policies concerning COVID-19. However, I wanted to express my confusion and disappointment with this change during such a critical and stressful time for most members.

With the governor recommending that people de-stress by getting outside, how does limiting our access to wilderness areas benefit anyone? I would understand if the use of shelters was prohibited, but encountering another individual on the Long Trail provides ample opportunity to maintain at least six feet of separation. Please let me know if I am missing something here? My family is out hiking every day, using these public resources for exercise, for beauty, to view wildlife, and for education purposes. I guess that the Long Trail (and its side trails) won’t be on our short list, though I believe that a COVID-19-specific update for being safe while accessing the Long Trail would be more appropriate and would really benefit the mental health of our membership.

—ANDY MATHEY

## Medical Professional Appreciates Hikers Staying Close to Home

Thanks for this [trail closure] update and for all the great work. My family and I are looking forward to the online workshops. I especially appreciated seeing the GMC website with all the fantastic reports from GMC about getting outdoors close to home. Speaking for myself, but also as a public health nurse, I thank you all so much for supporting the guidance from our governor and our health commissioner to stay home, and close to home for outdoor activities.

—SALLY COOK

## Multi-generation Hiking Pairs

I love that the spring edition highlighted hiking with kids. One of my favorite things as a caretaker was getting to meet all the parent-child, grandparent-grandchild, etc., hiking duos. I think it’s such a special part of the Long Trail that so many multi-generation pairs hike it together, so thank you for showcasing that. So many good things. Excited to have this on our coffee table for a while!

—CAITLIN MILLER

(*Mountain Views continued on page 30.*)





# Resilience Fund

## GMC's Response to the Fiscal Impact of COVID-19

Since the last edition of the *Long Trail News* it seems as though the world has changed forever. The Green Mountain Club is no more immune to the impact of COVID-19 than other organizations. In just two months we closed the Visitor Center and our backcountry rental cabins, canceled spring workshops and events, and delayed much of our field season.

These unexpected financial setbacks greatly impair our ability to protect and maintain the Long Trail System. To help us through this time, we have established the Green Mountain Club Resilience Fund, which we will use to maintain our core capacity for the rest of 2020.

Many of you have already contributed to the Fund. Thank you! If you have not, and you can donate, I hope you will consider a gift today.

You can donate by using the envelope included in this *Long Trail News*, or by going online at [greenmountainclub.org/resilience](https://greenmountainclub.org/resilience).

—ALICIA DICOCO  
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

## 2020 Tax Considerations for Donors

- If you do not itemize deductions, you can deduct up to \$300 in charitable contributions, so you can claim up to that amount without going through the process of itemizing when you file your 2020 tax return.
- If you do itemize deductions, the cap on deductible annual contributions has been raised from 60 percent of your adjusted gross income to 100 percent.
- The required minimum distribution for retirement accounts has been eliminated for 2020, but the tax advantage of donating directly from your retirement account remains.



Jocelyn Hebert and Ram Verma on Camel's Hump



# The Road Partly Taken

## On and Off the Long Trail with Robert Frost

BY VIC HENNINGSEN

It's not clear who first hiked the whole Long Trail, but we do know who wanted to be first, claimed to be first, and, if we're willing to accept a significant route variation, might in fact have been first.

That would be a party of young people who in 1922 sought to become the first family group to end-to-end the trail, which at that time ran from Massachusetts to the Lamoille River at Johnson. Their leader was 23-year-old Lesley Frost, an exuberant young resident of South Shaftsbury who recruited her brother, Carol; her younger sister Marjorie; and Marjorie's friend Lillian LaBatt to undertake what became an 18-day late summer journey. Lesley also enlisted her father, Robert Frost.

Yes, that Robert Frost.

A tireless walker and botanist, Frost had delighted in introducing his children to the natural world, taking them with him on walks and encouraging them to seek new discoveries by quoting from Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*: "We were the first to ever burst into the silent sea." Before moving to Vermont from Franconia, New Hampshire, the Frosts regularly climbed local peaks like Lafayette, the Kinsmans, and Moosilauke. When Lesley broached the idea of the Long Trail, Frost jumped at the opportunity. He was 48, his children were reaching adulthood—who knew when there'd be another chance to spend so much time together outdoors?

But Frost was also weary and preoccupied. Recognition as a poet had come relatively late—in his forties—and he had to scramble to make ends meet, spending most of his time on the road giving readings and lectures, and serving as a visiting professor. During the 1921-1922 academic year he had been a

visiting fellow at the University of Michigan, returning to Vermont worn out in late June.

He remained immensely creative, spending an entire July night writing a draft of his 413-line poem, "*New Hampshire*," and then, at dawn, crafting his masterwork, "*Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*" in one sitting. But Frost was tired and out of shape when the group embarked in the early morning hours of Tuesday, August 15. Worse, he was wearing a new pair of walking shoes that pinched. He'd intended to break them in more thoroughly, but hadn't had time.

At departure, the group now included Edward Richards, a student friend of Frost's. Frost's wife, Elinor, and third daughter, Irma, opted to skip the family trip. Leaving from their South Shaftsbury front yard, they spent their first day bushwhacking over East and Bald Mountains before reaching the Long Trail at Hell Hollow Camp south of Glastenbury Mountain. This, Lesley argued in her trip report, was the equivalent of starting at the Massachusetts state line, also a day's walk away.

Days on the trail began well for Robert Frost. Biographer Lawrance Thompson provides a lyrical view of the poet's mode of travel:

"[H]e was the only one who settled into a slow and deliberate pace, content to let his children and their companions romp ahead. His private notions of mountain-climbing were based not so much on the fable of the tortoise and the hare as on his pleasure botanizing with eyes and fingers and nose, as he went. He treated both sides of the path as though they were pages of an open book, as though he were there to read both pages as he walked. . . All these casual observations made mountain-climbing a special form of



Long Trail between Bolton and Butler Lodge





PHOTO BY LAURA KNAPP

luxury for him. His lingering as he walked was merely a part of his cherishing.”

But joy soon gave way to trouble. Tight new shoes damaged his feet and, despite cutting them open to give his toes more room, Frost found his hike becoming slower and slower, and more and more painful. At the end of the fourth day, just short of Bromley Mountain, the group sheltered from a heavy thunderstorm at a local inn. Frost convinced them to stay two nights to see if his feet might recover sufficiently to permit him to continue.

It didn't work, so Frost left the trail accompanied by his friend Richards, who had had enough and headed home. Frost promised his children he'd take a few days off, get a new pair of shoes, and meet them again at Lake Pleiad in Middlebury Gap. Interestingly, he didn't return to South Shaftsbury, apparently because he didn't want to face his wife and confess that overconfidence had brought him low. Instead, he traveled to Rutland, bought a pair of sneakers, and slowly made his way to Middlebury Gap, where he rendezvoused with the group (now calling itself “The Big Four”) as promised, six days after parting.

Back on the trail it soon became clear that new sneakers and several days of rest were insufficient for Frost, who was now having knee trouble as well. Unable to maintain the pace set by his children, he again abandoned the trip, this time for good. He told the rest he would find his way to Franconia, New Hampshire, where he and his wife would spend part of September.

Precisely where he quit the trail remains unclear. Years later he told biographer Thompson he left at Lincoln Gap, but Lesley's account, written shortly after the trip, says he made it as far as Montclair Glen.

Either way, he didn't go to Franconia—at least not right away. He told Thompson he realized that by following the comparatively flat “Valley Road” (now Vermont Route 100) he could keep pace with his children on the high ground to the west, so he decided to surprise them at the end of their trip. For several days Frost slowly walked north, sleeping in fields and barns, eating in roadside cafes or farmhouse kitchens. But, nearing the Lamoille River, he realized that The Big Four were traveling so fast he would still probably miss them. He resolved to catch a train to Franconia.

By now he was a complete mess: ragged,





Metal trail arrow north of Prospect Rock



Frost in his late thirties

George H. Browne Robert Frost Collection, Michael J. Spinelli, Jr. Center for University Archives and Special Collections, Herbert H. Lamson Library and Learning Commons, Plymouth State University

dirty, unshaven, and still nursing sore feet, which troubled him so much that he was wearing one sneaker and one carpet slipper he'd picked up along the way. As Frost boarded the train a conductor attempted to eject him. He was saved by the intervention of another passenger, an English professor from Georgia, who got the shock of his life when he learned the identity of the tramp he had protected.

The Big Four indeed finished before Frost could catch them—225 miles in 17 days of walking. “We carried rather light packs,” Lesley wrote later, “varying in weight from fifteen to thirty pounds. But,” she went on:

“[T]here is no point in carrying greater weight than is absolutely necessary. We carried two blankets, a heavy sweater, and a poncho apiece. More blankets would have been a comfort, though it would have taken ten blankets, and quilts at that, to have suited me. As for food, we avoided canned goods, which we found those we met carrying in abundance. Our supply consisted mostly of bread, butter, eggs, shredded wheat, raisins, crackers, rice and sugar and then various things, such as cookies and candy, that we consumed within a day or so of market.”

The Long Trail then was quite different in many respects from today's route, particularly in the south, where it avoided Glastenbury and Stratton mountains, and Bourn and Little Rock ponds, for example. It had long lost campsites like Somerset Bridge south of Stratton, Three Shanties near Griffith Lake, and Buffum Camp between White Rocks and Clarendon Gorge.

But Lesley's report also records stops familiar now, and comments

that could have been written recently: “We'll remember the pancakes and the maple syrup and the sunset” at Glen Ellen, for example; or “Twenty of us slept in bunks built for twelve” at Montclair Glen; and “a night of sleeplessness” at perpetually overcrowded Taft Lodge. With mostly fair skies, no bugs, few porcupines and lots of blueberries to pick as they walked, it was, said Lesley, “a pleasure to accomplish.”

Lesley and her compatriots never contacted the Green Mountain Club for official confirmation that they were first to end-to-end the Long Trail. If they had, the claim might have been challenged because they hadn't followed the trail from the Massachusetts line to Hell Hollow. It didn't seem to matter to most people: Lesley submitted a report of the trip to the *Bennington Banner*, which published it on September 12, 1922, under the front-page headline:

*Long Trail, 225  
Miles, Yields to  
Youth and Vigor*

*Entire Length Traversed in One  
Continuous Hike*

#### THE FIRST TIME ON RECORD

Let the experts quibble—as far as The Big Four were concerned, they were first.

Things were more complicated for Robert Frost. His determined attempt to complete as much of the trip as he could demonstrated an extreme reluctance to quit. His unwillingness to return to his wife in South Shaftsbury—preferring to meet her in Franconia as originally planned—suggests significant embarrassment at falling short of his goal.

Indeed, he never fully explained what happened—then or later. Writing to friends after the event, he claimed to have completed 115 miles, 125 miles or “something like 200 miles”—depending on whom he was writing and, apparently, how much that person might believe. It seems the further away his correspondent, the more mileage Frost claimed.

But the letters illustrate another truth, familiar to enthusiastic hikers ultimately slowed by the wear and tear of age: Robert Frost was no longer in charge. Indeed, on this trip his children were looking after



him—slowing down to allow him to keep up, and taking time off to see if his ailments would ease.

To one friend he wrote:

“I should admit that the kids did all two hundred and twenty miles. I let them leave me behind for a poor old father who could once out-walk, out-run, and out-talk them but can now no more.”

To another he expressed good-humored acceptance:

“I am beginning to slip: I may as well admit it gracefully and accept my dismissal to the minor and bush leagues where no doubt I have several years of useful service still before me as pinch hitter and slow coach.”

But to a third he revealed lingering reluctance to yield the spotlight, writing of Lesley’s trip report:

“I don’t feel that it does me personally any justice. . . . When I dropped in my tracks [and left the trail] I was gone through for what money I had in my pockets that might be useful to the expedition and then left for no good. . . . You’ll notice nothing more is said of me.

I’m sorry to have to admit that the Green Mountain Expedition was a success without me.”

Yet his letters also gave voice to admiration, even pride:

“Those children though! Too much cannot be said for their grim forging. They had done their two hundred in fifteen consecutive days when they left me for a pitiable. May their deeds be remembered.”

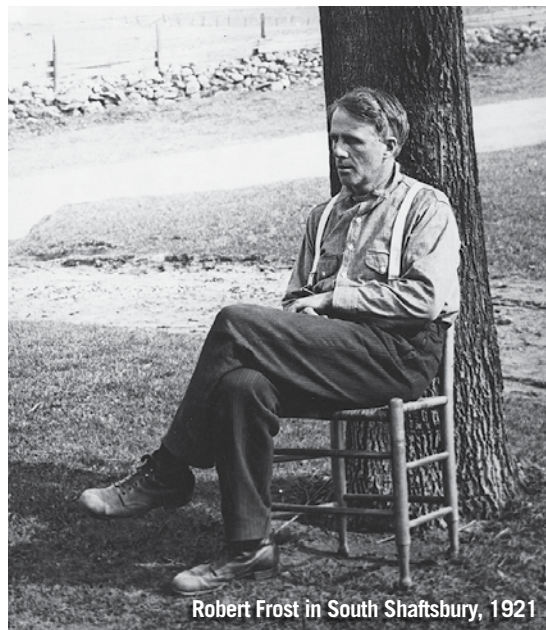
The Frost Long Trail adventure marked a kind of coming of age for all concerned, highlighted by Robert’s recognition of his children’s emergence as adult individuals, reinforced when Carol Frost and Lillian LaBatt became engaged during the trip. It would also signal the start of the scattering of the family. Memories of the hike became poignant in later years, after Marjorie died in childbirth and Carol committed suicide, as a moment when the family shone most brightly.

Though Frost remained an inveterate walker all his life, we read of no further major mountain hikes, let alone long-distance backpacking trips. The Long Trail venture seems to have been the end of at least one path for Robert Frost.

But then again, maybe not. Some two weeks after the journey, he offered his most detailed assessment of what it meant to him:

“I came back from Michigan University all puffed out with self-hate that would have curdled the ink in my pen . . . . There was nothing for it but to get away from myself. You know they say there is no such thing as leaving ourselves behind: and they are right if they mean by railroad by automobile by airplane or by horse. But if we will do it on foot at a walk not at a run—at a walk deliberately, not thinking as we go so much as entertaining fantasies, it is another matter that few nowadays have heard anything about: the escape from self is complete.”

*Historian Vic Henningsen was a caretaker and ranger-naturalist on Mount Mansfield in the 1970s. He thanks Larry Van Meter and Peter A. Gilbert for their help with this article.*



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## The Sound of Trees

BY ROBERT FROST [1874-1963]

I wonder about the trees.  
Why do we wish to bear  
Forever the noise of these  
More than another noise  
So close to our dwelling place?  
We suffer them by the day  
Till we lose all measure of pace,  
And fixity in our joys,  
And acquire a listening air.  
They are that that talks of going  
But never gets away;  
And that talks no less for knowing,  
As it grows wiser and older,  
That now it means to stay.  
My feet tug at the floor  
And my head sways to my shoulder  
Sometimes when I watch trees sway,  
From the window or the door.  
I shall set forth for somewhere,  
I shall make the reckless choice  
Some day when they are in voice  
And tossing so as to scare  
The white clouds over them on.  
I shall have less to say,  
But I shall be gone.

USED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE ROBERT FROST COPYRIGHT TRUST.



A woman with a large backpack is standing on a suspension bridge, celebrating with her arms raised and a wide smile. She is wearing a blue t-shirt, dark shorts, and hiking boots. The bridge has a metal deck and chain-link railings. The background shows a dense forest of green trees under a bright sky.

# You Did It!

## 315 Hikers Complete Long Trail in 2019

Congratulations to the following hikers who walked the rugged footpath over the Green Mountain Range from the Massachusetts border to the Canadian border, submitted their trail journals, and became GMC certified Long Trail End-to-Enders

Lynsey "Stubbs" Abrams, Sykesville, MD  
Trevor "Frisbee" Abrams, Eldersburg, MD  
Michele "Jetpack" Adams, Indianapolis, IN  
Van "Yonder" Adams, Greencastle, PA  
Steven "The Tinkerer" Adef, Cambridge, MA  
Grace "Sporkless Raccoon" Algeo, Providence, RI  
Joel "Captain S'mores" Allen, Schenectady, NY  
Andrew "Bookworm" Allison-Godfrey, Westport, CT  
Corrie "Socks" Amick, Fairview, PA  
Erin "Sprouts" Anderson, Bennington, VT  
Nancy "Ninja" Andrus, Pawlet, VT  
Santee "In A Day" Appaneal, Greenville, ME  
Philip "Coach" Arnold, Rochester, NY  
Tim Ashe, Burlington, VT  
Jason Aubin, Milton, VT  
Eric "Dead Goat" Avery, Gansevoort, NY  
Tim "King of The Hill" Barton, Derby, KS  
Anya "Onion" Beale, Rutland, VT  
Kristen Bednar, Richmond, VT  
Jeremy "6 Toes" Beebe, Ledyard, CT  
Avraham Bernstein, Brooklyn, NY  
Frank "Billy Goat" Bevacqua, Washington, NJ  
Lauren "Ladybug" Bierman, Bridport, VT  
Mike "Achilles" Blouin, Burlington, VT  
Greg Bostock, Essex Junction, VT  
Catherine "Scaredy Cat" Boudreau, Morrisville, VT  
Jeff "Fancypants" Boudreau, Morrisville, VT  
Ethan "Slippers" Bourassa, North Andover, MA  
Lauri "SnapPea" Boxer-Macomber, Portland, ME  
Tessa "Wildberry" Boxer-Macomber, Portland, ME  
Joshua "Dine N' Dash" Bradley, Dawsonville, GA  
Aymes Bragdon, Portland, ME  
Michelle "Artichoke" Brandt, Ludlow, VT  
Robert "Prickles" Brandt, Ludlow, VT  
Matthew "Skookum" Bright, Washington, DC  
Emma "LineLeader" Brott, Essex, VT  
Elias "Diva" Brown, Jacksonville, FL  
Kathleen Bryant, Montpelier, VT  
Katherine "Steep" Burns, Newtown, CT  
Almaedia "Ally" Butts, Portland, ME  
Genevieve "Dirt Squirrel" Buzan-Dansereau, Englewood, CO  
William Buzzell, Providence, RI  
Sandy "Mama Bear" Byard, Matawan, NJ  
Darren "Blisters" Cadieux, Belchertown, MA

As GMC Conservation Manager, Mollie Flanigan oversees the stewardship of more than 21,000 acres of land and leads the effort to conserve the last few miles of unprotected trail. She started her NOBO section hike from Massachusetts to the Winooski River in 2010 after college as a celebration of that life transition. In 2019, after working at GMC for three years, she hiked SOBO from Canada to the Winooski River and finished the Trail.



Barry Cahoon, Danville, VT  
 Chris Carlo-Bergweiler, Leverett, MA  
 Marcel "Timber Wolf" Casavant, North Brookfield, MA  
 Greg "Happy Trails" Catcott, San Jose, CA  
 Hoon "Patches" Chae, Lindenwold, NJ  
 Cameron "Raggedy Ann" Chambers, Hamden, CT  
 Paul "Cheeseey" Church, Chicago, IL  
 Regina "Queen" Clark, Frederick, MD  
 Nolan "Circus Trick" Clark, New Bedford, MA  
 Emily "Scat" Clark, Buffalo, NY  
 Patrick "Helping Hands" Clohessy, Bridport, VT  
 Madeline "Wildfire" Cobb, Medford, NJ  
 Chelsea "Slick" Colby, Middlebury, VT  
 Leonard Consoletti, Bellingham, MA  
 Tarin "Captain Sunflower" Cosby, Charlotte, MI  
 Jo "Lucky 70" Coyne, Portland, ME  
 Hunt "Seconds" Cramer, Middlebury, VT  
 Polly "Stormwater" Crocker, Wilmot, NH  
 Jennifer "Momma Bear" Crum, Stowe, VT  
 Brian "La-Z-Boy" Cunningham, Hopkinton, MA  
 Billy "Hunting Season" Davis, Newark, DE  
 Nathaniel "Dr. Phil" Dean, Springfield, VT  
 Casey "Bottle Rocket" Dearborn, W. Glover, VT  
 Mary "Cheapwine" Deaton, Spanaway, WA  
 Terrence "The Follower" Delaney, Scotland, CT  
 Ethan "Hamish" Delaney, Scotland, CT  
 Michael "Lone Ranger" DeLuco, Newmarket, NH  
 Mark "Old Time" DiStefano, Montpelier, VT  
 Danny Divilly, New York, NY  
 W Jeffrey "Walking Man" Doenges, Somers, CT  
 Jessie "Medic" Donavan, Cornwall, VT  
 Ava "Watch" Donavan Schneider, Cornwall, VT  
 Eliot "Maui" Donavan Schneider, Cornwall, VT  
 Emily "Elf" Dryden, Lakewood, CO  
 Eric "Catamount" Eathorne, Lebanon, NH  
 Will "Mud Flap" Edge, Tonawanda, NY  
 Angela "Antelope" Elcan, South Burlington, VT

Zachary "StillZach" Eldridge, Haverhill, MA  
 Paul "Slim" Elliott, Winston-Salem, NC  
 Lavonne "Siesta" Ellis, Cape Coral, FL  
 Anthony "Rolling Thunder" Esposito, Pittsfield, MA  
 Jonathan Evans, Ashfield, MA  
 Evan "Bearspray" Farley, Brooklyn, NY  
 Brian "Web" Ferolito, Newton, MA  
 Jaylyn "Tiger Tale" Field, Franklin, NC  
 Mollie Flanigan, Burlington, VT  
 Trevor "Sweet Monkey" Foote, Indianapolis, IN  
 Don "Big Foot" Ford, Palmer, AK  
 Donna "Peter Pan" Ford, Palmer, AK  
 Emma "Mama Bear" Forster, Waltham, MA  
 Mark "Ranger" Fortin, Southampton, MA  
 Robert "Gasman" Furioni, Westfield, MA  
 William Gannett, New York, NY  
 Charlie "Jinx" Gasperoni, Hampton, NH  
 Annie "Butterfly" Gayner, Somerville, MA  
 Jonathan "Bam Bam" Gazzillo, Ballston Spa, NY  
 David "Hilton" Gazzola, Putnam, CT  
 Lou Ann "Too Much" Geiger, Salem, OH  
 Bob "Not So Much" Geiger, Salem, OH  
 Lily Gelfars, Hastings on Hudson, NY  
 Jameson "Disney" Giamo, Plymouth, MA  
 Stacey "Basil" Gibbs, Ferrisburgh, VT  
 Aneliese Gibson, Chicago, IL  
 Deane "Roo" Giordano, Asheville, NC  
 James "Fireball" Goodman, Bloomington, IN  
 Arnie Gottlieb, Dorset, VT  
 Carol Gottlieb, Dorset, VT  
 Kelly Graner, Gibsonia, PA  
 Michelle "Jelly" Greene, Hamburg, NY  
 Carolyn "Griff" Griffiths, Jamaica Plain, MA  
 Preston Grossling, Austin, TX  
 Drew "Stats" Guild, Bellows Falls, VT  
 Dale "Weatherman" Hanson, South Burlington, VT  
 Pamela "Platypus" Hashinsky, Hudson, MA



View from Glastenbury Firetower

"It is unsure where the scent originated from at the top of Glastenbury Mountain, but it smelled like the crunchy part of a s'more, or even better, the outer layer of coconut crème pie. These are thoughts of importance."

—Jaylyn "Tiger Tale" Field

Connor "Slinky" Hayden, Haverhill, MA  
 William B Haynes III, Mystic, CT  
 Chris "Spoonier" Herland, Ashfield, MA  
 Michael "Double Stack" Hesleitner, North Bergen, NJ  
 Michael Hill, Middlesex, VT  
 Aaron "Caesar" Hollander, San Francisco, CA  
 Erik "Jetboy" Holmberg, Boston, MA  
 John "2for1" Hood, Cullman, AL  
 Dan "Pancake" House, Essex Junction, VT  
 Wren "Squish" House, Essex Junction, VT  
 Saoirse "Story" Ibarguen, St. Petersburg, FL  
 Neil "Lax" Irving, Walpole, MA  
 Ceili "Talking Bear" Irving, New Hampton, NH  
 Wilder "Littlebear" Irving, New Hampton, NH  
 David "Skookum" Irving, New Hampton, NH  
 DeAna "Wishbone" Irving, New Hampton, NH



Thalita "Wolf Mama" Ribeiro and her hiking partner Nala on Mount Abe summit





**John "Chef" Plummer** is GMC's group outreach and field coordinator, sponsored by the VHC AmeriCorps Program. He thru-hiked the Long Trail in 2015 and submitted his application this year. One of his greatest memories of the hike was watching Fourth of July fireworks from the top of Pico.

Kelly McKeon, Northampton, MA  
 Ryman McLane, Jackson, NH  
 Emily "Wildflower" Merlino, Sterling, MA  
 Jane "Tiredlegs" Miller-Arsenault, Middlesex, VT  
 Ken "Lefty DooRag" Mincar, Richmond, VT  
 Tate "Pawprints" Mitchell, Glendale, NY  
 Abigail "Snacks" Monahan, Essex, VT  
 Benjamin Moran, Minerva, OH  
 Daniel "Parsnips" Moroney, Fairfax, VT  
 Benjamin "Lost and Found" Moss-Horwitz, Northampton, MA  
 Liz Muckerman, Bondville, VT  
 Paul "Mulli" Mullins, Shrewsbury, MA  
 Steven "The Ambassador" Murray, Swarthmore, PA  
 Michael "Sweep" Myers, Waterbury Center, VT  
 BK "Lightning Legs" Noonan, Pepperell, MA  
 Erica "Spitfire" Notini, Windham, NH  
 Brian "Middle Brother" Odom, Ball Ground, GA  
 Kathleen "Billy Goat" O'Hara, Rutland, VT  
 Moire "Badger" O'Mullane, Haverhill, MA  
 Phoebe "Five" Osadchey Brown, Washington, VT  
 Chris Osborne, New York, NY  
 Daisy Osowski, Northfield, MA  
 Sadie "M&M" Paashauss, Greensboro, NC  
 Wren "Mushroom" Paashauss, Greensboro, NC  
 Adam "Guy Sandal" Paashauss, Greensboro, NC  
 Elizabeth "Teddy" Paashauss, Greensboro, NC  
 Kenneth "Moron" Pararo, Atlanta, GA  
 Amy "Nordic Gal" Patenaude, Henniker, NH  
 Cora Payne, Exeter, NH  
 Adrienne "Rocky" Pepin, Baltimore, OH  
 Emily "Bookworm" Pepin, Baltimore, OH  
 Corey "Bird Feeder" Perkins, Shelburne, VT  
 Taylor "Cascade" Peterson, Troutville, VA  
 Tim "Crime Dog" Pifer, Concord, NH  
 Craig "CP" Plante, Franklin, CT  
 John "Chef" Plummer, Hollis, NH  
 Madisen "Pitch" Plunkert, State College, PA  
 Brett "Cosmos" Power, Lynnfield, MA  
 Sean "The Poet" Prentiss, Woodbury, VT  
 Thomas "Flash" Price, Plattsburgh, NY  
 Benjamin "McLovin" Pugliese, Boulder, CO  
 Cooper Puls, Lakeville, CT  
 Dexter Puls, Brookfield, VT  
 Jayashree "Pockets" Raman, Sammamish, WA  
 Anja "Pathfinder" Rand, Montpelier, VT  
 Dustin "Stinkbug" Rand, Montpelier, VT  
 Chris "Cyclops" Reamer, Richmond, VT  
 Daryl "Hokie" Reed, Hereford, PA  
 Seth "Runner" Reid, Westminster, MA  
 Jerry "#2" Retzlaff, Germantown, WI  
 Corey Reynolds, Turner, ME  
 Nala Ribeiro, Mendon, MA  
 Thalita "Wolf Mama" Ribeiro, Mendon, MA  
 Jerome "Rattler" Richard, Clinton, ME  
 Maya "Bird" Roe, Hulls Cove, ME  
 Michael Rose, Midland, TX  
 William "Soylent Green" Rose, Brooklyn, NY  
 Chris "Hobb's Human" Rose, Portsmouth, NH  
 Dexter "Footlocker" Ross, Athol, MA  
 Leah Rubin, Baltimore, MD  
 Dottie ".com" Rust, Thurmont, MD  
 Aanika "Navi (Navigator)" Ruutopöld, Hanock, NH  
 Joe Sack, Laconia, NH  
 Carl "Brick" Sangree, Ashford, CT  
 Rick "Soul Asylum" Savard, Tarpon Springs, FL  
 Ron Scardacchi, Plainville, CT  
 Kirk "Weirder" Schifferle, Northfield, VT  
 John "Free Fallin" Schmeltzer, Montpelier, VT



**Nils "Fritos" Young and his mom, Trina Young.**

Jemma "Wobbly" Issroff, Somerville, MA  
 Rosie "Caboose" Jenkel, Bellows Falls, VT  
 Luke "Spruce" Johnas, Dover, NH  
 Michael "Stubble" Jolin, Sharon, MA  
 Bob Jones, Downingtown, PA  
 Thomas "The Terminator" Jones, III, Avon, CT  
 Margaret "Gandalf" Judge, Chittenden, NY  
 Lee "Slow Lee" Kamentsky, Arlington, MA  
 Andrew "Lt. Dan" Karim, Roanoke, VA  
 Frank Kehoe, Limerick, ME  
 Zachary Kent, Jefferson, MA  
 Tom "Krummholz" Kidder, West Newbury, VT  
 Cyrus "Rock Hopper" Kidder, Newbury, VT  
 Ethan Kile, Vergennes, VT  
 Alaina "Socks" Killion, Westminster, MA  
 Francisco Sonic Kim, Los Angeles, CA  
 Anna Kim, Los Angeles, CA  
 Thomas "Tree" Kimball, Ferrisburgh, VT  
 Chuck "Dragging" Kiser, Greencastle, PA  
 Nicholas "Rockman" Konopka, Riverside, RI  
 Brian Lapierre, Plainfield, VT  
 Laura Lapierre, Plainfield, VT  
 Ben "Sequoia" Learn, Greensboro, NC  
 Matthew LeBlanc, Somersworth, NH  
 Christopher "Cortez" Lee, Easton, PA  
 Peter "P Step" Leonard, Winthrop, WA  
 Suzanne "Eeyore" Lewis, Minneapolis, MN  
 Craig Lewis, Webster, NY  
 Eric "808" Longfellow, Waterbury Center, VT  
 Christina "Doogie" MacAulay, Killington, VT  
 Alexander "Lego" Mackay, Jefferson, NH  
 Laura "Mint" Macke, Burlington, VT  
 Tori "Saffron" Maffeo, Waltham, MA  
 Brendan "Ren" Magill, Moretown, VT  
 Sarah "Taskmaster" Malmstrom, Pemaquid, ME  
 Maxwell Maloney, St. Johnsbury, VT  
 Maricate "Koala" Mangan, Troy, NY  
 Jared "Patch" Marcus, Ellipton City, MD  
 Molly "Thunder" Markell, Wilmington, DE  
 Ember Marquis, Watertown, NY  
 Craig "Buttahz (Butters)" Marshall, Munnsville, NY  
 Kyle Martel, Granby, VT  
 Pam "Imrram" McAfee, Glen, NH  
 Brian "Lettuce" McCarthy, Ludlow, MA  
 Sharon "Sap Happy" McElroy, Groton, MA  
 Daniel "LostBoy" McKeen, Westford, MA  
 Steven "Lazy Boy" McKeen, Westford, MA  
 Jessica McKenzie, Brooklyn, NY  
 Jack "Mitten Man" McKenzie, Clarkston, MI



**Tom "Krummholz" Kidder and Cyrus "Rock Hopper" Kidder.**



Chris "Hawaii Bob" Scott, Lyndon Center, VT  
 Jacob "PacQUIAO" Septor, Cream Ridge, NJ  
 Kristed "Motorcycle Mama" Sherman, Troy, NY  
 Adam Sherman, Bethlehem, CT  
 Mary Ann "Muir" Shuller, Folsom, CA  
 Harper "Spice Kit" Simpson, Burlington, VT  
 Marguerite "Rita" Sinnott, Gansevoort, NY  
 Russell "Ramble" Six, Groveland, MA  
 Amber "Giggly Goat" Sliter, Buffalo, NY  
 Stephen "Stillwater" Soltesz, Brooklyn, NY  
 Matthew "Global Warming" Spadoni, Troy, NY  
 August "Oatmeal" Spagnuolo Chawla, Essex Junction, VT  
 Jennifer "Sunny Tomorrow" Sporzynski, Portland, ME  
 Dennis "The Legend" Stedman, Ortonville, MI  
 Monique "M" Stempowski, Elyria, OH  
 Kevin "BearMeat" Stewart, Windham, ME  
 Cassandra "Clooney" Stewart, Windham, ME  
 Keith "Lake Lander" Stilling, Manchester, NH  
 Allison "Splinter" Thompson, Bethel, ME  
 Lesley "Spirit" Tilghman, Portland, OR  
 Alexandra "Mo" Tilsley, Washington, DC  
 Cassie "Goldilocks" Timpy, Wilmington, NC  
 Jordan "Canon" Timpy, Wilmington, NC  
 Dru "Fern" Toman, Flemington, NJ  
 Bonnie "Ridge Master" Tominack Crelling, Somerville, MA  
 Alexander "Trout" Trouten, St. Clairsville, OH  
 Kyle "Trash Wizard" Tymon, Buffalo, NY  
 Nick Van Hollen, Cambridge, MA  
 Ethan "Food Truck" Vannata, Durham, NH  
 Hannah "Hannah Bear" Vickery, Saint Albans, VT  
 Tim "Yogi" Wagner, Philadelphia, PA  
 Kate "First Gear" Waite, Charlotte, VT  
 Mary Ellen "Shuttle" Walker, Fleetwood, PA  
 Will "Bloodynose" Waller, Rocky Mount, VA  
 Jonathan "J-Dub" Welch, Mooresville, NC  
 Donnie "Babysteps" Welch, New York, NY  
 Kate "Run 1 or Run 2" Welle, Golden, CO  
 Rusty "Party Pants" Westerholm, Danbury, CT  
 Dianna "Cavern" Wiginton, Oakland, CA  
 Richard "Nameless Rich" Wilhelm, Roxbury, CT  
 Rachael "Gogurt" Wind, Tonawanda, NY  
 Allison "Rescue" Wolf, Berlin, VT  
 Chadde "Slip" Wolf, Berlin, VT  
 Jay "Jaywalker" Wood, Jeffersonville, VT  
 Kenneth "Ken" Woodard, Kensington, MD  
 David "Day Four" Wyatt, Howard Lake, MN  
 Laura "Hips" Yayac, Burlington, VT  
 Nils "Fritos" Young, Berlin, VT  
 Ryan "2-Clicks" Youngs, Orwell, VT  
 Elizabeth "Mosey" Zebrowski, Parma, OH  
 Joanna "Snailberry" Zito-Konopka, Riverside, RI  
 James "Doc Z" Zwynenburg, Queensburg, NY

## International

Nick "Wombat" Avery, Darlinghurst, NSW, Australia  
 Kevin "Dundee" Brown, Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
 Claude "Bike Shoes" Fortin, Brossard, Québec, Canada  
 Marc-André Gagnon, Cowansville, Québec, Canada  
 Marie-Eve "Smiles" Isabel, Montréal, Québec, Canada  
 Ryu "Loon" Katsumata, Hokuto, Yamanashi, Japan  
 Justine "Delta" LaFerriere, Montreal, Québec, Canada  
 Vincent "Plant" Magnoux, Montreal, Québec, Canada  
 Eric "Littlespoon" Millan, Kingston, Ontario, Canada  
 Johnny "Ground Wasp" Mills, Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada  
 Mathieu "T-Rex" Pronovost, Trois-Rivieres, Quebec, Canada  
 Eloise "Fun Size" Robbins, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada  
 Alec Serra-Wagneur, Montréal, Québec, Canada



**ABOVE: Eliot "Maui" and Ava "Watch" Donovan Schneider at Little Rock Pond.**



**LEFT (from L-R): Jessie "Medic" Donovan, Ava "Watch" Donovan Schneider, and Eliot "Maui" Donovan Schneider at northern border.**

## Congratulations to the latest side-to-siders who hiked the 88 side trails on the Long Trail System, totaling 166 miles!

Sue "Snowflea" Johnston, Lyndon Center, VT  
 Kenneth MacDonald, Graniteville, VT

Sandra MacDonald, Graniteville, VT  
 Marla "Big Blue" Davidson, Warren, VT  
 Sarah "Rambles" Kibbe, New London, NH



**Marla on Stratton Mountain**

**Marla "Big Blue" Davidson's** time as a GMC caretaker on Camel's Hump in 2015 inspired her to hike the Long Trail in 2016. Intent on exploring the entire Long Trail System, she began blue-blazing on her days off during her season as a Mount Mansfield lead caretaker in 2018. She has applied the hiking skills learned in Vermont to treks abroad, from the Peruvian Andes to bushwhacking in New Zealand. Marla completed her last Long Trail blue blaze in 2019 after walking from Georgia to Québec along the International Appalachian Trail.



# 100 Years of Taft Lodge on Mount Mansfield

By JOHN PAGE



Sunset Ridge Trail

Before 1910 the Summit House hotel at the top of the toll road from Stowe was the center of hiking activity on Mount Mansfield. Guests driven to the hotel spent their days exploring the top of the mountain, and many of today's side trails around the main ridgeline date from that period.

Burlington area mountain enthusiasts could also stay in a smaller hostelry on the Underhill side called the Half Way House, which maintained a bridle path to the ridge near the Summit House (now the Half Way House Trail). No trails reached the Chin directly from the base of the mountain. The only way to the summit was to ascend to the Summit House from either side, and then walk the ridge.

Burlington attorney Clarence Cowles was one of the mountain enthusiasts from Burlington who enjoyed exploring Mansfield from these hotels. When James P. Taylor convened the first meeting of the Green Mountain Club in 1910, Cowles attended and signed up as a charter member. In the next seven years Cowles personally cut the original Long Trail from Mount Mansfield to Camel's Hump and then, as a key colleague of Will Monroe, helped extend the trail south all the way to Middlebury Gap. For this alone Clarence Cowles deserves a place in the GMC hall of fame.

Cowles' work as a trailbuilder wasn't finished, however. In 1920 he supervised the building of Taft Lodge on a secluded shelf at 3,650 feet, in the shadow of Mount Mansfield's Chin. On a scouting trip the previous winter he had "slashed a tree with a blaze and there marked what he believed to be the finest location for a shelter." He hired Stowe lumberman Willis Barnes and foreman Clyde

Brink to construct a large log cabin from huge spruce logs drawn up the mountain with teams of horses. Cowles climbed Mount Mansfield thirty-one times that summer to personally supervise the project and, on one occasion, to carry the new lodge's wood stove up the mountain.

By now Cowles was a probate judge. He persuaded Elihu Taft, his fellow judge and mountain lover, to donate the construction costs for Taft Lodge, even though, as Cowles' son put it, "old Judge Taft was then unable to climb mountains, he couldn't have gone to Taft Lodge if we'd hauled him up."

**"He hired Stowe lumberman Willis Barnes and foreman Clyde Brink to construct a large log cabin from huge spruce logs drawn up the mountain with teams of horses."**

Taft Lodge was immediately popular with hikers, particularly those from around Burlington. It had an overnight capacity of thirty-two (divided into men's and women's ends), and one report says up to seventy slept in and around the shelter one night. For the next seven to eight summers, Cowles and his sons served as caretakers at Taft Lodge, providing blankets, wood, and water to hikers, while using their days to build the trails still used by hikers to ascend Mount Mansfield.

While Taft was being built, Cowles blazed the current Long Trail from Smugglers'

Notch to the summit, thus finally routing the Long Trail over the Chin. (It had previously bypassed the ridge, requiring a 2-mile side trail to the summit.)

Cowles wanted a more direct route to Taft from his home in Burlington, however, so the next summer he built his masterpiece, the Sunset Ridge Trail, which many today consider the premier hiking trail in Vermont. The part of this new trail that extended from the ridge down to Taft became the Profanity Trail.

A few years later, Cowles built the Cowles Cut-Off from the site of the Half Way House to provide an even more direct route from Underhill to Taft Lodge. The Green Mountain Club later renamed this trail after Judge Cowles' wife, Laura, who was an accomplished hiker in her own right and the first president of the Burlington Section.

During his years of activity at Taft Lodge, Cowles and his sons also improved and blazed an old path up the Hell Brook drainage, providing yet another direct (albeit steep) route to the Chin from Smugglers' Notch. Thus in a few short years, Clarence Cowles created a network of trails that shifted hikers' focus from the Summit House to the Chin. Quoting Cowles' son again: "Father's trails always aimed up toward the chin of the mountain and Taft Lodge."

World War II ended the use of caretakers at Taft Lodge until 1969, when the modern caretaker program began. The lodge was substantially rebuilt in 1941 and again in 1996. Although it appears today much the same as the original structure, it's unclear how much of the original fabric remains.

The biggest mystery about the construction of Taft Lodge? Why is the door so low that it dents hundreds of heads every summer? 🍄





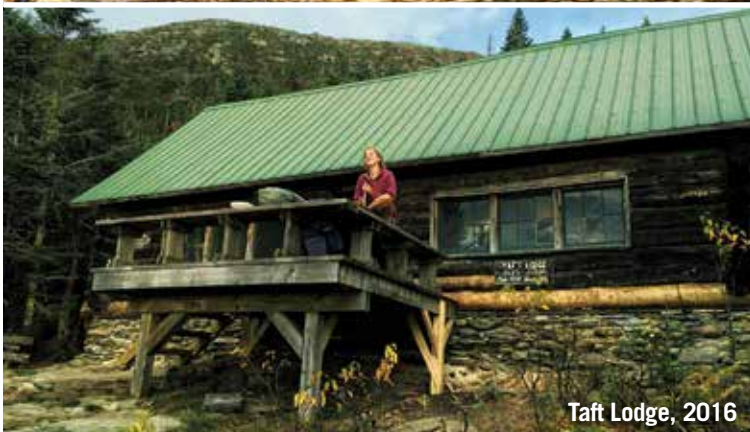
Taft Lodge, 1920s



Taft Lodge, 1940s



Taft Lodge, 1996



Taft Lodge, 2016

PHOTO BY GUS BILLARD



Fred Gilbert, 1996

## Fred Gilbert

### “Paul Bunyan” of the 1996 Taft Lodge Restoration

In 1996 Taft Lodge had not been renovated for 35 years and was badly in need of repair. The Green Mountain Club hired Alfred “Fred” Carlton Gilbert III to completely restore the lodge that summer and fall.

A long-time GMC volunteer, Fred was a club director and served on the trails and shelters committee for years. He died at age 73 on June 1, 2019, leaving an indelible mark on the Green Mountain Club.

GMC’s archives house Fred’s detailed journal on the Lodge reconstruction. A couple of loose pages dated 1995 tucked into the journal express Fred’s fervent hope of landing the job: “. . . I may be attaining my life-long dream next year. . . I’ll be supervising the replacement of Taft Lodge on Mt. Mansfield. To be a Paul Bunyan in 1996! To be a revered personality in the veritable Green Mountains. Me, lowly, loving, me. I really hope all things work out.”

In January, fifty 20-foot spruce logs were delivered to Barnes Camp at Smugglers’ Notch. Teams of horses did not pull the logs up the mountain as in 1920. On May 8 and 9 the Vermont Army Air National Guard made 60 helicopter trips to carry those logs, plus 60 ten-foot spruce logs, 100 hemlock boards, metal roofing, mortar mix, tools, and other supplies, to a landing site about 700 feet above the lodge.

Fred and his assistant, John Bennett, moved to the mountain on May 14 bringing with them twelve gallons of gas and other supplies. “Beautiful stars and Milky Way at 3AM,” Fred wrote on May 15, after two trips to the outhouse. It was a welcoming first night of several months to come of living out his dream and working on the mountain

Throughout his journal, Fred recorded good progress in the rebuilding of the lodge with the help of many volunteers. There are humorous, personal thoughts too: “Great book this ‘Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus.’ Lots of interesting input!”

In October, fifty people hiked to Taft Lodge to celebrate its completion and rededicate the shelter. In 2016, Taft underwent substantial renovation again, this time led by Kurt Melin.

Today, 100 years after its first logs were cut and peeled, the lodge still stands steadfast on the eastern slope of Mount Mansfield. Thanks to Fred and others like him, it will be there to shelter hikers for decades to come.



Who else rifled through their hiking gear this spring searching for tiny bottles of hand sanitizer and ends of toilet paper rolls? The three two-ounce sanitizers and nine TP ends I found made me look at the bright side of being unable to use my hiking gear. At least I could put my finds to good use as I settled in for my personal COVID-19 pause.

An introvert through and through, I welcomed the slower pace imposed on us. I found myself becoming more mindful of simple things we often lose touch with in everyday life. My limited frontcountry life had me thinking about my backcountry experiences and I noticed a heightened sense of appreciation for necessities: food, water, shelter, exercise...toilet paper.

I also thought about the freedoms I had taken for granted. When trails were closed in Vermont and residents were asked to stay within ten miles of home, I had to sit tight along with everyone else, and find other meaningful ways to pass the time.

So I set a goal of reading every *Long Trail News*, from 1922 through summer 2020. I expect to finish the nearly 400 issues around 2022.

Most weeknights I poured a glass of wine or made my favorite trail drink—a mocha java—and nestled into the couch to read two or three editions. I jotted down highlights: humorous language, mentions of early women pioneers, trail and shelter building progress, speed records, land acquisitions, annual meetings. Who knows—maybe a few story ideas will come of it.

—JOCELYN “ZUNI BEAR” HEBERT *LONG TRAIL NEWS* EDITOR

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I asked other hikers to share stories about their new pastimes, memories of the trail, and how they stayed emotionally connected with nature while the state, and the world, endured the pandemic. The following stories are some of the responses I received.

## Close to Home

BY TOM KIDDER  
(a.k.a. Krummholz)

A year ago someone told me about a vernal pool she'd discovered in an isolated glade of our town forest. Yesterday, made hermit by COVID-19 isolation, I set out to find it, using a map she'd given me, my compass, and my phone GPS.

There was no trail and the terrain was wet, with patches of snow. I zigzagged around pools of clear water, stepped across spring streams, and scrambled over blowdowns. I discovered a stone wall from the time the land was farmed two centuries ago, and the rusting, half buried hulk of a 1952 Rambler (when does junk become interesting artifact?). A weathered white deer skull stuck on a tree limb was a mystery. I rested on a beautiful outcrop of stone, exposed bedrock nurturing moss

and lichen, and watched the sun break through clouds and light the forest.

I did find the small vernal pool, half covered with ice but greening around the edges, where a few red winter berries still clung to stems. All was ready for the big night when spotted salamanders come to mate and for the annual pilgrimage of wood frogs from the surrounding forest. The water was as clear as the spring air, and last year's autumn leaves colored the bottom.

I love this kind of exploration. It's a great alternative to traveling an hour or two to some of my favorite hikes on the Long Trail or in the White Mountains. Five town forests lie within ten miles of my home, all with trails I haven't explored. There are woodlands, and hills and streams that friendly landowners let me wander. I study a topo map where hidden marshes and steep inclines—maybe cliffs—spark my curiosity, and I go.

Take your map, a compass, a GPS if you like, or find a trail in your town forest. This is a great time to discover your own neighborhood. And any time is a good time for shorter drives and a smaller carbon footprint.

## They Need Acres Not Medicine

BY PRESTON BRISTOW

As I contemplate the impacts of COVID-19 on our national health and sanity from my forced isolation, I think of Benton MacKaye's visionary proposal for the Appalachian Trail. In "An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning," published in the October 1921 *Journal of the American Institutes of Architects*, MacKaye imagined a giant standing high above the Appalachian range, and what that giant would see.

First, the giant notes the opportunities for recreation. But second,

"he notes the possibilities for health and recuperation. The oxygen in the mountain air along the Appalachian skyline is a natural resource (and a national resource) that radiates to the heavens its enormous health-giving powers with only a fraction of a percent utilized for human rehabilitation. Here is a resource that could save thousands of lives. The sufferers of tuberculosis, anemia, and insanity go through the whole strata of human society. . . Most sanitariums now established are perfectly useless to those afflicted with mental disease—the most terrible, usually, of any disease. Many of these sufferers could be cured. But not merely by 'treatment.' They need acres not medicine. Thousands of acres of this mountain land should be devoted to them."

I hope that by the time this contemplation of mine is published and read, the worst of COVID-19 will have passed. But let us not forget Benton MacKaye's radical vision 99 years ago. More than ever, we need the Long and Appalachian trails and the thousands of acres that go with them to maintain our health and our sanity.



## A Love Letter to My Backpack

BY NANCY McCLELLAN  
(a.k.a. YellowJacket)

I love to see you hanging on your hook, always eager and ready to go. I remember how you snuggle into my back and your straps encircle me. I reimagine our many adventures together...from Georgia to Maine, to the summit of Mount Whitney, to the base of Mount Everest, and, of course, along the spine of the Green Mountains.

You have provided me with sustenance, guidance, and warmth. I love that when I hoist you onto my back I feel safe and secure in our connectedness. Together we have everything we need to see us through until tomorrow.

When word spread of a new virus, and then the virus itself spread from Asia, to Europe, and on to Africa and the Americas, my first thought was...I am going to escape with you, and we will head south to revisit some of our favorite parts of the Appalachian

Trail. Remember how beautiful Virginia was in April, with fields of mayapples and trillium, and mountainsides of rhododendron and mountain laurel? We can climb again to McAfee Knob, and bask in its panoramic view.

Then they closed—for sound reasons—that which nourishes and revitalizes us. So you remain on that hook, looking tired and worn, rips patched with duct tape. I am taking many neighborhood walks and short hikes in town parks. I am sorry I do not require you for these excursions. But wait, I do need you. I will put you on my back and we will go for a walk and dream together of our next great trek. The Colorado Trail? The Pennine Way?

As I fill you, you fill me.

## Hiking in Shapes

BY SYLVIE VIDRINE  
(a.k.a. Charger)

I've always loved being in the woods with my family and friends. We can move our bodies and share our thoughts and

feelings about current events, both in the world and in our lives. COVID-19 hasn't stopped us. It's just made us hike in shapes.

We no longer hike up a narrow trail in a line, or on a wide trail side by side. Now we hike with our dogs on logging roads, in the shape of a square or a triangle.

We can stay six feet apart (or more) and still hear each other. We correct each other if one of us gets too close. The camaraderie is unchanged and being together in the forest brings us comfort. We're grateful for access to logging roads but look forward to the day when we can walk closely in a straight line again.

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I'm off to run in a triangle with friends this morning, and then will walk a dirt road with my family in a square this afternoon!

*(continued on next page)*





# PASTIMES & APPRECIATIONS



Long Trail north to Mount Abe



Red eft on Long Trail



Long Trail at Little Rock Pond

## The Long Trail. It was the best of times. It was the worst of times. Or, what it means to me.

BY ALAN PASCHELL  
(a.k.a. Pokey)

Waking at Montclair Glen Lodge, climbing Camel's Hump; morning sun, valley fog, breakfast on the summit—bliss!

Waking in the middle of the night to thunder, lightning, and rain pummeling the tent, which is leaking—desperation!

The best meal of my life, curried quinoa with chicken, cranberries and almonds, brought in to share, by a woman meeting another hiker—gratitude!

If another deer fly bites my knuckles in the same spot while I'm using my poles I will go out of my mind—torture!

Sitting around a fire with a hot mug of cocoa as night falls, then listening to the sound of an owl as I drift off to sleep—contentment!

Getting turned around, losing my sense of direction on Mount Wilson and heading back down the trail to the shelter I left an hour ago—shame!

Standing on the edge of a beaver pond, listening to a serenade of bullfrogs—transcendence!

Walking in wet boots for days and having raw skin on my feet so painful I want to cry—misery!

It is the best of times, it is the worst of times. It is the Long Trail. In these times, I'll miss it.

## The Paradox of the Little Things

BY KENNA REWCASTLE

For me, quarantine has rearranged life's priorities, bringing small joys into focus while tiny irritations and pet peeves recede into the background. In a sense, my new reality is just a balancing of the little things.

Who would've thought that the muddy one-mile path along the Winooski River outside my apartment would become my new escape? A short trail through neighborhood woods that I can remember walking only once before March has become a familiar and much appreciated friend.



My girlfriend, Gabby, used to complain that my tendency to stop and admire budding trees and fruiting mushrooms along our hikes doubled the time it took us to travel half of our intended distance. She now approaches the flora and fauna we encounter with newfound curiosity. Perhaps appreciation for amateur naturalists everywhere is reaching an all-time high.

For my part, I file many fewer complaints with Gabby these days. Dare I say that the little annoyances have become endearing? While she still tears through the kitchen like a tornado during her culinary exploits, leaving cabinets open and using every dish available, I do markedly less eye-rolling and sighing. Instead I cherish an extra glass of wine as I fill my abundance of extra minutes and hours tidying our apartment to my heart's content.

We take longer to prepare meals these days, and they taste better. We linger at the table sharing memories and worries, and fantasizing about hiking and climbing adventures the future might hold. Our grievances seem smaller and our love grows ever larger, swelling to fill an apartment that's beginning to feel more like a refuge than a cage.

What a beautiful silver lining to an otherwise ominous time, to learn to find happiness in a thousand simple occurrences that chase away the small aggravations that push us apart. These are indeed strange and unsettling times, but my hope for our return to normalcy is that the sparkle of the little things never fades.

## Social Distancing Isn't All Bad

BY STARR MORVAY

One Saturday in July, my husband Daniel and I hiked a section of the Long Trail near Clarendon Gorge from Vermont Route 103 to Upper Cold River Road and back. We got back to the parking lot around six o'clock to find a group of hikers enjoying a tailgate party. The problem was, our car was the center of the party, and there were several hikers sitting on our back bumper!

As we hesitantly approached, jovial conversations died down, and one of the



Reflections on Stratton Pond

PHOTO BY CARLY SCHNEIDER

hikers asked if the car was ours. When we said yes, the hikers sitting on our back bumper got up and the other hikers shuffled their chairs away from our car, but not by much. With their stuff inches away we backed out of our tight spot, praying we wouldn't provide the evening's entertainment.

Now, please don't misunderstand. Daniel and I enjoy the friendliness and familiarity among hikers, but we also enjoy quiet walks in the woods after which we find our car alone in the parking lot. If you, too, would like to spend some time alone

on the trails, may I suggest side trails, after the Long Trail System reopens.

Official side trails connect with the Long Trail and are listed in the *Long Trail Guide* at the end of each division. There are 88, totaling 166.1 miles. Some can be very popular. For example, if you hike the Monroe Trail on Camel's Hump on a sunny Saturday, you won't be lonely. However, you have a good chance of having other side trails all to yourself.

So if you think social distancing isn't necessarily a bad thing, even in normal

*(continued on next page)*



# PASTIMES & APPRECIATIONS

times, and you want to minimize the environmental impact to the Long Trail, check out nearby side trails the next time you head out. Get out your *Long Trail Map* and dream of a better future!

## The Enduring Long Trail

BY AMY PEACOCK

Since its inception in 1910 the Long Trail has survived many difficult times. Two world wars; the Great Depression and financial recessions; political challenges; and epidemics. History shows that dedicated Green Mountain Club members overcame them with persistence, determination, and hope. Every time I set

foot on the trail, I feel their presence.

When my husband and I hike we tend to walk in quiet. He, faster than I, leads while I follow. Usually I am deep in thought about the men—and women—who built and hiked the Long Trail before me.

I wonder: Did early GMC pioneers James P. Taylor, Theron Dean or Katherine Monroe step where I am stepping? Did The Three Musketeers (Catherine Robbins, Hilda Kurth, and Kathleen Norris), end-to-enders in 1927, see the views I see, or rest where I am resting? What about my daughter's friend who hiked the trail alone right after her high school graduation in 2006. Did she sleep in this shelter where I

pause for lunch? Even in the quiet, I feel surrounded by friends.

Of course, I remember the early trail landscape did not appear as today's does. Some trail sections have been relocated, and forests then were rewilding after three-quarters of the state was deforested in the mid-1800s. Still, I try to imagine what early hikers and those who came later might have seen from the vantage points of their times.

It is in those moments I most strongly feel the presence of the men and women who founded Vermont's footpath through the wilderness, and later nurtured it. I also feel their strength and hope—a welcome gift in this difficult time.

## Privileged

BY MORGAN IRONS

(a.k.a. Tag-a-Long)

Walking “the loop” in our small rural village has long been a regular part of our daily routine. We simply go down our drive, turn right, and take the first left four times over (or vice versa). We're home after 2.5 miles of brisk walking, having enjoyed the comparative dearth of traffic on typical Vermont gravel roads and, depending on the day, a beautiful sunrise, geese winging overhead, or, more recently, a few words with seldom-seen neighbors from opposite sides of the road.

How privileged we are!

We have enough food, a warm house, and plenty of projects to keep us happily busy through the days. To date COVID-19 has not touched our loved ones. We're not spared the worry of lost income of course, but we'll never have to face the fears, shortages, and certain infection that will devastate so many vulnerable people—in crowded homeless shelters, nursing homes, refugee camps, detention centers, or on the streets with no place to go.

Since the Green Mountain Club's request to avoid the trails, we're settling for extended road walks. It's not the same, but losing our favorite activity is insignificant compared to the intense suffering of so many others now.

If hiking trails don't reopen this summer, we will be disappointed to miss



Forest on Mount Abe



our annual backpacking trip, but we'll count our blessings, and perhaps I'll even keep the garden weeds at bay this year.

## Lincoln58: Life in Vermont

BY EARLE RAY  
(a.k.a. Ranger Ray)

*A man on foot, on horseback or on a bicycle will see more, feel more, enjoy more in one mile than the motorized tourists can in a hundred miles.*

—EDWARD ABBEY

What do you do when the mountains you call home are off limits because of mud season and COVID-19, and the off-the-trail blues set in?

Fortunately for me and others, my friends Alan and Ann Kamman came up with an amazing idea: Create the Lincoln58 (L58) challenge to walk, run, or bike all 58 miles of Class 2, 3, and 4 roads in Lincoln. That's every town road including those that aren't maintained.

After a few weeks of walking on the back roads of my hometown of Monkton and some kayaking, this somewhat-structured challenge was just what the doctor ordered. I enthusiastically accepted Alan's invitation to join the Lincoln58 Facebook group, printed a map of all the roads in Lincoln, and started to put one foot in front of the other.

In my one-week adventure I averaged ten-plus miles a day. Unlike life on a trail, I got waves from friends in passing cars or front yards. And as I strolled by my friend Don's sugar shack at the end of a grueling day, he pointed to couple of brews sitting in the ice-cold river, just for me.

I enjoyed one constant as I walked the scenic back roads of Lincoln: my favorite peak, Mount Abe, sitting on the eastern horizon watching over me. Perhaps reminding me that this magnificent mountain wasn't going anywhere, and one day (hopefully soon) I will be back up there.

Like all great adventures, this one took a village. Thank you to all my off-trail fellow trekkers and non-trail angels who made my adventure possible.

## Back to Butler

BY VIC HENNINGSEN

What I prize most on the Long Trail is the sense of community I've always felt there. Not just the camaraderie with other hikers, but the shared commitment and pride of those whose work makes the trail an important part of so many lives—past and present. That's why, every so often, I return to Butler Lodge, where I was once caretaker.

It's no surprise to find it empty at midmorning. It's an old caretaker ploy to sweep the cabin after hikers depart and then race to the top of the Forehead on the trail they didn't take. Having last seen you leisurely sipping tea, they're astonished when you greet them at the top. It's eight tenths of a mile and some thousand feet of climbing from the lodge door to the Forehead, but you become fit walking that hill. My best time was 18 minutes. Can't do that anymore.

Sure enough, I find the caretaker on the ridge, where we fall into the easy talk of people who have shared the same job. I vividly remember Rod Rice, the 1941 caretaker, initiating me into the ways of the lodge 30 years later: Why the bunks slant (Roy

Buchanan and the Long Trail Patrol used water in a pie tin as a level); which ledges are best for stargazing; and how Rod used the brook to generate power for electric lights. There are lots of stories.

We yarn away, all Vermont at our feet.

I ask about animals. She sees moose. I had porcupines.

Most crowded night? Fourteen. My all-time high was 44. Early next morning, a sleepwalker stepped out of the loft and landed on snoring boy scouts. Somehow, no injuries.

Lost hikers? Did you hear about the guy who thought he was on Camel's Hump?

We talk mountain weather, trail conditions, alpine plants—the conversational small change of summer crews.

It's rare that we can live what Thoreau called "the life we have imagined," but working in the hills is one way to come close and to share it with those who came before us and those who come after. Without quite saying so, Rod Rice and other veterans of the 30s and 40s meant to convey that understanding. I suppose that's one reason I return.

And perhaps, also, to recapture a time when life could be measured in simpler terms. 🌲



Bourn Pond



# PASTIMES & APPRECIATIONS AUTHORS



**Preston Bristow** first hiked the Long Trail end-to-end in 1972. He is a former Stratton Pond Caretaker, Mount Mansfield Ranger-Naturalist, and GMC President, and now chairs the GMC Land Conservation Committee.



This is **Jocelyn "Zuni Bear" Hebert's** 8th year as *Long Trail News* editor, and this is her 29th edition. She is a three-time LT end-to-ender, and has completed all the side trails. She is looking forward to when we can all roam safely and freely again and find peace and tranquility in the Green Mountains.



Historian **Vic Henningsen** was a caretaker and ranger-naturalist on Mount Mansfield in the 1970s. He believes he holds the record for the most nights spent at Butler Lodge—nearly seven months in two seasons.



**Morgan "Tag-a-Long" Irons** began hiking at the ripe old age of 60. She hopes to complete her third Long Trail end-to-end hike this summer, if and when the trails reopen. She is also a weekend fill-in at the GMC's Visitor Center, a member of the Montpelier Section, and the adopter of the Bamforth Ridge Trail.



**Tom "Krumholz" Kidder** is chair of the Tucker Mountain Town Forest Management Committee in Newbury. In 2019 he and his grandson, Cyrus, completed a section end-to-end hike of the Long Trail that they began together in 2016 when Cyrus was six.



**Nancy "YellowJacket" McClellan** is an avid fan of GMC and its mission. She supports the club financially and as a trail adopter, GMC board and committee member, and Burlington Section Vice President. She is passionate about long-distance hiking and the sense of self-sufficiency and peace that it gives her.



**Starr Morvay** grew up in Huntington and has many happy memories of hiking Camel's Hump and skiing Mount Ellen with her family. Starr learned about the Long Trail and its side trails through the GMC, and because she just can't get enough of the Green Mountains, she's now a certified Long Trail End-to-Ender and Side-to-Sider.



Through his connection with GMC, **Alan "Pokey" Paschell** has stepped through the looking glass of the Long Trail and gotten to know life at its most basic level. To him, of all the deprivations caused by COVID-19, missing the hiking is the most poignant. Alan is working on his third end-to-end hike of the Long Trail.



**Amy Peacock** grew up in a hiking family in New Hampshire. She and her husband Bruce began section hiking the LT last summer. They raised a family of hikers (three kids) during their 32 years in their home in Mendon. A relatively new GMC member, Amy is enjoying diving deep into Long Trail history and is the history committee chair for the Killington Section.



**Earle "Ranger Ray" Ray** lives in Addison County. He is an avid hiker, kayaker, writer, photographer, and a Long Trail End-to-Ender. This past summer he summited Longs Peak, the highest peak in Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park. His scenic landscape photos have been featured in the *Long Trail News*.



**Kenna Rewcastle** is a PhD student studying natural resources at the University of Vermont. She is a member of the GMC Board of Directors, and is regularly lured into adventures in the Green Mountains with the promise of post-hike creemees.



**Sylvie "Charger" Vidrine** has been hiking since her early 20s. She is a GMC member at large, a trail adopter, and the designer of the *Long Trail News*. In 2014 she hiked the LT northbound to celebrate her 50th birthday, and was joined by family and friends along the way. She loves hiking alone or with others, and appreciating the wonders of nature.





In April and May Green Mountain Club field staff members usually emerge from winter office cocoons to scout projects with our partners. Trail adopters set out to clear autumn leaves from waterbars and deadfalls from treadways. Not this year.

Our world changed in March with the onset of COVID-19 in the U.S. and plans for the 2020 field season went out the window. Instead of walking the trails, I spent this spring walking dirt roads near my home, considering how to adapt the field program to these unforeseen circumstances.

Our original ambitious agenda of trail work would have employed a construction crew and two Long Trail Patrol crews for eighteen weeks each and enlisted Volunteer Long Trail Patrol crews for seven weeks. Also scheduled were two additional weeks of volunteer crew time through partnerships with the American Hiking Society and Wilderness Volunteers, and a full slate of GMC backcountry caretakers.

Our first thoughts were probably like yours. Trails would be among the safest places people could be during a pandemic. Trail workers are in the woods, away from gatherings, easily able to stay six feet apart. But when we looked more closely, we realized those assumptions were not accurate.

Each season GMC hires forty to forty-five field staff workers from all over the country. They congregate at The Back Forty field staff housing on the GMC campus for an orientation program of about three weeks. Shared meals and communal bathrooms would make social distancing and a sanitized environment difficult if not impossible to maintain. And the housing isn't suitable for self-isolation or quarantine should someone become sick.

In the field, staff and volunteers commute to projects together and share tools and meals. They maintain heavily used shelters and privies, which would also be impossible to keep sanitized.

We evaluated risks and examined the ethics of placing staff and volunteers where they could either become infected or infect others. We established three criteria to guide decision making:



Former Mount Abe caretaker, Lincoln Frasca, packing out after doing composting work at Theron Dean privy.

### 1 Public Health

GMC will use the best scientific and public health information available for outdoor natural resource management in response to COVID-19.

### 2 Staff and Volunteer Safety

GMC will not put an employee at risk of quarantine in a tent or other backcountry accommodation and will do everything possible to protect staff and volunteers from infection.

### 3 The Trail Resource

GMC will continue to protect and steward the trail resource and will work closely with our land management partners to identify and complete critical work through cooperative management.

Within these guidelines we made hard decisions, including scaling back plans and retracting some employment offers for seasonal field staff positions.

Priorities this summer will be:

- Protection of natural resources and human health and safety through human waste management and protection of our most fragile backcountry ecosystems.

- Preparation work for a major construction season in 2021.
- Prefabrication of five **moldering privies** to replace pit privies at **Rolston Rest, David Logan, Melville Nauheim, Kid Gore, Stratton View, and Sucker Brook shelters**.
- Shelter restoration work at **David Logan** and **Cooley Glen** by late season crews.
- Airlifts of materials for work at **Stratton Pond, Kid Gore Shelter, and Melville Nauheim Shelter**, likely to be completed in 2021.

Our staff and volunteers are committed to protecting the Long Trail System, Appalachian Trail, and trails in the Northeast Kingdom. We know you are, too, and ask that everyone be the best stewards of the trails possible to help us while we operate with minimal field staff.

We look forward to seeing you in the backcountry as soon as it is safe to be together again.

—KEEGAN TIERNEY  
DIRECTOR OF FIELD PROGRAMS

*If you can help financially, please consider additional support at this extraordinary time as we plan for a full and thriving 2021 field season.*





### GMC Member Email Update

When GMC staff members started working remotely during the stay-at-home order, we relied more and more on email to communicate with you, our members. If you have not been receiving emails from us, we either have an outdated email address for you or no email address at all. Please go to [greenmountainclub.org/](https://greenmountainclub.org/) **email** to update your email address so we can stay in touch.

### GMC's 110<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting is Going Virtual

Unfortunately, this year's in-person annual meeting is canceled. Instead, we will host the business meeting and the board meeting online on Saturday, June 13. Please register at [greenmountainclub.org/meeting](https://greenmountainclub.org/meeting) to receive an email with instructions on how to participate in the meetings from home.

We thank the Laraway, Northern

Frontier, and Sterling Sections for their hard work planning the annual meeting weekend this year. They will have the opportunity to host again next year, so their work will not have been in vain, and you can all visit their part of Vermont. We will greatly miss seeing you all in person this year.

—KRISTIN MCLANE  
MEMBERSHIP AND  
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN PLUMMER

John Plummer Giving a Leave No Trace Lesson in Saguaro National Park.

### From Pine Trees to Prickly Pears

As a steward of Vermont's mountains, the Green Mountain Club has spread the message of Leave No Trace for decades through trailhead kiosks, signs at shelters, educational programs, and instruction on service outings. Since I am responsible for these programs, I needed to complete a Leave No Trace Master Educator course.

The four-day course in the back-country teaches participants to implement Leave No Trace education programs for any group, setting, and duration. Lucky for me, the only course in the country scheduled before the start of our field season was in Saguaro National Park in Tucson, Arizona.

This was my first time in the Sonoran Desert, which occupies portions of southern Arizona and California, and northwestern Mexico. It is an ecologically unique region because it includes every major globally recognized biome—a large natural community of plants and animals occupying a major habitat, like grassland or desert— except for Arctic tundra. The Sonoran Desert is also thought to have the greatest species diversity of any desert in North America. This made it a very engaging environment in which to learn more about outdoor ethics.

The class required each participant to choose a Leave No Trace topic on which to teach a group lesson while

on a backpacking trip. We stopped along the way at choice locations for discussions. I found my open-air classroom on a giant slab of rock next to a cottonwood tree in the riparian zone of a wash in a semi-desert grassland. I led a workshop on the principle of 'Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces,' and regaled my classmates with tales of hikes through Vermont's mud.

Each lesson stimulated additional discussions about diversity in the outdoors, the role of technology, social media, and other topics. We reviewed curriculums and discussed ways we planned to use what we learned in our communities.

For me the most valuable part of the course was the diverse experiences of my classmates, which enriched many engaging discussions with people from outdoor education programs, guiding companies, land managing agencies, and trail organizations. New to the area, I was able to "get in the shoes" of a visitor, and learn about outdoor ethics and the ecosystem from my instructors and classmates.

The course certainly gave me plenty of fodder for my Leave No Trace curriculum at the Green Mountain Club, and it improved my approach to communicating ways to minimize human impacts in the outdoors.

—JOHN PLUMMER  
GROUP OUTREACH AND  
FIELD COORDINATOR



## Meet GMC's New Database Coordinator RICK DUGAN



Rick Dugan began working as GMC's database coordinator in mid-January. He jumped right in but had to switch gears quickly as the staff changed to home based offices during the COVID-19 crisis. "It has definitely been a unique start at GMC," said Rick.

Trying to keep a positive outlook, Rick said his first several months with GMC gave him a chance to become part of a new hiker community and spend time in the forest in solitary reflection. Once GMC is operating normally again, Rick looks forward to meeting more members and volunteers in person. "I'm excited to be with the GMC in any capacity—in spite of all these unlikely circumstances," he said.

Rick grew up in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. His fascination with long-distance hiking began in his junior year of college when he took a two-week course held on the Appalachian Trail. After college and a brief stint with a local D.C. nonprofit, Rick decided to thru-hike the Appalachian Trail in 2007. When finished, he shuffled between jobs at outfitters and nonprofit organizations in a variety of roles, honing his skills and feeding his passions while aggressively expanding his gear collection.

In 2013 he thru-hiked the Pacific Crest Trail where he met his wife, Chelsea, in the forests of Yosemite on the way to Canada. They spent several years in Boulder, Colorado, and in 2015 hiked the Colorado Trail with their dog Boogie. Rick and Chelsea relocated to Burlington in 2016 to their new home in the Old North End.

Rick continues to enjoy hiking, climbing, and dehydrated foods as he settles into his role at GMC in what he considers to be a perfect meeting of worlds.

## Education Workshops in the Time of COVID-19

In a normal year this page would list a full schedule of educational workshops, volunteer trainings, and other opportunities to learn about the Long Trail and its natural environment. As you all know, this isn't a normal year, and COVID-19 has hindered planning our outdoor programs.

However, we adapted to the pandemic and continued to engage people by moving programs online. From the comfort and safety of their homes, 1,050 participants tuned in through videoconferencing platforms Zoom or Facebook Live in April and May.

Nearly 20 online programs, like the examples below, helped keep people connected and engaged with the Green Mountain Club:

- More than 40 people tuned in bi-weekly for Online Outdoor Trivia, testing their knowledge of natural history and the Long Trail while competing against other outdoor trivia aficionados.
- Former Stratton Pond caretaker and art instructor Kati Christoffel led 100 people through two watercolor painting workshops.
- More than 375 people joined to watch a variety of speakers who provided a sense of adventure while social distancing. Topics ranged from the rescue of nine ice-bound loons on a Vermont Lake to the grandeur of Denali, the highest mountain in North America.
- The Long Trail End-to-End panel provided expert advice to 183 people who aspire to hike the Trail.

Our online workshops attracted people from out of state, which increased awareness of the club. Kati's watercolor workshop had participants from New Brunswick, Chicago, and Cincinnati. And because times are hard financially for some people, we waived workshop fees, and suggested participants make donations if they could. We were heartened by their generosity.

Outdoor programs will continue online this summer and will be announced on GMC's website ([greenmountainclub.org/virtual](https://www.greenmountainclub.org/virtual)), on social media channels, and in our electronic newsletter.

While I eagerly await the return of in-person programs, I am pleased with the debut of our online programming and look forward to seeing you online this summer.

—LORNE CURRIER, VOLUNTEER AND EDUCATION COORDINATOR



Painting done by GMC Construction Crew Leader Michael Dillon during one of Kati's online workshops. Participants were inspired by a photograph taken by Ed Schernau.





# Ten Year Timber Harvest Wraps Up on GMC Property in Lowell

Vermont's forested landscape provides the beauty and recreational opportunities that make the state a special place to live, work, and play. The ability of landowners to keep their land forested, however, often hinges on their capacity to financially sustain the land. Timber harvesting can be an important tool in that effort.

The Green Mountain Club owns 3,500 acres of forest on seventeen properties and harvests the land strategically to meet our broader goals for land, trails, and community engagement. This year we are celebrating the conclusion of the largest timber harvest in our 110-year history.

In 2009 the club set out to demonstrate that world-class hiking trails can be managed next to a well-designed and -executed timber harvest. In the same year, the club built the new Visitor Center in Waterbury Center, using local lumber and installing an efficient gasification wood-fired boiler for space heat and hot water.

GMC then needed fifteen to twenty cords of firewood annually, ideally from sustainably designed local harvests. "The club saw a timber harvest on our own property as an opportunity to demonstrate best practices for low-impact logging that would be compatible with recreation," recalled Pete Antos-Ketcham, director of stewardship and manager of facilities for the club in 2009. "We partnered with Vermont Family Forests, and used their harvest guidelines as a template for our work. A forester helped GMC develop a long-range harvesting schedule that would enable the club to meet the requirements for the State of Vermont Current Use Program, supply our firewood, and generate a modest income to support GMC's work."

The club selected its 1,870-acre Meltzer tract in Lowell for harvest.

Many hikers enjoy the Frank Post Trail and the Forester's Trail that loop through the tract, 2.75 miles of Long Trail located along its western edge, and Tillotson Camp. It was a perfect property to show how forestry and hiking trails can be compatible uses.

To design the harvest, GMC's forester carefully considered the property's unique and fragile natural resources, especially the many seeps in the high elevation northern hardwood forest that feed the forest and the headwaters of Lockwood Brook, a significant tributary to the Missisquoi River. The land ranges from 1,145 feet to 3,360 feet above sea level. Montane forests cover its higher portions providing habitat for the Bicknell's thrush (*Catharus bicknelli*), a rare and imperiled bird in Vermont.

GMC evaluated these and other natural resources, and the ecosystem services the property provides. Analysis required more than 100 plots and multiple reconnaissance transects across the tract, as well as data on herbaceous species, shrubs, ground cover, aquatic features, geology, wildlife and avian habitat, snags, cavity trees, and dead and down material. These data informed the design of the harvest and how it would be accomplished.

A key decision was to conduct the harvest in winter on frozen ground, when streams can be forded with iced-in temporary bridges. Winter harvesting both protects fragile wet soils from erosion and avoids the busiest hiking seasons.

The club's Long Trail System Management Plan recommends timber harvests leave an undisturbed 1,000-foot corridor for the Long Trail, and 500-foot corridors for side trails. So the logging in Lowell removed no trees within 250 feet of the Frank Post or Forester's trails. Logging road and skid trail crossings of hiking



PHOTO BY HARRIS ROEN





Lockwood Pond on Meltzer Tract

trails were minimized, and were perpendicular to the trails whenever possible.

GMC decided to not harvest above 2,400 feet to protect the slow growing and sensitive forest there, and to avoid seeking a time consuming and expensive Act 250 permit.

“GMC’s harvest took place each winter from 2009 to 2019, yielding more than 800,000 board feet of timber and 2,200 cords of firewood at a value of almost \$213,000 for the club’s land conservation program and general operating funds.”

Another key decision was to employ skilled loggers with chainsaws, rather than heavy mechanized equipment. Human sawyers remove each tree individually, and can minimize adverse impacts much better than whole-tree harvesting machines, especially on steep slopes and thin soils. The club hired two local loggers, which also ensured that the work supported the local economy and forest industry.

Harris Roen, a licensed forester and owner of Long Meadows Resource Management LLC, designed and managed the operation. He assessed and marked each tree, and planned access to harvest areas well in advance. Roen designed the harvest as a selective thinning, choosing trees for removal based on health, vigor, spacing, wildlife, sale value, ease of access and remaining growing stock, among other criteria.

In addition, several patch cuts of up to one acre in size were cut to create early successional habitat. Patches of dense, young, vigorously growing trees are uncommon on the maturing forests of the northern Green Mountains, and they add structural diversity. This enhances bird habitat by creating favorable conditions for interior forest species such as the chestnut-sided warbler and white-throated sparrow. Audubon Vermont recommended such patch cuts in a forest bird habitat assessment as the harvest plan was developed.

The Meltzer tract has a long history of timber harvests. In the 1960s and 1970s the land was aggressively cut, and today one can still trace its extensive network of old logging roads. After GMC took ownership in 1987, the club enrolled it in Vermont’s Current Use Program, and then used the required professionally designed management plan to guide activities there.

The old logging roads were of particular concern since many of them had been poorly laid out, used during the wrong time of year, and not maintained to control erosion. GMC worked with the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service and the State of Vermont to install drainage ditches and harden surfaces with crushed stone on the worst sections. That improved access for our timber harvest, and will protect the site and water quality for years to come.

GMC’s harvest took place each winter from 2009 to 2019, yielding more than 800,000 board feet of timber and 2,200 cords of firewood at a value of almost \$213,000 for the club’s land conservation program and general operating funds. (A board foot is a square foot of wood an inch thick; a cord is a stack of firewood of 128 cubic feet.) GMC also retained about 100 cords of firewood for heating our headquarters.

Now that the harvest is finished few hikers will notice signs of it, which demonstrates how forest management and recreation can coexist. As years pass it will take a trained eye to see any evidence of it.

GMC’s next ten-year management plan calls for the forest to grow in peace, with a potential selective thinning in 2030.

“It’s been very meaningful work for me,” said Roen. “This job is living proof that backcountry recreation and forest management can be successful on the same site. As a landowner, GMC has been a responsible steward by improving overall quality of the remaining trees, creating enhancements for wildlife, supporting the local working lands economy, and generating meaningful income to help fund stewardship programs. It’s nice to see the club’s commitment to responsibly managing their holdings into the future.”

“It was a pleasure to work up there,” said Ronnie Stearns, a sawyer who worked on the Meltzer harvest for six years. “The steep terrain and skid distances made it a challenge, but it’s a beautiful mountain. There will be another nice cut of timber up there some day, no doubt.”

—MOLLIE FLANIGAN  
CONSERVATION MANAGER





Mount Mansfield Summit

# UVM Re-issues License Agreement for the Long Trail System on Mount Mansfield

In March, the University of Vermont finalized a 25-year license agreement with the Green Mountain Club for the use and maintenance of the Long Trail System on land owned by the university on the ridgeline of Mount Mansfield.

UVM acquired the ridgeline of Vermont's highest peak in the 1850s and has been a critical partner of the club ever since the Long Trail was first located on the mountain in 1911.

The university hosts 2.5 miles of the Long Trail, 3.5 miles of side trails, and Butler Lodge. In 1974 UVM and GMC

entered a series of license agreements to grant the club the legal ability to maintain the hiking trails on the mountain.

UVM manages 400 acres along the ridgeline through the university's Natural Areas Program. The program also stewards nine other properties across Vermont, totaling more than two thousand acres.

According to Dr. Rick Paradis, UVM's longtime director of natural areas, "For decades, UVM has worked closely with the Green Mountain Club to insure the protection of the fragile alpine

habitat on the mountain, and to allow for sustainable visitors' use through the club's trail system."

The Green Mountain Club is grateful to UVM for its stewardship of Mount Mansfield, and for our partnership caring for the unique alpine landscape and spectacular hiking trails. We deeply appreciate the university's board of directors and its staff for executing this agreement providing for another 25 years of stewardship and world class hiking in Vermont.

—MOLLIE FLANIGAN  
CONSERVATION MANAGER



# New GMC Board Directors



## Alexis Peters

Alexis' love of the mountains began on family ski trips in and around the Mad River Valley, and it has grown to encompass backpacking and other outdoor adventures.

In 2017 Alexis graduated from a dual degree program of Vermont Law School, where she primarily studied land use and conservation, and the University of Cambridge, from which she obtained a master's degree in environmental policy. That summer she thru-hiked the Long Trail.

Alexis is an attorney at Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC in Burlington, where she focuses on real estate and other land use matters. She also is a member of the GMC Land Conservation Committee.

In addition to hiking and skiing, Alexis enjoys cooking, running, and attending live music performances.



## Anne Hauser

Anne and her husband Ron, determined to build a life in the mountains, moved to Vermont in 1987 and opened Mountain Goat Outdoor Clothing and Gear store in Manchester. Managing the store for 33 years has given Anne a great foundation for supporting the Long Trail and the Appalachian Trail. She has been fortunate to hike almost all the Long Trail.

Recently Anne led the effort to establish Manchester as an Appalachian Trail Community, providing support and amenities for hikers passing by. This designation helped rally the community to welcome hikers and raise awareness of the trail.

This year Anne stepped back from everyday work at the Mountain Goat, and moved to New Haven, Vermont, where new adventures await.



## Mariah Keagy

Mariah Keagy grew up in southern Vermont, and at 15 set her first stepstone on the Long Trail with the Volunteer Long Trail Patrol. Because the paid Long Trail Patrol didn't hire anyone under 18, she did trail work in the Adirondacks, returning to the GMC when old enough. That began a career in trails of more than 25 years in ten states as a trail designer and planner. She is a partner in Sinuosity, LLC, a trail building firm in Morrisville.

Mariah has led training sessions for the Long Trail Patrol and caretakers, and joined the GMC Trail Management Committee.

Mariah holds an M.S. in Environmental Studies from Antioch University. She is on the board of the Vermont Trails and Greenways Council, is a member of the Professional Trail Builders Association, and is the energy action projects manager for the Vermont Energy Education Program.



## Board Report

The Green Mountain Club's March 21 board meeting took place electronically because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

After the secretary's and treasurer's reports were reviewed and approved, GMC President Tom Candon commended the staff for their hard work keeping operations running during the crisis. Executive Director Mike DeBonis reinforced Tom's comments, saying he was proud of the way the staff had adjusted to rapid changes, and arranged to work efficiently from home. He announced that the visitor center was closed, and all in-person meetings and events were canceled for the foreseeable future.

The fiscal year 2020 financial report was

presented, followed by a discussion of how the COVID-19 situation would affect the 2021 budget, which was developed before the pandemic. The board approved the budget, but it will likely change dramatically in the next few months.

The board approved the auditors' recommendation to write off the value of some older publications in inventory that are unlikely to sell, and to extinguish as an asset the loan from the endowment that financed them. The board also approved distribution of certain capital campaign receipts to fund operations for which they had been designated, and approved the nominating committee's recommendation

for honorary life membership.

Staff members reported on land protection and field programs, summarizing progress on recent Long Trail protection initiatives and plans for the coming season of trail work.

Reviewing and updating approximately fifty club policies will be a task for the board and staff in the next year.

Finally, Mike reviewed the club's efforts to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion, and summarized plans for the future of that initiative.

Because of the COVID-19 outbreak the June GMC board meeting and the club's annual business meeting will be held online.

—ED O'LEARY, SECRETARY



## Section Directory

### Bennington

Maintenance: Harmon Hill to Glazenbury Mountain  
President: Reed Goossen, (215) 595-6391  
E-mail: rgoossen@gmail.com  
Website: benningtongmc.org

### Brattleboro

Maintenance: Winhall River to Vt. 11 and 30  
President: Bonnie Haug-Cramp, (802) 380-5165  
E-mail: onacloud@myfairpoint.net  
Website: brattleborogmc.com

### Bread Loaf

Location: Middlebury area  
Maintenance: Sucker Brook Shelter to Emily Proctor Shelter  
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E-mail: ruthpenfield@gmail.com  
Website: gmcbreadloaf.org

### Burlington

Maintenance: Winooski River Footbridge to Smugglers' Notch  
President: Jonathan Breen, (802) 764-1275  
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Website: gmc Burlington.org

### Connecticut

Location: Hartford, Connecticut  
Maintenance: Glazenbury Mountain to Stratton-Arlington Road  
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Website: conngmc.com

### Killington

Location: Rutland area  
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Website: gmckillington.org

### Laraway

Location: St. Albans area  
Maintenance: Lamoille River to Vt. 118  
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E-mail: brbshey@comcast.net  
Website: gmclaraway.org

### Manchester

Maintenance: Vt. 11 and 30 to Griffith Lake  
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E-mail: marge.fish@gmail.com  
Website: gmc-manchester.org

### Montpelier

Maintenance: Camel's Hump to Winooski River Footbridge and Smugglers' Notch to Chilcoat Pass  
President: Dana Lawrence, (802) 223-1007  
E-mail: hikeski51@gmail.com  
Website: gmcmontpelier.org

### Northeast Kingdom

Maintenance: Willoughby and Darling State Forests and the Kingdom Heritage Lands  
President: John Predom, (802)-377-9654  
E-mail: gmcnek@gmail.com  
Website: nekmc.org

### Northern Frontier

Location: Montgomery  
Maintenance: Hazen's Notch to Canada  
President: Ken Whitehead, (802) 933-5352  
E-mail: mrsswhitehead@gmail.com  
Website: gmcnorthernfrontier.org

### Upper Valley-Ottawaquechee

Location: Upper Connecticut River Valley, and New Hampshire  
Maintenance: Appalachian Trail: Maine Jct. to NH border  
President: Dick Andrews, (802) 885-3201  
E-mail: techcomm@vermontel.net  
Website: gmc-o-section.org

### Sterling

Location: Morrisville/Stowe/Johnson  
Maintenance: Chilcoat Pass to Lamoille River  
President: Kevin Hudnell: (802) 851-7019  
E-mail: khudnell@gmail.com  
Website: gmsterling.org

### Worcester

Location: Worcester, Massachusetts  
Maintenance: Stratton-Arlington Road to Winhall River  
President: Ram Moensad, (508) 210-6965  
E-mail: shivratri@gmail.com  
Website: gmcwoo.org

## Mountain Views continued from page 4

### More on Professor George Wallace

Thank you for your wonderful article [Spring 2020 LTN, "From Porcupines to Pesticides" by Vic Henningsen]. George Wallace is the great uncle of my husband, and I've heard the stories of him being smeared for his unyielding devotion to DDT research, and how after his death, Michigan State University actually reversed course, recognizing Dr. Wallace with an honorary Ph.D. Today, MSU honors Wallace with the George J. Wallace and Martha C. Wallace Endowed Scholarship for graduate students working with birds.

Also of interest during these COVID-19 days is that George's father, James Wallace died in 1918 of the Spanish Influenza when George was 11. . . All seven children suffered from and thankfully survived the flu. Their mother, Florence, remarkably did not get the flu, claiming she was too busy caring for everyone else to get sick.

—KAREN WALKER BEECHER

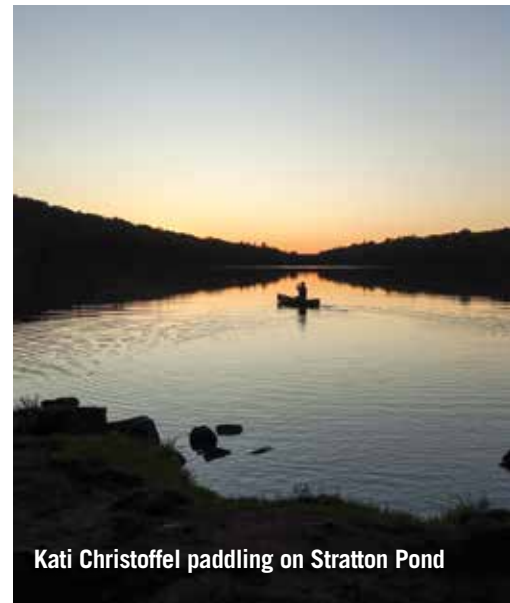
### CORRECTIONS:

In the spring 2020 edition, the photo caption on page 24 ("Saying Goodbye to Ilana Copel after Eight Great Years") said Ilana and Camille Robertson were standing on the Mount Mansfield summit, when in fact they were on Camel's Hump. Thanks to longtime

GMC member David Keenan for bringing the error to my attention.

Also in the spring 2020 edition, the credit for this photo (which was on page 13) was omitted. Ed Schernau, also known as "Smokebeard," took the beautiful and peaceful image of GMC caretaker Kati Christoffel paddling across Stratton Pond. My apologies Smokebeard—and thank you for sharing the photo which was also used as inspiration in a GMC online painting workshop led by Kati.

—JOCELYN HEBERT  
LONG TRAIL NEWS EDITOR



Kati Christoffel paddling on Stratton Pond

## Long Trail News Welcomes Your Comments.

Letters received may be edited for length and clarity. GMC reserves the right to decline to publish those considered inappropriate. Letters may not be published.

### SEND TO

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jhebert@greenmountainclub.org

or

Letters to the Editor  
Green Mountain Club  
4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road  
Waterbury Center, VT 05677



# Growing Vermont Roots

BY T HANSON

Conservation psychology teaches that you must learn to love and respect a place via hands-on experience to care for it. Mere study of data and lessons taught from afar won't do.

Accordingly, my respect for the Vermont landscape has grown during the governor's COVID-19 stay-at-home order.

When I learned that loss of the sense of smell might be an early symptom of the coronavirus, I started to test myself each morning. Smell the coffee; step outside and smell the air—yes, it evokes related thoughts and memories related to scent.

I stare at the Monroe Skyline ridgeline longer. Sandwiched between the Northfield Range and the Green Mountains, I follow sunlight and shadow reflections through the day. I'm not hiking the Long Trail now, but I reflect on last's summer's 12-mile outing with Pete Saile and his Burlington Section group from Lincoln Gap to App Gap. I hope we'll be able to celebrate his 25th annual Monroe Skyline hike this summer, but times are uncertain, and the duration of social distancing is unknown.

I walk my dog down Common Road each day, six miles to Waitsfield Common; I pass the Joslin farm, Geiger's honey and egg farm stand, Skinner Barn, Von Trapp Farm, and finally Von Trapp Greenhouse. Camel's Hump waves proudly in the distance.

The history of generations of families—dairy farmers, cheese makers, flower growers—is palpable. My tulips from the Von Trapp Flower CSA have never been more appreciated. Last year they added color to my first Vermont winter to help me through the months of snow. This year I treasure each stage of opening and each daily burst of color as inspiration that life goes on. I purchase some Von Trapp Mt. Alice cheese by curbside pick-up, and look up across Scrag Mountain to Mt. Alice. The taste of terroir is at its earthy best.

Back home, my pond is filled with migrating Canada geese, mallards, and even the occasional hooded merganser pair or flock of snow geese. The familiar buzz of red-winged blackbirds fills the air. Green grass disappears under fresh snow, then surfaces green again. Sugar maple leafbuds are sharp and pointy. Old-fashioned sap buckets hanging throughout the neighborhood fill rapidly.

I cook local root veggies for soup, and enjoy the company of my college age children, who are taking classes remotely by Zoom from the kitchen table. I get to listen in on a lecture on renewable energy and changes to Green New Deal policy proposals to include oceans.

I ponder the effect of our strong local food system on Vermonters' fate, in contrast with the rest of the nation. I ponder the triple bottom line of people, prosperity, and planet, and I am thankful that the planet is emerging better in this tumultuous time, with carbon dioxide emissions down as global industry is at a standstill.

I think about what I would be doing sheltering in place in Dallas, where I lived two years ago, surrounded by concrete, very little nature, and certainly no mountain views. How fortunate I am to have realized my long term plan of moving back to my New England roots.

I know the Long Trail will be there for me on the other side. My sense of place is stronger than ever and I will always work to conserve it. 🌱

*T Hanson joined GMC's development staff in 2018 when she relocated from Dallas, Texas to Waitsfield, Vermont. When not exploring local trails, she can often be found at a farmer's market or in the garden.*



Pete Saile and T Hanson on Annual Lincoln Gap to App Gap Hike



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# GMC Resilience Fund

The Green Mountain Club set up a Resilience Fund to help us navigate what is projected to be a challenging year due to COVID-19.

If you are able, please considering donating today.

**TO DONATE:** visit [greenmountainclub.org/resilience](https://greenmountainclub.org/resilience) or use the enclosed envelope.