



FOOTNOTES



VOLUME 37

March - May 2015

OTTAWAQUECHEE SECTION

NUMBER 1

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE FOOTNOTES IN AN E-VERSION RATHER THAN BY MAIL, PLEASE LET HEINZ TREBITZ KNOW AT ih63@wavecomm.com.



Happy
Winter !



Fotos: Inge and Heinz Trebitz

PLAN C, January 2015.

On the schedule: *X-C ski loop in Union Village Dam area.*

On the ground: *Almost no snow. Skiing impossible.*

Plan B: *Snowshoeing. No fun on the rock-hard surface.*

Plan C: *Walk with creepers.*

It turned out to be a good decision and a glorious day! The trail along the West Branch of the Ompompanoosuc River was covered by sheer ice for long stretches. Sheets of ice were suspended at waist-height in the trees and reeds along the way.

A magic wonderland!

Inge Trebitz



"O" SECTION SPRING ACTIVITIES, MARCH - MAY 2015

*** = Easy on the knees.

Don't forget, if conditions don't seem good for scheduled outing, call leader for "Plan B": change in venue, mode of travel, or both!

BACKCOUNTRY ETIQUETTE: NO CELL PHONE USE EXCEPT IN EMERGENCY

Mar 1 Sun	X-C Ski	Ski in to Ravine Lodge, then backcountry Merrill Ski Loop on Mt. Braley, east of Mt. Moosilauke. Total about 8.5 miles, 1500' elevation gain. Moderate - strenuous.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Mar 2 Mon	X-C Ski	An O-Section backcountry tradition: Tunbridge to Strafford, VT, with option to South Strafford. 6 or 8 miles. Hilly but beautiful. Moderate.	Patty Spencer 802-333-3571
Mar 3 Tues	X-C Ski	Groomed trails at Trapp Family Lodge, Stowe, VT. All levels, all distances. (Dick will lead Intermediate group.) Trail fee.	Dick Ruben 802-333-3707
Mar 7 Sat	Snowshoe or hike w/ UVLT	Zebedee Wetland, Thetford, VT. Ramble along Linny Levin Trail with Upper Valley Land Trust. 1 mile. 100' elevation gain. Easy. ***	Doug Brown douglas.brown@uvlt.org
Mar 8 Sun	Snowshoe, hike or walk	Celebrate Daylight Savings Time with a snowshoe, hike or road walk in the Upper Valley of VT or NH. Leader's choice depending on conditions. Easy or Moderate.	Peter Hope 603-863-6456
Mar 10 Tues	X-C Ski	Groomed trails at Craftsbury Outdoor Ctr, Craftsbury, VT. For all levels, all distances. (Dick will lead Intermed. group.) Trail fee; poss. discount for Catamount & seniors.	Dick Ruben 802-333-3707
Mar 14 Sat	X-C Ski	Leader's choice (possibly Groton State Forest, VT.)	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Mar 15 Sun	X-C Ski	Stowe, VT area. Trapp Family or Stowe Mtn. Resort X-C Ski Center (formerly Mt. Mansfield Ski Touring Center). All levels (Dick will lead Intermed.) Trail fee.	Dick Ruben 802-333-3707
Mar 17 Tues	X-C Ski or Walk	St. Patrick's Day cross-country ski around Lake Pineo in Quechee, VT, or else a walk in that area. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
Mar 21 Sat	Snowshoe or Hike	Spring! A.T. north from NH-25C. Over Mt. Mist (2220'), lunch and turn around at lovely view overlooking Wachipauka Pond. 5.2 miles, 1200' elev. gain. Moderate.	Kathy Astrauckas 802-785-4311
Mar 22 Sun	Snowshoe	Hawk Hill, East Barnard, VT. 300 ^o views. About 5 miles. Moderate.	Dick Ruben 802-333-3707
Mar 24 Tues	Dirt Road Walk ***	Woodstock to Taftsville, VT. River Road from Billings Farm, through newly repaired & reopened Taftsville Bridge to Taftsville General Store. 4 mi. Easy. *** Car spot.	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
Mar 28 Sat	Road Walk	In Thetford or Strafford area. About 5 miles. Probably on the easier side of moderate. No dogs.	Lynne Miller 802-785-4410
Mar 29 Sun	Road Walk	Afternoon walk, paved road around Lake Morey, Fairlee, VT. 6 mi, easy. End in time for Rivendell Trails Assn. Ann.Mtg. Dinner & Auction, 4 p.m., Hulbert Outdoor Center.	Patty Spencer 802-333-3571
Mar 31 Tues	Snowshoe or Hike ***	Quechee Gorge from Marshland Farms / Dewey's Pond and back. About. 3 mi. round trip, 200' elevation gain. Leisurely pace. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
Apr 4 Sat	Hike	Century-old Norcross Quarry on Mt. Ascutney. Some old machinery survives; nice view. 2.2 mi., 670' elevation gain. Brief steep section at start, otherwise easy.	Dick Andrews 802-885-3201
Apr 7 Tues	Road Walk ***	Hawk Pine dirt road loop, Norwich, VT. 3 miles. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
Apr 7 Tues	Planning Meeting	Planning Meeting for Summer (June - August) outings at 7:00 p.m. at Inge Brown's home. Call Kathy Astrauckas ahead with ideas if you can't join us (802-785-4311).	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
Apr 11 Sat	Snowshoe Or Hike	Leaders's choice of length and location.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
Apr 14 Tues	Road Walk	Woodstock-Taftsville loop using Cloudland, Hillside, & River Roads. Views in places. About 10 mi. Moderate, some hills. (Send your taxes in early & get outside!)	Dick Andrews 802-885-3201
Apr 17 Fri	Pot Luck & Slide show	Mud Season Social at Tall Timbers Clubhouse, Quechee, VT. 5:30 p.m. Bring pot-luck dish, beverage, eating utensils, travel slides, & outdoor gear to sell or swap.	Inge Brown 802-280-8017

Apr 18 Sat	Bike Ride	Early season road bike ride in the Upper Valley of VT or NH. Easy. Contact leader for details. ajaneway@gmail.com	Annie Janeway 413-374-0988
Apr 19 Sun	Hike ***	Newest part of West River Trail, from marina in Brattleboro, VT to Black Mtn. trailhead in Dummerston. 3.5 mi on rail trail, 0.5 mi road walk. Essentially level. Easy. ***	Peter Hope 603-863-6456
Apr 21 Tues	Dirt Road Walk ***	Upper Turnpike Road & Needham Road, Norwich, VT. Scenic, bucolic 3-mile dirt road loop. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
Apr 25 Sat	Hike	Escape mud on paved Mt. Ascutney (3150') road. No cars, nice views; on to summit if trail not muddy. 7.4 mi, 2200' ascent. Moderate. Summit adds 1.4 mi and 400' ascent.	Dick Andrews 802-885-3201
Apr 26 Sun	Wildflower Walk	Along New Eng. Wildflower Society's Plainfield (NH) Sanctuary land on River Rd, mostly dirt. Some species not common in NH. 4 mi. Binoculars useful. Easy. ***	Elizabeth.Tobiasson 603-643-5490
Apr 28 Tues	Hike ***	Hazen Trail from Wilder to outlook and back. About 3 miles. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
May 2 Sat	Spring Walk-thru	Goal: cover as much of our 48 miles of A.T.as possible in 1 day. Choose your favorite section or we'll help you choose, as few or many miles as you want. Call for details.	Lee Eastman 802-484-9726
May 3 Sun	Hike	Snake Mtn (1287'), Addison, VT. Loop following old woods and carriage roads. Good views. 3.6 mi, 900' elevation gain. Moderate.	Peter Hope 603-863-6456
May 5 Tues	Road Walk ***	Explore Connecticut River Road going south from corner of Sykes Mountain Ave, White River Jct., VT. 3 miles flat walk. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
May 9 Sat	Hike	Round Mtn, W. Brattleboro, VT. 2.5 mi total, up & back on conserved land. A few hundred ft. elevation gain, short, steep at top. Views, trout lilies. Buy lunch afterwards at Brattleboro Farmers Mkt. ajaneway@gmail.com	Annie Janeway 413-374-0988
May 10 Sun	Hike	Mother's day tramp someplace almost dry in VT/NH Upper Valley. About 6 miles. Easy to Moderate, but hilly.	Nick Krembs 802-649-1048
May 12 Tues	Bike Ride	South Royalton to Chelsea, out and back. Beautifully scenic. Lunch in Chelsea. Downhill all the way back! 26 miles round trip. Moderate.	Dick Ruben 802-333-3707
May 16 Sat	Hike	Ely Mtn, Thetford, VT. 208 acres of land newly conserved with Upper Valley Land Trust. Route to be determined. 4 – 5 mi, ~ 700' elevation gain. Moderate.	Marcia Dunning 802-333-4340
May 17 Sun	Hike w/ UVLT	Lone Oak Trail, Bath, NH. Hike to see spring wildflowers with Upper Valley Land Trust. Views of Connecticut River Valley. 2 mi, 800' elevation gain. Moderate.	Doug Brown douglas.brown@uvlt.org
May 17 Sun	Paddle the Border	Woodsville, NH to Newbury/Piermont. Annual event, up to 100 paddlers. Free shuttle service, lunch (at a cost) by local Rotary club at the take out. ~ 6 mi. Always fun!	Dick Ruben 802-333-3707
May 19 Tues	Road Walk + Swim ***	Neap Road in Hartford, VT. Out-and-back, approx. 4 miles (half paved, half dirt). Easy. Swim afterwards at Upper Valley Aquatic Center. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
May 23 Sat	Hike	Black Gum Swamp, Vernon VT. Rare stand of southern trees (a.k.a. tupelos) survived the Ice Age. About 3 mi, moderate hills. Easy.	Dick Andrews 802-885-3201
May 24 Sun	Hike	Wright's Mtn (1822'), Bradford, VT. Loop including Devil's Den and viewpoint. 4 - 5 mi, a few hundred feet elevation gain. Easy - Moderate.	Nick Krembs 802-649-1048
May 25 Mon	Hike	Memorial Day on Shrewsbury Peak (3270'), Shrewsbury, VT. Loop: CCC rd, Shrewsbury Peak Tr, Black Swamp Tr. Good views. 3.9 mi with 1063' elevation gain if car spot; 5.4 mi with 1384' elev. gain if road walk between trailheads. Moderate.	Peter Hope 603-863-6456
May 26 Tues	Bike Ride	Wilder - West Hartford, VT, and return. 12 miles. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
May 30 Sat	Hike & Picnic	Join Ascutney Trails Assn. for annual picnic atop Mt. Ascutney (3150'). Approx. 7 mil. Moderate - Strenuous. Call leader for details. Short option from top of auto road: 1.8 mi round trip, 200' elev. gain, mod. terrain, led by Inge Brown 802-280-8017	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
May 31 Sun	Hike	Crotched Mtn (2066'), Frankestown, NH. From Town Forest. Interesting woods and wetlands, good views from ridge. 6 – 7 mi, 1200+' elevation gain. Moderate.	Peter Hope 603-863-6456



WHAT IS A TREE CHAMPION?

During the past months our activity schedule has listed several trips jointly with the Upper Valley Land Trust (UVLT). We explored recently-conserved pieces of property in Corinth, Cornish, Lyme and Thetford. These hikes are not very challenging in terms of length or altitude, and the moderate pace leaves time to learn about the special features that made the land important for conservation.

It just so happened that two of the trips led us to possible tree champions, the biggest of their species in VT or NH, or at least in their county. In fact, there are many tree champions on UVLT conserved land in both NH and VT. The largest black walnut in VT is on conserved land in Hartland, VT, the largest white poplar in NH on conserved land in Lyme, NH. The two trees we visited on the UVLT/GMC trips were a white pine on conserved land in Cornish, NH, and a white ash on land UVLT just acquired in Thetford, VT. This last one is two inches larger in diameter than the champion tree, but falls short in the other categories.

So how do they get measured and recorded?

Since 1940 the *National Big Tree Program* recognizes the beauty and critical ecosystem services provided by our biggest and oldest trees. All states have a Big Tree Program, and in all of them trees of the same species are compared by using the following calculation:

Trunk Circumference (in inches) + Height (in feet) + ¼ Average Crown Spread (in feet) = Total Points

A web search shows that the US National Register of 2014 has listed 798 species champions (with an additional 200 where a champion has not yet been determined).

For Vermont only 112 different kinds of trees with the highest point counts were listed in 2013. Many species are still waiting for their champion to be discovered.

Would you like to become a big-tree hunter?

All you need is to get out with a measuring tape and a ruler!

Inge Trebitz

OTTAUQUECHEE FOOTNOTES

©Green Mountain Club - Ottauquechee Section

http://gmc-o-section.org

Ottauquechee Section Editor

Ingeborg M. Trebitz

480 Colby Road N.

Thetford Center, VT 05075

Tel: 802-785-2129

e-mail: iht63@wavecomm.com

AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB

Who are we? Founded in 1910, the Green Mountain Club was established "to make the mountains of Vermont play larger roles in the lives of people". To meet that goal, the club constructed the 272-mile Long Trail (LT). The GMC is responsible for developing policies and programs aimed at preservation, maintenance, and proper use of hiking trails for the benefit of the people of Vermont.

What is the Ottauquechee Section? Our section, one of 14 chapters of the GMC, is located in and around the Upper Valley. We schedule activities all year round for those who enjoy the outdoors, including hikes, bike trips, canoe outings, cross country skiing and snow shoe hikes. The "O" Section is responsible for the maintenance of 46 miles of Appalachian Trail (AT) between Maine Junction at Willard Pass near Killington and the Connecticut River at Norwich, VT, including four trail shelters.

We invite you to join! If you wish to participate in our activities, meet friendly, outdoors loving people and contribute to the maintenance and quality of Vermont's hiking trail system, the Ottauquechee Section welcomes you. Through the quarterly GMC Long Trail News and the "O"Section Footnotes you will get information about section and main club activities and issues of interest. For more information, call Patty Spencer at 802-333-3571.

For membership, fill out the application below and send to Green Mountain Club, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Center, VT 05677, att. Joe Sikowitz. Please enclose a check, payable to the Green Mountain Club.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I (we)wish to join the Ottauquechee Section of the Green Mountain Club.

A check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Address _____ Telephone #:

_____ E-mail: _____

Dues per year are \$ 45.- for adults and \$ 60.- for families