



FOOTNOTES



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June – August 2021

UPPER VALLEY
OTTAUQUECHEE SECTION
of the
GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB

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President's Message:

I'm pleased to announce, though you've probably heard it already, that the Green Mountain Club says sections may resume outings and other group activities with minimal precautions against COVID-19.

Except for the winter month, with dogged persistence despite the pandemic, the Upper Valley Ottauquechee Section's three trail coordinators have recruited volunteers to maintain our 46 miles of trail from Maine Junction to New Hampshire by organizing small groups traveling individually to trailheads, and staying well apart on the trail. But we have scheduled no recreational outings. Some section members - probably more than I know - have been skiing, snowshoeing and hiking carefully with small groups of friends. That activity was good, but it wasn't the same as a schedule of outings open to all.

Still, compared with many folks, we have been very fortunate to have at least some face time with people we like. For a contrasting instance, my wife's passions are theater and choral singing. Her ability to enjoy time with her friends was essentially eliminated by the pandemic. Many others who love gathering indoors have been similarly bereft.

Happily we can all celebrate the end of the most dangerous phase of the pandemic. Although it appears the virus will be with us indefinitely, the vaccination of many of us means we can schedule official outings again and can travel to trailheads together.

I hope to see you on the trail!

Dick Andrews

Footnotes Trail Report, Spring 2021

There has been a flurry of activity on the trails. Individuals and small groups have been working on blowdowns and clearing the trailway. There have been reports of mountain bike and horse incursions on one segment, and one squatter has chosen to exercise his right to camp near the trail for 14 days. His claim is still in dispute with the Forest Service. In addition to GMC members we continue to rely on the trail community for periodic reports about trail conditions. Please forward any information about trail or shelter conditions to me.

One of my goals for the year is to encourage adopters to become more involved in some trail building, not just trail maintenance. This requires training.

Recently I invited Lorne Currier from the GMC staff to hold a workday/workshop on sidehilling - a technique to re-establish tread that has been eroded, narrowing the tread and creating a dangerous downslope. With Lorne and his assistant Miriam's guidance - and the blessing of VTrans - a group of adopters relocated a section of trail that ran next to the guardrail near the AT crossing of Route 12. That same afternoon the group did more sidehilling on a section of trail near Suicide Six.

Another goal is to determine a major project on each of the three stretches (15 mile sections) and hold section wide workdays. We've already identified one, and some planning has begun.

If you know of something that would require a swarm of people power, please let your stretch coordinator know. (*Bob Hagen, Nick Krembs, Heinz Trebitz*).

Thanks for your dedication to the trail!

Bob Hagen, Trails and Shelters Chair

AT Crossing with Rte 12 in Woodstock – a long history of changes

The entrance to the AT parking lot at Rte. 12 was never very visible. Most of the time it was washed out, and the river bank was always overgrown with Japanese Knotweed. As yet, nobody has come up with an easy and permanent way to control it.

I've been adopter for the AT between Rte. 12 and Stage Rd. for some 20 years. A main event during that time was the old bridge over Gulf Stream at the parking lot being washed away by hurricane Irene. The Forest Service built a marvelous new bridge (see photo), something we old misers at the O-Section could and would never have done. The parking lot was increased and paved at the same time, but the steep road access still washes out, and the Knotweed reliably comes back every year.

Hikers would avoid the overgrown stretch between guard rail and the creek. Somewhere around 2005 I built a set of steps (with the permission of VTrans) to climb over the guardrail and cross the road at a right angle, walking to the kiosk on the east side of the road. It didn't matter: hikers would still go up the driveway, cross the road there and walk over the field to the kiosk for three times the distance.

There always was this issue of hiker safety when crossing Rte. 12. Three years ago, Dave Hardy started discussions and negotiations with the Forest Service and VTrans to create a safer road crossing. They ended up with a plan to have hikers walk between the road and creek to reach the southern end of the guard rail and then cross over. It took two more years to come to a basic agreement.

I, the lonesome ranger /adopter, jumped the gun last year, and installed the necessary signage and blazing. Fortunately white blazes are not easily removed. But my sign posts were. By whom?



I've suggested, several times, to install AT crossing signs along the road (commonly found at other locations) to warn drivers to be alert and slow down for hikers. No response.

Finally, on May 14, and with the blessing of all parties, we had an official side hill work outing at the "Crossing at 12", establishing a short new trail between the bridge and the southern end of the guard rail. Respective photos are shown on page 5 of the FOOTNOTES. The UVO side hill warriors were *Dick Andrews, Kathy Astrauckas and Bob Hagen, Tom Kahl, Nick Krembs, Heinz Trebitz, Miriam Akervall* and *Lorne Currier* represented the Green Mountain Club trail crew.

We hope the new trail will be used. I guess we'll never get rid of the knotweed. But maybe there will be no need for a follow-up report.

Heinz Trebitz

UVO SECTION SUMMER ACTIVITIES, JUNE - AUGUST 2021

BACKCOUNTRY ETIQUETTE: NO CELL PHONE USE EXCEPT IN EMERGENCY

*** = Easy on the knees.

June 1 Tues	Hike ***	Ballard Trail, Norwich, VT. From Parcel 5, over new bridge, to parking at corner of Beaver Meadow Rd. & Turnpike Rd. 1.5 mi. with car spot, or hike back to start point for 3-mi. round trip. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
June 6 Sun	Hike	Loop on Stone House Farm ski trails in Lyme, NH. Open fields, dense woods to viewpoint, then downhill return. Trails not maintained for summer use; rough & wet conditions are the norm. 3 – 4 mi, with one steep stretch. Moderate.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
June 8 Tues	Hike ***	Hartford, VT. Old woods roads between Sykes Ave/Hickory Ridge/Lily Pond Rd. ~ 1.5 mi. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
June 10 Thurs	Bike Ride	Cornish, NH Loop. Park & start at Cornish Wildlife Mgmt Area just N. of Windsor-Cornish covered bridge. 20 mi. and 8 right-hand turns take you through lovely Plainfield & Cornish countryside; long downhill back to starting point. Moderate.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
June 11 Fri	Hike	Chester, VT Town Forest. Double loop on Lost Mine Tr, Butternut Hill Tr. Nice woods walk, remains of old mine, a few views. ~ 5 mi, 1200' elevation gain. Moderate.	Dick Andrews 802-885-3201
June 12 Sat	GMC Annual Meeting	GMC's 111th Annual Meeting, in the morning via Zoom. For more info & to register: GMC Headqtrs 802-244-7037 or https://www.greenmountainclub.org/annual-meeting/	
June 15 Tues	Walk	Eshqua Bog, Hartland, VT. Nature Conservancy property. Orchids, lady's slippers, bog plants, cold-climate holdovers from last glacial period; 2-acre fen traversed by a boardwalk. Less than 1 mi. Max. grp size 8. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
June 16 Wed	Bike Ride	From Wentworth, NH on Buffalo Rd. to Rumney and Quincy Bog (lunch). Return the same way or via Rte. 25. ~ 18 m. round trip. Option on return trip: steep hike up Rattlesnake Mtn. Moderate.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
June 18 Fri	Hike	Mt. Tom (No Hunting area), Woodstock, VT. 2.5 - 3 hour walk on various carriage trails, nice views at the top, some historic sites. Moderate.	Iris Berezin 802-295-2294
Jun 21 Mon	Hike	First Day of Summer on Stratton Mtn. (3936'), Stratton VT. Fire tower, views, nice trail. AT and LT conceived on summit. 6.6 mi., 1600' elevation gain. Moderate.	Dick Andrews 802-885-3201
June 25 Fri	Hike	Smith Pond Shaker Forest. Upper Valley Land Trust trails. Remnants of Shaker's old dam & canal system, Big & Little Dog Falls, Smith Pond. 6.5 mi. loop, ~ 1000' elev. gain. Moderate with a couple steep areas.	Tom Kahl 207-692-7495
June 28 Mon	Hike	Section 5 loop in Quechee, VT. Different tree types, a stream, foundation, stone walls, ledges. Interpretive signs: info on geology, area's early inhabitants, remnants of settlements. 2 - 3 hours. Moderate.	Iris Berezin 802-295-2294
Jun 29 Tues	Hike ***	Hartford, VT Town Forest. Loop from end of Reservoir Rd; King's Highway. 2 miles. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
July 3 Sat	Mystery Outing	duncanlove4024@yahoo.com (Email contact preferred)	Duncan Love 802-226-7697
July 6 Tues	Hike ***	New Ottauquechee River Trail in Woodstock, VT's East End. Starting at old train station. Lovely river walk with interesting views of Mt. Peg & Mt. Tom, pastoral landscapes, meadow. 2.8 mi, generally flat, mostly grass trail with part of return loop on old RR bed. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
July 7 Wed	Hike	Loop in Fairlee, VT from Lake Morey boat launch parking lot on Cross-Rivendell Trail & Echo Mtn Trl over Eagle's Bluff, down to N. end of lake, then paved road back to cars. 4 – 5 mi, ~ 500' elevation gain, with some steep climbs. Moderate.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
July 9 Fri	Hike	Boston Lot. Lovely and local. 2 - 3 hours. Pond, view at top. Moderate (some easy, a couple of steep sections). Swimming possible.	Iris Berezin 802-295-2294
July 12 Mon	Hike	Scenic Griffith Lake and Peru Peak Shelter, Peru VT, from the north via Old Job Tr. along beautiful brook (wet in spots). 8.2 mi, 650' elevation gain. Moderate.	Dick Andrews 802-885-3201
July 13 Tues	Hike ***	Norwich, VT. Sample's Woods Tr. off Hobson Rd, along Bloody Brk, Brookside Rd, back up Hobson past 'old' Norwich ski jump. ~ 1.5 mi. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
July 16 Fri	Hike + Swim	Bridal Veil Falls, Franconia, NH. Coppermine Trail, Coppermine Shelter. Gorgeous falls, beautiful pool for taking a dip! 5 mi, 1200' elevation gain. Moderate, steady gain.	Kathy Astrauckas/Bob Hagen 802-785-4311

July 18 Sun	Mystery Outing	duncanlove4024@yahoo.com (Email contact preferred)	Duncan Love 802-226-7697
July 20 Tues	Paddle	Canoe or kayak on Grafton Pond, Grafton, NH. Very scenic, no power boats above 5 mph. Shoreline with miles of nooks & crannies. Paddle, picnic, swim. Bring lunch. PDF required.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
July 23 Fri	Hike	Mt Roosevelt (3528'), Breadloaf Wilderness near Granville, VT. Clark Brook Tr & Long Tr, out & back. View near top. 6.8 mi, 2400' elevation gain. Moderate – Strenuous.	Tom Kahl 207-692-7495
July 26 Mon	Hike	Green Mtn., Little Rock Pond loop, Mt. Tabor VT. See views from the mountain, check out the LT/AT shelter, swim in the pond! 7.0 mi, 1100' elevation gain. Moderate.	Dick Andrews 802-885-3201
July 27 Tues	Hike ***	Norwich, VT. Tucker Trail from end of Happy Hill Road and AT to Happy Hill Shelter and back. ~ 3 mi. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
July 27 Tues	Planning Meeting	Planning Meeting for Fall (Sept.-Nov.) outings. 7:00 p.m. at the Trebitz' home. Call Kathy Astraukas (802-785-4311) before with date preferences if you can't join us.	Heinz/Inge Trebitz 802-785-2129
July 30 Fri	Hike	French's Ledges, Plainfield, NH. Start at Plainfield Elementary School. 2-3 hour meander through woods; short scramble to top of ledges & beautiful view. Moderate.	Iris Berezin 802-295-2294
July 31 Sat	Mystery Outing	duncanlove4024@yahoo.com (Email contact preferred)	Duncan Love 802-226-7697
Aug 3 Tues	Hike	Hanover, NH. Balch Hill Circular. Interesting views. ~ 2 mi. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
Aug 9 Mon	Hike	Wright's Mtn (1882'). Network of trails, many named for the people involved in developing the area. Cabin/lookout at summit with views of VT; return with view of NH. Side trip to Devil's Den possible if group wants. Moderate; 3+ hours.	Iris Berezin 802-295-2294
Aug 10 Tues	Walk ***	Hartford, VT. Upper part of Neap Rd., uphill and back down. Must carpool from UVAC due to limited parking. Fantastic views. ~ 1.5 – 2 mi. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
Aug 14 Sat	Hike	Mt. Martha (3563') & Owl's Head (3248', i.e. NOT the NH 4000-Footer) via Cherry Mtn Trail & Martha's Mile. Views from both summits; unique, amazing view of Presidentials. 5.4 mi, 2450' elevation gain. Steady uphill to Mt. Martha; very short but steep rock scramble the last tiny bit to Owl's Head. Moderate - Strenuous.	Kathy Astraukas & Bob Hagen 802-785-4311
Aug 16 Mon	Hike (+ Swim)	Hanover, NH area. Loop on private land with steep hills, narrow trails, and drop-offs. Swimming possible after hike. ~ 3 mi. Moderate. Must be fully vaccinated. No dogs.	Lynne Miller 603-643-6194
Aug 17 Tues	Walk ***	Wilder, VT Dam to picnic area, and local roads along CT River. ~ 2 mi. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
Aug 23 Mon	Hike & Swim	Secluded Stratton Pond, Stratton VT. From Kelley Stand Road (aka Stratton-Arlington Rd) via Stratton Pond Trail. 7.6 mi., 400' elevation gain. Moderate.	Dick Andrews 802-885-3201
Aug 24 Tues	Walk ***	Norwich, VT. Montshire Museum trails along Connecticut River. ~ 2 mi. Entrance fee, waived for members. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017
Aug 25 Wed	Hike	Sawyer Brook Headwaters, Grantham NH. Follow ridge above pretty stream, then old woods road past abandoned farms to overlook a lovely beaver pond. ~ 3 mi., 200' elevation gain. Leisurely pace. Easy.	Peter Hope 603-863-6456
Aug 27 Fri	Hike	Blueberry Mtn (2662'), Glencliff, NH. Out and back. 5.2 mi round trip, 1300' elev. gain. Fabulous views from ledges. Moderate.	Iris Berezin 802-295-2294
Aug 28 Sat	Mystery Outing	duncanlove4024@yahoo.com (Email contact preferred)	Duncan Love 802-226-7697
Aug 31 Tues	Walk ***	Hanover, NH. DHMC's Albert Schweitzer Trail loop. ~ 2 mi. Easy. ***	Inge Brown 802-280-8017

HAPPY SUMMER !



AT Crossing at Rte. 12, Woodstock

Before

After



The Hillside Five

Appalachian Trail Hillside Project on Dana Hill

Photos: Lorne Currier

OTTAUQUECHEE FOOTNOTES

Upper Valley Ottauquechee Section
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<http://gmc-o-section.org>

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AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB

Who are we? Founded in 1910, the Green Mountain Club was established "to make the Vermont mountains play a larger part 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 Upper Valley 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 Upper Valley 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 Iris Berezin at 802-295-2294.

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

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I (we) wish to join the Upper Valley 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