



FOOTNOTES



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UPPER VALLEY
OTTAQUECHEE SECTION
of the
GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB

NUMBER 1

PREFER RECEIVING THE FOOTNOTES BY e-MAIL? Send a request to HeinzTreibitz@gmail.com

A Message from Dick Andrews, UVO President:

At a Zoom meeting of Green Mountain Club section presidents at the end of January I learned that the club has approved recreational winter outings, but only the Northeast Kingdom Section has scheduled them. Apparently most sections find the guidelines for Covid-19 unappealing or unworkable.

In brief, in addition to recording attendance for possible contact tracing, outing leaders must insure that participants *wear masks at all times* AND stay at least six feet apart. Carpooling is prohibited, outings are limited to Vermont. Out-of-state participants, including our New Hampshire members, must meet quarantine requirements.

Kathy Astrauckas, our outings chair, thinks that requiring outing leaders to insist on wearing masks at all times isn't workable in winter, especially for people who wear glasses, and I agree. So we have not initiated planning for a schedule of outings that would be open to the public. Trail management activities for this spring will be addressed below by *Bob Hagen*, Trail & Shelter Maintenance Chair.

If you disagree with this approach please feel free to call me at 802-885-3201, or email me at techcomm@vermontel.net.

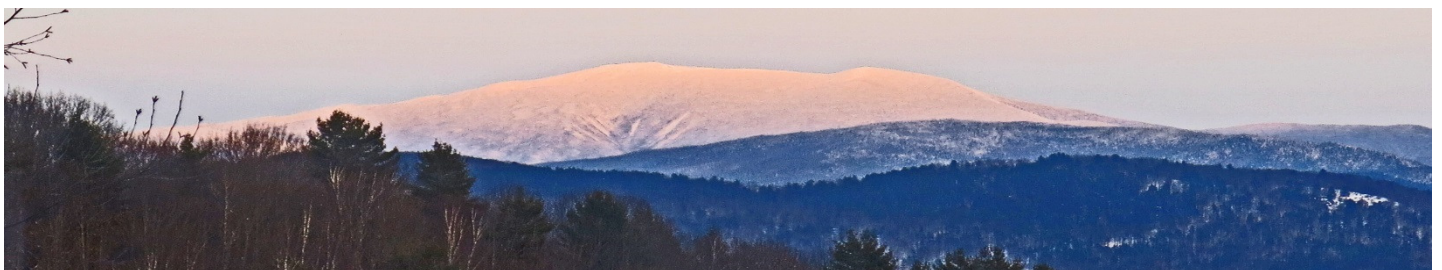
SPRING WORK DAYS

Covid-19 is still with us, but so are winter blow-downs, clogged water bars, and new spring vegetation to be pruned! We will be looking to do trail work this spring, beginning, depending on when winter ends, in late April or early May.

Bob, Heinz and Nick will contact their adopters at the appropriate time to see if they can identify any special trail work needs. We will then put out a call for people to help out.

Since we are under Covid-19 restrictions, there will be no large work parties. However, small groups (2 or 3 people) can go out together, following all Covid guidelines. There will likely be flexibility in choosing your own date(s). You might work with someone you know, or the Stretch Coordinators can pair you up. There may be many people really eager to get out who are not necessarily familiar with trail work, so we may pair a veteran trail maintainer with a newbie.

Bob Hagen, Trails & Shelters Chair, UVO Section



LOCAL VERMONT HIKES – SUGGESTIONS from Outings Chair *Kathy Astrauckas*

We have many local treasures that you may not have yet (or recently) explored. In these non-carpooling times, loops or out-and-back trips are the way to go. Many balk at retracing their steps on an out-and-back, but the trail always looks different in the other direction, and there are usually quite a few surprises that went unnoticed on the first trip through.

- **Appalachian Trail:** UVO Section maintains 45 miles from US-4 in Killington to Norwich, but be aware that **most A.T. parking areas are not plowed**. The two on US-4 near Killington ARE plowed. Expect to need snowshoes by this point in winter, although some areas are heavily trodden, so microspikes might be sufficient in some cases. Snow stays longer in the woods than it does in the open.

Here are some of the many options where parking areas are likely to be plowed:

- Hurricane Forest and Hurricane Wildlife Refuge, Hartford
- Wrights Mountain, Bradford
- "My Walden", Sharon (UVLT)
- Army Corps of Engineers Union Village Dam Recreation Area, Thetford
- Morey Mountain, Fairlee (Parking is plowed, but parking area is rough. You can also park along the edge of the road BEFORE, not after, the Morey Mtn. driveway.)
- Brookmead Conservation Area, Norwich (Plans are in the works to groom part of this area for X-C skiing!)
- Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, Woodstock (In winter, ONLY X-C skiing and snowshoeing are allowed from the Prosper Road side; walking is OK on SOME trails from the Billings Farm side.)
- Quechee Gorge from Dewey's Pond
- Section 5, Quechee
- Parcel 5, Norwich
- Ottauquechee River Trail, Woodstock (NEW! Completed Fall 2020!)
- Bald Top, Fairlee
- CrossTown Trail (and others), Strafford
- Ballard Trail, Norwich
- Paradise Park, Windsor (Definitely good parking, reached from the Price Chopper parking lot on the east side of U.S. Route 5 just north of the center of town. Cross Route 5 and walk in the driveway to reach a nice network of foot trails.)
- Mount Ascutney Road (paved, unplowed), ascending as little or as much as you wish; picnic pavilion with nice view two miles up. Plowed parking on north side of VT-44A, across from the entrance to Mount Ascutney State Park.
- Lots of road walk loops in Norwich. Park at the Park & Ride on Turnpike Road. (e.g. Church Street, around Carpenter Street, then up next to the Norwich Inn on Beaver Meadow Rd, left onto Hobson Road, and back down Elm Street; OR Hawk Pine Road and loop) Check your Vermont Atlas and Gazetteer for ideas!

And for a more rigorous workout:

- Blue Ridge Mtn, Mendon
- Long Trail heading north or south from Brandon Gap or Middlebury Gap (need snowshoes by now!)
- Mt. Ascutney, Windsor/Weathersfield (The Windsor Trail is the best bet in winter, though the others are also certainly do-able)

Other resources for loads of local trails:

<https://uvlt.org> Choose the "Get Outside" menu, then click on "Public Access Trails and Conservation Areas"; scroll down to see all the areas under their purview, click on individual areas for info and maps. Note: they are only sort of in alphabetical order. They were numbered, so the new ones are at the bottom, no longer alphabetical. They hope to be redoing and improving their web site soon.

<https://www.trailfinder.info>

<https://norwichtrails.org> (also has maps on the web site)



Blueberry Mountain

Photo *Bill Corson*



Recent bear sighting
(not in Hanover)

Photo: *Karen Trebitz*

**Hang on Friends
Things are going to get better!**

**We'll cross that bridge
When we get to it**

Union Village Dam
Photo: *Inge Trebitz*

OTTAUQUECHEE FOOTNOTES

Upper Valley Ottauquechee Section
of the © Green Mountain Club
<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. Rick Dugan/Membership. 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