



FOOTNOTES



VOLUME 46

March 2024 - May 2024

NUMBER 1

UPPER VALLEY
OTTAUQUECHEE SECTION
of the
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 heinztrebitz@gmail.com



MUD SEASON SOCIAL POTLUCK and PICTURES

An evening to enjoy good food, meet new members and connect with some whom you don't get to see often, exchange stories and see pictures of last year's trips.

**WHEN: Sunday, April 14,
5:30 – 8:00 pm**

**WHERE: Thetford Center Community
Center (across from Town Hall)**

WHAT to BRING: A Dish to share

**QUESTIONS or DIRECTIONS: Call Inge
/ Heinz Trebitz 802-785-2129**

(At previous Mud Season Socials some members also brought gear to swap or give away or books to share)

Photo: Annie Janeway



The Upper Valley

- seen from a trail

- and heading our
website

uppervalleygmc.org

Trip Report, Smith Pond Shaker Forest, November 2023

Everybody knows that this past summer and fall had an overabundance of crummy weather, and rain canceled far too many outings.

Some of us responded by getting together for impromptu "consolation prize" outings, "planned" far too late to get the word out to more than those who had expressed interest in the originally scheduled outing. Some were the original outing on a different day; others switched to a more suitable place on the original date.

Thus I found myself one fine November day with Debbie Marcus on the Smith Pond Shaker Forest trails in Enfield, NH. We parked on Route 4A and began the long clockwise loop, taking the spur trail to Big Dog Falls.

One essential ingredient for an enjoyable outing is choosing one's companions well. There are many ways to do that, but a good one is to choose them based on the proper color of their clothing: pink and purple rule!

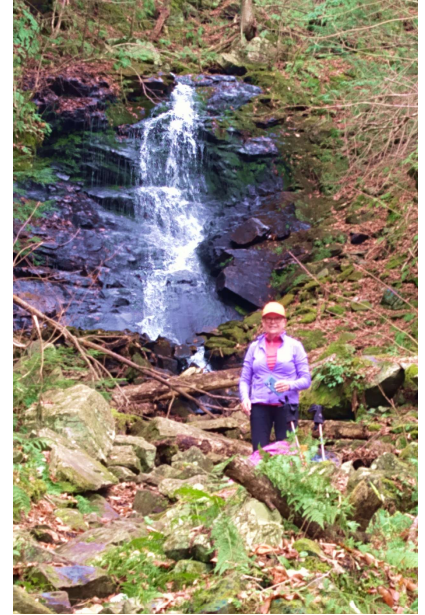


Photo: Kathy Astrauckas



Photo: Debbie Marcus

Little Dog Falls were lovely, too, and so was the day. It was very cold at first, but absolutely windless. Nevertheless, it was not warm enough for swimming in Little Dog Falls.

We snacked near the falls, then climbed the few feet up to the top of the falls and to the pond, where a very strong wind immediately smacked us in the face. At least it was a south wind, and we ate lunch bundled up on the lovely bench facing into the wind on the shore of the pond.

South wind or not, we didn't linger for long by the pond, but we did see evidence of beavers hard at work.

We headed down the side trail toward Half Mile Pond (said trail was much more than ½ mile!), for the only mountain view of the hike. Just shy of the pond, we decided not to do the final downhill (and back up!) only to be blasted again by the wind, so, with no leaves on the trees, we admired the pond from on high before turning around.



Photos: Debbie Marcus

The last part of the hike became an unfortunate "long slog out" on a very wet and muddy old woods road. But we were still pleased with our serendipitous outing of quite a few miles. Upper Valley Land Trust's maps indicate it to be just shy of 10 miles; AllTrails indicates a far shorter distance, but I'll go with the property manager's (UVLT's) figures.

Kathy Astrauckas

"O" SECTION SPRING ACTIVITIES, MARCH - MAY 2024

*** = 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 2 Sat | Snowshoe or Spike | Colette Trail, Enfield, NH. Lovely ice formations, beautiful rushing stream. Lollipop loop, no big hills. 4.2 mi. round trip. Easy-Moderate. | Tom Kahl 207-692-7495 |
| Mar 3 Sun | Party & Bonfire | Open House at the Trebitz' Thetford home (4:30 - 7:30 pm, inside and outside) to celebrate a member's special birthday. Please call with questions. | Inge/ Heinz Trebitz 802-785-2129 |
| Mar 4 Mon | X-C Ski | On either Mascoma (Lebanon/Enfield, NH) or Lamoille (West Danville, VT) Rail Trail, depending on snow conditions. Distance will depend on participants' condition, but definitely NO hills! Car shuttle may be needed. | Inge/ Heinz Trebitz 802-785-2129 |
| Mar 5 Tues | Walk *** | Mascoma Greenway, Lebanon, NH. From the Lebanon underpass to APD, paved trail. Car spot. 1 mile. Slow pace. Easy, easy on the knees. *** | Inge Brown 802-280-8017 |
| Mar 5 Tues | UVO Qtrly & Planning Meeting | Planning mtg for Summer (June – August) outings. 7:00 p.m. via Zoom, because it works so well. Call or email Kathy Astruckas ahead w/ ideas if you can't join us. kabh@myfairpoint.net | Kathy Astruckas 802-785-4311 |
| Mar 7 Thurs | Snowshoe | Sherburne Pass to River Rd, Town of Killington VT. Sherburne Pass Tr. & Appalachian Tr, past Kent Pond & Thundering Falls. 4.5 mi, 300' climb (all in first ½ mi). Moderate. Short car spot. | Dick Andrews 802-885-3201 |
| Mar 9 Sat | X-C Ski | At a ski-touring center in Vermont, depending on where there's snow! | Annie Janeway 413-374-0988 ajaneway@gmail.com |
| Mar 12 Tues | Walk *** | Along Lake Morey in Fairlee, VT. Out-&-back on paved road. 1-2 mi. Slow pace. Easy, easy on the knees. *** | Inge Brown 802-280-8017 |
| Mar 19 Tues | Hike *** | First Day of Spring on Quinn Trail, Hanover NH. Out-&-back on almost flat trail; check out new bridge over Mink Brook. ~ 1+ mi. Slow pace. Easy, easy on the knees. *** | Inge Brown 802-280-8017 |
| Mar 22 Fri | Snowshoe | Mt. Ascutney via Weathersfield Tr. to Gus's Lookout, Weathersfield VT. Open ledges w/ good view to south. 4.6 mi, 1750' climb. Moderate to Strenuous, depending on conditions. | Dick Andrews 802-885-3201 |
| Mar 23 Sat | Dirt Road Walk | Bridgewater, VT area. Scenic vistas. About 6 miles, moderate hills. | Tom McCleary 802-295-7592 cell 802 356 0890 |
| Mar 26 Tues | Hike *** | Norwich, VT. Trails at King Arthur & Dresden playing fields, through woods & open fields, flat, ~ 1+ mi. Have a cup of coffee at KA at the end. Slow pace. Easy, easy on the knees. *** | Inge Brown 802-280-8017 |
| Mar 29 Fri | Road Walk | Scenic walk, Etna, NH. From Etna Baptist Church/Trumbull Hall, up Ruddsboro Rd to King Rd to Etna Rd back to cars. Start w/ long uphill by beautiful brook, end w/ long downhill w/ great views. ~ 6 mi. Mod. | Iris Berezin 802-295-2294 |
| Apr 2 Tues | Walk *** | Wilder, VT. Out-&-back on paved bike path along Route 5 to boat landing on the Connecticut River. 2 mi. Slow pace. Easy, easy on the knees. *** | Inge Brown 802-280-8017 |
| Apr 6 Sat | Mud Season Road Walk & Social | Quechee, VT. Meet at Leader's home & roam scenic back roads where Quechee, Pomfret, & Woodstock come together, returning to Leader's home for a pot luck social. Options for a 1-1.5 mile mostly flat out-and-back, or make it a 3.5 mile loop with some hills. Something for everyone! debbie.marcus57@gmail.com | Debbie Marcus 978-578-4198 |
| Apr 7 Sun | Hike | Avoid mud on paved Mt. Ascutney (3150') road. No cars. Views. Cont. to summit if dry trail. 7.4 mi, 2250' climb. Summit trail adds 1.4 mi & 400' climb. Moderate. kpmhoneill@gmail.com | Patrick O'Neill 802-291-3208 |
| Apr 9 Tues | Hike *** | Balch Hill, Hanover NH. Lollipop loop on well maintained trail. Great views at top. 1+ mi. Slow pace. Easy, easy on the knees. *** | Inge Brown 802-280-8017 |
| Apr 10 Wed | Hike or Spike | Gated Mt. Ascutney Rd. to roofed picnic pavilion half way to summit, West Windsor VT. View to northeast includes White Mtns. on a clear day. 3.9 mi, 1130' climb. Moderate. | Dick Andrews 802-885-3201 |
| Apr 12 Fri | Dirt Road Walk | Galaxy Hill Road & Webster Hill Rd, Pomfret, VT. From Pomfret Town Hall, out-&-back on Galaxy Hill Road (scenic views & lovely farms). Short walk on Webster Hill Road affords other views & an interesting cemetery. ~ 5 mi. Moderate. | Iris Berezin 802-295-2294 |
| Apr 14 Sun | Mud season Social | Thetford Center, VT. Potluck Dinner and social get-together at Thetford Center Community Center, with time for photos and stories about recent or long-forgotten adventures. Details will be emailed closer to the event; contact the Trebitzes if you don't get them! | Inge/ Heinz Trebitz 802-785-2129 |

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|----------------|--|---|---|
| Apr 15 Mon | Mostly Dirt Road Walk | Taftsville, VT. From Taftsville Covered Bridge, uphill along brook on Happy Valley Rd, Sugar Hill Rd, Hartland Hill Rd; return via Happy Valley Road. The highlight is the brook. ~ 6 mi. Moderate. | Iris Berezin 802-295-2294 |
| Apr 16 Tues | Dirt Road Walk *** | Lyme, NH. From Dartmouth Skiway on dirt Canaan Turnpike, slightly uphill for about 1 mile, then return slightly downhill. Wooded area with some dramatic rock outcrops along the way. Slow pace. Easy, easy on the knees. *** | Inge Brown 802-280-8017 |
| Apr 20 Sat | Walk | Scenic dirt roads bordering Saint-Gaudens National Historical Site, Cornish, NH (St. Gaudens Rd, Lang Rd, Platt Rd, NH-12A) ending with Blow-Me-Down Trail through the park to our cars. Unique outhouse, great views! ~ 6 mi. Mostly dirt road, a small bit of easy trail. Moderate. | Iris Berezin 802-295-2294 |
| Apr 21 Sun | Road Walk | Quechee & Pomfret, VT area. Point-to-point, including Joe Ranger Rd, Bunker Hill Rd. Views! Hilly. About 3 hours. Moderate. Short car spot. | Annie Janeway 413-374-0988 ajaneway@gmail.com |
| Apr 22 Mon | Hike | Earth Day on unmarked trails in the vicinity of the Trebitz's home in Thetford, VT. Lunch stop (bring lunch) at the Big Rock, after lots of ups and downs and probably also mud. ~ 2- 3 hours, going at a leisurely pace. | Inge/ Heinz Trebitz 802-785-2129 |
| Apr 23 Tues | Hike *** | Quechee Gorge, Quechee, VT. From US-4 down to the outflow of the gorge and back up again, with vertical walls on both sides of the gorge. Well-maintained path. 1.5+ mi. Slow pace. Easy, easy on the knees. *** | Inge Brown 802-280-8017 |
| Apr 27 Sat | Work Day | Give back to the trail on our section of AT, somewhere between Chateauguay & Cloudland Rds. Bring work gloves, tools, lunch & water. Rain date Sun., 4/28. | Debbie.marcus57@gmail.com 978-578-4198 |
| Apr 28 Sun | (Rain Date) | (Rain date for Work Day) | |
| Apr 29 Mon | Dirt Road Walk | Quechee, VT loop. Beginning at the Taftsville covered bridge, walk along the river to High Pastures Road to Sugarbush Farm for the view, return on Hillside Rd to cars. 6 or 7 mi depending on group preferences. Moderate and scenic. | Iris Berezin 802-295-2294 |
| Apr 30 Tues | Hike *** | Quechee Gorge, Quechee, VT. In the opposite direction of last Tuesday's walk, along the top of the river gorge to the spectacular dam and waterfall, then on to Dewey's Pond & return. Less than 2 mi. Slow pace. Easy, easy on the knees. *** | Inge Brown 802-280-8017 |
| May 1 Wed | Hike | Paradise Park, Windsor VT. Spend a few hours exploring trails in this wooded gem Windsor began preserving more than 80 years ago. Pond, secluded ravines and streams. Hilly but not vertiginous. Moderate. | Dick Andrews 802-885-3201 |
| May 1 Wed | Registration Opens | Registration opens for program at Great Camp Sagamore, Aug. 25 – 29. Itinerary, cost, and registering with Lynne Miller. sret340@gmail.com | Lynne Miller 603-643-6194 |
| May 3 Fri | Hike | Boston Lot. Lovely and local. 2 - 3 hours. Pond, view & bench at top. Evidence of micro-burst damage along Lakeside Trail on return trip. Moderate (some easy, a couple of steep sections). | Iris Berezin 802-295-2294 |
| May 4 Sat | Hike | Lyme Pinnacle, Lyme, NH. Lollipop loop with a great view at top! 4 mi, 640' climb. Moderate. | Lynne Miller 603-643-6194 |
| May 6 Mon | Hike | Coolidge State Park, Slack Hill, Plymouth, VT. Lollipop loop from Rt 100A thru mixed hardwood forest with couple of views. 5 mi, 1,000' climb. Moderate. | Tom Kahl 207-692-7495 |
| May 7 Tues | Hike *** | Hazen Trail, Wilder VT. Out-&-back, as far as the tremendous outlook over the Connecticut River, hopefully with spring wildflowers & early leaves. Less than 2 mi. Wear sturdy footwear & bring a walking stick. Slow pace. Easy, easy on the knees. *** | Inge Brown 802-280-8017 |
| May 8 Wed | Hike | Loop in Fairlee, VT. From Lake Morey, up Cross-Rivendell Trail & Echo Mountain Trail over Eagle's Bluff, down to north end of lake, then on paved road along lake back to cars. 4 – 5 mi, ~500' climb, some steep. Moderate. | Inge/ Heinz Trebitz 802-785-2129 |
| May 10 Fri | Wildflower Hike | Mt. Tom, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller Nat. Hist. Park, Woodstock, VT. Spring ephemerals (wildflowers that disappear after blooming). ~ 4 mi on a variety of trails. Easy – Moderate. | Debbie.marcus57@gmail.com 978-578-4198 |
| May 11 Sat | Work Day | Give back to the trail on our section of A.T., somewhere betw. Cloudland Rd. & CT River. Clear water bars & blowdowns. Tools provided, or bring your own favorites. Bring work gloves, lunch, water. Rain Date Sun, 5/12 | Bob Hagen 802-785-4311 |
| May 12 Sun | Bike Ride (& Rain Date for Work Day) | Mother's Day bike ride on a section of either Mascoma (Enfield/Lebanon, NH) or Lamoille (West Danville, VT) Rail Trail, about 15 – 20 mi. E-bikes welcome, car shuttle necessary. | Inge/ Heinz Trebitz 802-785-2129 |

2024 Spring Activities – Continued from Insert (Pages 3 & 4)

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| May 13 Mon | Hike | Mt. Cushman (2750'), Rochester, VT. Follow class IV road from trailhead off Rochester Hollow Rd through saddle between Rochester Mtn & Mt Cushman to summit; return the same way. 4.6 mi, 1,350' climb. Moderate. | Tom McCleary 802-295-7592 cell 802 356 0890 |
| May 14 Tues | Hike *** | Montshire Museum, Norwich, VT. Loop hike partially along usually unseen views of the Connecticut River. Just over 1 mi. Slow pace. Easy, easy on the knees. *** Entry fee, but we may be able to get free passes. | Inge Brown 802-280-8017 |
| May 18 Sat | Work Day | On A.T. stretch from Killington to Stony Brook Rd. to clear blowdowns, open ditches, clip brush. Meet 9:30am at place TBD. Bring work gloves, hand tools, lunch & water. Rain Date Sun, 5/19. | Nick Krembs 802-649-1048 |
| May 19 Sun | Hike (& Rain Date for Work Day) | Ashley Community Forest, Sharon & Strafford, VT. Loop walk with one side trail, about 2 hours. https://www.alliancevermont.org/acf-map/ . Interesting stone historical remnants on this wooded walk. Easy to moderate. | Annie Janeway 413-374-0988 ajaneway@gmail.com |
| May 20 Mon | Hike | Blue Ridge Mtn, Mendon, VT (W. of Sherburne Pass). Canty Tr up & back. Nice woods, 3 cascades, view from Rutland overlook near wooded summit. 5 mi, 1,500' climb. Moderate. | Kathy Astrauckas/ Bob Hagen 802-785-4311 |
| May 21 Tues | Hike | Mount Greylock (3491'), highest peak in Massachusetts, North Adams, MA. From Notch Road parking, take AT Connector to AT South & summit of Mt Williams, continue on AT South ridgeline to summit of Mt. Greylock. Return via AT North to Old Summit Road trail, to AT Connector & back to parking. 6.9 mi, 1,172' climb. Strenuous. kpmhoneill@gmail.com | Patrick O'Neill 802-291-3208 |
| May 21 Tues | Hike *** | Norwich, VT. From Foreign Legion parking lot on Beaver Meadow Rd, across new Bridge over Blood Brook., then loop around Huntley Meadows. 1+ mi, completely flat trail. Slow pace. Easy, easy on the knees. *** | Inge Brown 802-280-8017 |
| May 25 Sat | Hike | Mt. Ascutney (3150'), Weathersfield VT. Up Windsor Tr, down Futures Tr. Observation tower on summit. 7.3 mi., 2650' climb. Strenuous (steep). Short car spot. Not confirmed, but usual date of summit picnic by Ascutney Trails Association. kpmhoneill@gmail.com | Patrick O'Neill 802-291-3208 |
| May 27 Mon | Hike | Memorial Day on Smarts Mtn (3240'), Orford, NH. The less-crowded side of the mtn, out-&-back from Quinttown Rd on J Trail (A.T.). 360° views from observation tower on summit. 8.5 mi (0.5 on dirt rd), 1900' elev. gain. Steady climb, nothing too steep. Moderate. | Kathy Astrauckas/ Bob Hagen 802-785-4311 |
| May 28 Tues | Hike *** | Thundering Falls, Killington VT. Your chance to 'hike' a piece of the world-famous Appalachian Trail. 1/2 mile on a flat boardwalk and 200 yards a little uphill on a wooded trail to the gorgeous Thundering Falls, & return. Slow pace. Easy, easy on the knees. *** | Inge Brown 802-280-8017 |
| May 31 Fri | Hike | Long Trail from USFS-10 to beautiful Little Rock Pond, Mount Tabor VT. One of the most popular places on the Long Trail. Will enjoy a road walk toward the trailhead (not to the pond) if USFS-10 is not yet open. 4.4 mi., 380' climb. Moderate due to rough footing. | Dick Andrews 802-885-3201 |

"On Trails"

We recently were presented with a book bearing just that title, written by *Robert Moor*. "Oh, another one about the AT?" we thought. No. It is a reflection on why and how and where trails are created, maintained, destroyed, loved or hated, by and for humans and animals large and small. And how they get you where you want to go, or not. The book made me reminisce about places and incidents where I thought I was following trails, but got lost or misled:

I am still ashamed to admit that – during a long AT hike over Mt. Madison in the White Mountains' Presidentials – I made a big mistake: It got dark and I just trudged on, not looking for white blazes. At a trail crossing I missed a turn and followed the Great Gulf Trail instead of the AT. I ended up at Rt.16 instead of at Pinkham Notch and my car. Hitchhiking and road walking added several hours to an 18-mile trip late that night.

Or, when our small Nepal hiking group had just arrived at our hotel in Katmandu, I went "for a walk around the block". Within minutes I got totally lost and disoriented among the twisted nooks and crannies of this strange town. Not being able to make myself understood, and not even remembering the name of our hotel, I finally stumbled into a travel agency, ready to cry.

Back to *Robert Moor* who points out: Ants seldom get lost. They mark their trails with pheromones.

Inge Trebitz

OTTAUQUECHEE FOOTNOTES

Upper Valley Ottauquechee Section
Of the ©Green Mountain Club
<https://uppervalleygmc.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 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 "UVO" Section is responsible for the maintenance of 46 miles of the 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 "UVO"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, attRick Dugan/Membership. 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