



FOOTNOTES



VOLUME 48
NUMBER 1

March 2026 – MAY 2026

UPPER VALLEY
OTTAQUECHEE 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

UVO SECTION ANNUAL MEETING IN PERSON!

The annual meeting of the UVO section will be held on **Friday, April 10, at the Thetford Center Community Center in Thetford, VT.**
If you have never attended, please come and join us!

Directions: Rt.91 north to exit#14. Turn left onto Rt.113. Continue up over Thetford Hill and down into Thetford Center. The TCCC is on the left across from Town Hall.

Schedule: We will begin the evening with social hour at 5:30 pm, followed by **pot-luck dinner** at 6:00 pm. (TCCC is equipped with a full kitchen).

After dinner, the meeting will start with the yearly reports of the chair persons, followed by the election to our section positions.

Highlights: Bylaws change of our official fiscal year, election of officers for 2026-2027, and committee reports.

PRESENT OFFICE HOLDERS:

President	Debbie Marcus
Secretary	Nancy McCann
Treasurer/Membership	Iris Berezin
Outings	Kathy Astrauckas
Trails and Shelters	Bob Hagen, Chair
Newsletter	Inge Trebitz
GMC Section Director	Marrk Harvey
Nominating Committee	Annie Janeway

If you are interested in a section position or would like to suggest someone else, please contact Annie Janeway at ajaneway@gmail.com

President's Remarks

As I write this, it's snowing (again) and a cold front is coming in with wind chill temperatures expected of -13 to -15 degrees. I'm happy to think about Spring 2026 and outings in March, April, and May. Until then, stay warm, friends!



January hot dog hike – Nick Krembs (his photo)

Welcome to our new interim Secretary! Thank you to Judy Danna for serving so well as our UVO Secretary. We wish you all the best, Judy! We are oh, so, fortunate that Nancy McCann has stepped up to complete the current term and hopefully beyond to 2026-2027. Thank you, again, to both Judy and Nancy!

“Active Members” Project: Based on the declared total of UVO members as of June 2025, our section ranked as the 4th largest out of 14 GMC sections. We should have, and I am advocating we will have, a significant voice in GMC representation. As the governance review of GMC moves forward, I am eager to also determine how many of our members are “Active”.

Yes, our UVO members are outdoor enthusiasts and utilize and help maintain the trails in the Upper Valley and beyond. We wholeheartedly thank these UVO members for declaring their allegiance when they renew their membership in the GMC. We couldn't function without you!

Now we want to document how many UVO members are “Active” and how we can fully engage and energize declared UVO members. Most other sections have a good accounting of this. We will, too.

For this exercise our definition of **“UVO Active Member”** is: a GMC member in good standing who declares their UVO affiliation **AND** participates annually **in at least one category**: trail or shelter adopter, a scheduled outing leader or participant, online quarterly zoom meeting attendee, annual meeting attendee, social event attendee, or trail maintenance or sawyer crew work day participant..

Note to all Outings Leaders and Trail

Maintenance Crews: Please send me a roster of your participants. I will send out a reminder to you, as well. It's an easy way to get the data the UVO section needs. Thank you to all the leaders thus far in 2026 who have sent me their rosters! I am grateful for your help in this project.

And finally: Important! If you are a declared UVO Green Mountain Club member, who chooses to recreate outdoors in other ways, please understand that we don't label you as “Inactive”. You are a vital GMC UVO Member who has “actively chosen” to affiliate with the UVO Section. You are very important to us! Please reach out to me via email, text, or phone. I'd love to hear about how you enjoy our trails and how the UVO Section might engage you more. 978-578-4198;

debbie.marcus57@gmail.com.

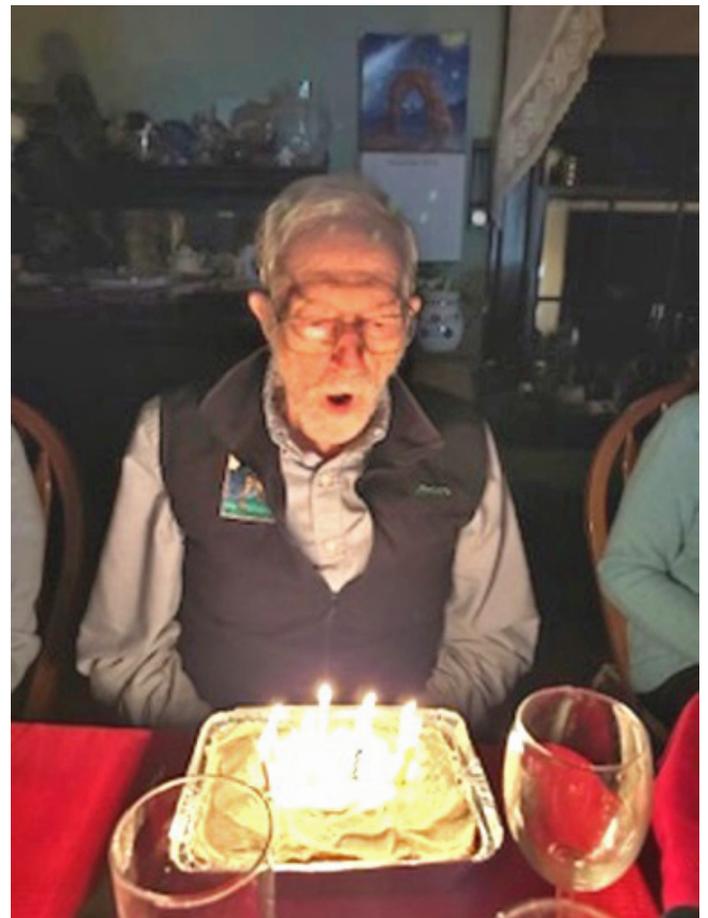
GMC Governance Review Update

The Governance Review has reached a critical point as it prepares proposals for updated bylaws and board representation for a vote of the current board of directors in March 2026. If passed, the changes will be put to a vote of GMC members who attend the GMC Annual Meeting in June. Please note: GMC bylaws do not permit electronic or mail in voting; you must attend in person.

Reducing the size of the board of directors has been a goal of the Governance Review. The current proposal is to reduce the section directors from 14 (one from each section) to 2 (to be nominated by the collective 14 sections). Currently, **there is significant pushback from all GMC sections** as well as some of the current General directors. The Governance Review committee is listening, and we expect there will be changes to the current proposal. Stay tuned!

Mark your calendar!

Quarterly Business Meeting and Summer Outings Planning: March 10, 2026 6:45 pm via Zoom



Dick Andrew's 80's Birthday

"UVO" SECTION SPRING ACTIVITIES, MARCH - MAY 2026

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!

*** = Easy on the knees.

BACKCOUNTRY ETIQUETTE: NO CELL PHONE USE EXCEPT IN EMERGENCY

Mar 1 Sun	Snowshoe	Flagpole Hill, Vershire, VT. Western Terminus of Cross Rivendell Trail. Taylor Valley Road to summit; descend to McIver Road (snowmobile trail) & return to trailhead on Taylor Valley Rd. 3 miles, ~ 500' climb. Moderate.	Mark Harvey 218-329-8877 rtThundermtn@gmail.com
Mar 3 Tues	Snowshoe	Etna, NH. Hanover Conservancy Lands near base of Moose Mtn. Some lesser-used trails of the former Moose Mtn. Lodge. Lovely woods. ~ 4 mi, ~ 800' of climbing. Moderate; could involve some trail-breaking. Short car spot.	Kathy Astraukas/ Bob Hagen 802-785-4311
Mar 7 Sat	Snowshoe	Bear Pond Natural Area loop, Canaan, NH. Upper Valley Land Trust "Forever Wild" property. Mainly forested w/ some of NH's "best" peat bogs, wetlands; much biodiversity. 4 mi, mostly level, little elevation gain. Moderate. Mcclearytom54@gmail.com cell (pref.): 802-356-0890	Tom McCleary 802-295-7592 home
Mar 9 Mon	Snowshoe	2 nd day of Daylight Saving Time on A.T. north from NH-25C. Pretty woods, over Mt. Mist (2220'), lunch & turn around at lovely view overlooking Wachipauka Pond. 5.2 mi, 1100' climb. Moderate.	Kathy Astraukas/ Bob Hagen 802-785-4311
Mar 10 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 Astraukas ahead w/ ideas if you can't join us. kabh@myfairpoint.net	Kathy Astraukas 802-785-4311
Mar 13 Fri	Snowshoe	A.T., Lyme, NH. From Dartmouth Skiway to Trapper John Shelter, Holt's Ledge & back. Views to NE. Some steep sections. 3.4 mi, 1100' elev. gain. Moderate.	Kathy Astraukas/ Bob Hagen 802-785-4311
Mar 16 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
Mar 21 Sat	Dirt Road Walk	Quechee/Pomfret, VT with visit to Sugarbush Farm on VT Maple Open House weekend 2026 followed by potluck social at leader's home. 5+ mi on country back roads, some hills, probably some mud! debbie.marcus57@gmail.com	Debbie Marcus 978-578-4198
Mar 23 Mon	Hike	Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Hist. Park, Woodstock, VT. Start at Billings Farm overflow parking area, walk on carriage roads to South Peak w/ side trip along Pogue Brook. Return w/ side trip past mother-in-law house & family swimming hole to parking lot. 3+ hrs. Moderate.	Iris Berezin 802-295-2294
Mar 24 Tues	Road Walk + Hike (microspikes)	Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway fr Kearsarge Valley Road to Wadleigh State Pk (#12 in SRK Trail Guide). Old woods paths, town rds, SRK Greenway, unmaintained Class VI rds, new woods trails. 3.9 mi, 290' climb. Moderate. Mcclearytom54@gmail.com cell (pref): 802-356-0890	Tom McCleary 802-295-7592 home
Mar 28 Sat	Hike	Downer Forest, Strafford/Norwich VT. Lollipop loop on woods road. View. Long gradual uphill to start. ~ 3 miles. Easy.	Lynne Miller 603-643-6194
Mar 30 Mon	Dirt Road Walk	Woodstock, VT lollipop loop: River Rd from Billings Farm & Museum overflow pkg to High Pastures Rd, Otis Hill Rd, back to River Rd & return. Views of Ottauquechee River; beautifully manicured horse farms. Mostly flat except for short walk up High Pastures Road. ~ 6.5 - 7 mi.	Iris Berezin 802-295-2294
Mar 31 Tues	Paved Road Walk	Around Lake Morey, Fairlee, VT. Nice views of lake, summer camps. 6 mi. Easy.	Kathy Astraukas/ Bob Hagen 802-785-4311
Apr 3 Fri	Road Walk	Scenic walk, Etna, NH. From Trumbull Hall on Hanover Center Rd, up Ruddsboro Rd to King Rd to Etna Rd back to cars. Start w/ long uphill by beautiful rushing brook, end w/ long downhill & great views. ~ 6 mi. Mod.	Iris Berezin 802-295-2294
Apr 4 Sat	Road & Trail Walk	Loop in Lyme, NH. Seasonal mud guaranteed. Starting at Lyme Green, head south then east on dirt roads. Then north on River Road (paved) & east back to Lyme Green on Lower Grant Brook Trail. 6.3 mi, ~ 400' climb. Moderate.	Tom Kahl 207-692-7495
Apr 6 Mon	Road Walk	Gold Coast Road, Bridgewater, VT. Long, steady uphill to the top, then slight hills to N. Bridgewater Rd. Long downhill back to Route 4. Unusual stone walls; great views! Part paved, part dirt. 6 mi. Cell phone (call or text msg; NO voicemail): 802-356-0428	Susan Ogden susanstarchild58@gmail.com
Apr 7 Tues	Hike	Trescott Lands, Hanover, NH (Hanover Conservancy land) from Dogford Rd. in Etna. Porcupine Tr, Paige Hill, NW Passage, Ascutney View Tr, Child's Farm Tr. Viewpoints & historic sites. ~ 4 mi, ~ 600' elev. gain. Moderate. No dogs unless they are on a leash for the ENTIRE hike!	Kathy Astraukas/ Bob Hagen 802-785-4311
Apr 10 Fri	UVO Sect Annual Mtg	Annual Upper Valley Ottauquechee Section (members & guests) meeting & potluck dinner at Thetford Center Community Ctr. 5:30 social hour, 6:30 dinner. (Details on front page) debbie.marcus57@gmail.com	Debbie Marcus 978-578-4198
Apr 11 Sat	Dirt & Woods Road Walk	Thetford, VT. Picknell Rd, to Norford Lake (through woods) and down Stowell Rd. Car spot. 4+ miles. Easy – Moderate. ajaneway@gmail.com	Annie Janeway 413-374-0988
Apr 12 Sun	Hike	Lyme Hill Conservation Area, Lyme, NH. Route will depend on conditions: Possibly wetland, viewpoint (steep up), old cemetery, lovely brook, vernal pool. ~ 4 mi, ups & downs. Moderate.	Kathy Astraukas/ Bob Hagen 802-785-4311

Apr 13 Mon	Hike/Road Walk	Elizabeth Mine & Crosstown Trail, South Strafford, VT. Historic mine site; see some evidence of remediation of this cleaned-up Superfund site. Historic interpretation by Mike Hebb. About 2/3 in woods. ~ 5 mi. Moderate. Cell phone (call or text msg; NO voicemail): 802-356-0428	Susan Ogden susanstarchild58@gmail.com
Apr 18 Sat	Hike	Hubbard Park, Montpelier, VT. Meander thru the state capitol's largest park. View of Vermont's capitol & mountains beyond from top of Hubbard Park Tower; North Park Nature Center. 7 mi, 500' climb. Moderate. Mcclearytom54@gmail.com cell (preferred): 802-356-0890	Tom McCleary 802-295-7592 home
Apr 24 Fri	Hike	Norwich & West Hartford, VT: Further rambling over hill and dale on the A.T. & its corridor. Continue exploring trails, logging roads, & mountain bike paths not covered in last year's 2 outings. Cemeteries & cellar holes! 5+ hours. Moderate. laurelael@yahoo.com	Laurelae Oehler 802-233-3706
Apr 25 Sat	Work Day	Give back to the Trail on our section of the AT. We'll spread out in teams somewhere between Chateauguay & Cloudland Rds. Bring work gloves, tools, lunch, & water. Reblazing where needed for those interested. Always a fun day! Rain Date 4/26. debbie.marcus57@gmail.com	Debbie Marcus 978-578-4198
Apr 26 Sun	Rain Date	Rain Date for 4/25 Work Day.	
May 1 Fri	Road Walk (mostly dirt)	Plainfield, NH. River Road on the Ferry Road end, Freeman Road (hills & views), short stretch on NH-12A to return to cars. River Rd is flat with some possibility of seeing early wildflowers. 5 - 6 mi. Mostly dirt road. Moderate.	Iris Berezin 802-295-2294
May 2 Sat	Hike	Velvet Rocks Ridge, Hanover, NH. A.T. from Etna-Hanover Center Rd to Velvet Rocks Shelter. Mossy "velvet" on rock formations. Out-&-back 10 mi; "only" 1,000' climb but some steep, rocky sections. Pace moderate (2 to 1.5 mph) but steady. Moderate. russcann@yahoo.com	Russ Cannizzaro 919-576-6109 No calls after 8pm.
May 3 Sun	Wildflower Walk	Mt Tom, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller Nat Hist Park trail network, Woodstock, VT. Focus on spring ephemerals (wildflowers that bloom before forest canopy leaves out). ~ 6 mi on a variety of trails. Easy - Moderate. Leisurely pace to ID the variety of flora (over 20 different species!). Rain date: Tues. 5/5/26. debbie.marcus57@gmail.com	Debbie Marcus 978-578-4198
May 4 Mon	Dirt Road Walk	USFS road west of Middlebury Gap: Sucker Brook Rd. to Sugar Hill reservoir. View of Mt. Romance; maybe some wildflowers. 6.5 mi, ~ 500' climb. Moderate. Cell phone (call or text msg; NO voicemail): 802-356-0428	Susan Ogden susanstarchild58@gmail.com
May 5 Tues	Rain Date	Rain Date for 5/3 Wildflower Walk.	
May 8 Fri	Dirt Road & Trail 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
May 9 Sat	Work Day	On A.T. stretch from Maine Junction (Deer Leap area, in the Town of Killington) to Stony Brook Rd. to clear blowdowns, open ditches, clip brush. Meet 9:30 a.m. at place TBD. Bring work gloves, hand tools, lunch & water.	Nick Krembs 802-338-5851 nick.krembs@gmail.com
May 10 Sun	Bike Ride	Mother's Day on Northern Rail Trail from Grafton, NH to Wilmot/Danbury & Potter Place if group wants. 15-20 miles RT. Moderate. ajaneway@gmail.com	Annie Janeway 413-374-0988
May 11 Mon	Hike	Colette Trail, Enfield, NH. Bicknell Brook Loop Trail & Colette Trail. Woods walk, cascading waterfalls, open beaver wetlands, spring flowers. Lollipop loop. 3.5 mi, no big hills. Easy - Mod. Mcclearytom54@gmail.com cell (preferred): 802-356-0890	Tom McCleary 802-295-7592 home
May 12 Tues	Hike	Velvet Rocks, Hanover, NH. Greensboro Ridge Nat. Area, A.T., Velvet Rocks Shelter. Lovely moss-covered ("velvet") rock formations. 4+ mi, ~ 1000' climb. Several sections difficult footing on steep rock ledges (up & down). Moderate AND Challenging (footing).	Kathy Astruckas/ Bob Hagen 802-785-4311
May 15 Fri	Hike	Smith Pond Shaker Forest, Enfield, NH. Upper Valley Land Trust trails. Loop highlighting remnants of Shaker's old dam & canals, 2 waterfalls, Smith Pond. 6.1 mi., ~ 1000' climb. Moderate with a couple of steep areas.	Tom Kahl 207-692-7495
May 16 Sat	Work Day	Give back to the trail on our section of A.T., somewhere between Cloudland Rd. & CT River. Clear water bars & blowdowns. Reblazing where needed for those interested. Tools provided, or bring your own favorites. Bring work gloves, lunch, water. Rain Date Sun, 5/17.	Bob Hagen 802-785-4311
May 17 Sun	Rain Date	Rain Date for 5/16 Work Day.	
May 19 Tues	Bike Ride	Bike around Mascoma Lake. Start in Lebanon, NH (CCBA pkg area). Northern Rail Trail to NH-4A S to Shaker Bridge. Cross bridge to Shaker Hill Rd, around S end of lake to NH-4A N, crossing Shaker Bridge again; return to CCBA on N. Rail Trail. 14 mi, uphill on Shaker Hill Rd. Paved & gravel. Easy. Mcclearytom54@gmail.com cell (preferred): 802-356-0890	Tom McCleary 802-295-7592 home
May 23 Sat	Hike	Lyme Town Forest, Lyme, NH. Thru walk. App. 3 - 4 miles. Car spot. Easy/moderate.	Lynne Miller 603-643-6194

May 23 Sat	Hike	Mt. Ascutney (3150') via Brownsville Tr. Old quarry, observation tower w/ 360° views. Ascutney Trail Assn's annual picnic at Stone Hut site. 6.4 mi, 2400' climb. Strenuous.	Kathy Astraukas/ Bob Hagen 802-785-4311
May 25 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' climb. Steady climb, nothing too steep. Moderate.	Kathy Astraukas/ Bob Hagen 802-785-4311
May 29 Fri	Hike	Mt. Cube (2909'), Orford, NH. Out-&-back from Quinttown Rd, Kodak Trail (A.T.). Nice views from Eastman Ledges & summit. 6.6 mi, 2100' climb. Moderate w/ some rocky ledges. Optional side trip to N. peak (different views!) adds 0.6 mi.	Kathy Astraukas/ Bob Hagen 802-785-4311
May 30 Sat	Hike	Mt Sunapee (2743'), Sunapee NH. Summit & Solitude Trails. Excellent views from summit & White Ledges. Out-&-back 7 mi, ~ 2,200' climb. Pace moderate (2 to 1.5 mph) but steady. Moderate/Strenuous. russcann@yahoo.com	Russ Cannizzaro 919-576-6109 No calls after 8pm



Last Winter in all its Glory

In Maine at the ocean, where the tides flood the beaches and frost leaves icicles hanging from trees.

In New Hampshire and Vermont where waterfalls freeze and form imposing barriers.

Photo left (early February): *Ursula Trebitz*

Photo below (January 28): *Rich Douglass*

Snowshoe hike to Bridal Veils Fall (Franconia) lead by *Bob Hagen*



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