



## Connecticut Section of the Green Mountain Club

Volume LIII, Issue III July to September 2021 Fred Clark, Editor

President's Message  
Summer 2021

### *The "Kid" is 50*

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kid Gore Shelter, constructed by the GMC Connecticut Section and Camp Najerog alumni. While chatting with our long-time Section member Joe Kekacs on an overnight trip to Sages Ravine in April, I learned that Joe was part of the original construction crew in 1971!

I wonder if there are any other of our long-time members who were involved in that project? My first experience at Kid Gore was in August of 1971, when my Boy Scout troop stopped in for lunch on a trek from Route 9 to Stratton Pond. While brief, the visit was memorable because the shelter surfaces had very recently been creosoted and one of my fellow scouts sat on a board until the creosote started to soak through his pants. Needless to say, he was uncomfortable for the rest of the walk to Story Spring Shelter that afternoon. Kid Gore has gone through a few patchwork repairs over the years to check a slow rightward lean caused primarily by foundation settling. As with any structure that survives fifty Vermont winters, the shelter is in need of significant structural renovation as well as a roof replacement. The GMC has this work on its list of major construction projects to complete in 2021. The exact timing has not yet been determined; GMC Director of Field Programs Keegan Tierney has to factor in material airlifts, human resource availability, financial support, and timing into an integrated schedule for the year. There *will* be a need for our volunteer labor at some point. As soon as the schedule is clearer, we'll communicate it to the Section.

In the meantime, VP of Trails and Shelters Mike Shaw led two work weekends on the Long Trail this Spring, our first trips back since 2019. Thanks to Mike and the crews of Kevin and Eric Breton, Mandy Brink, Kevin Burke, Don and Linda Hagstrom, Dennis Himes, Carol Langley, Jocelyn Linnekin, Jim Moore, Sven Englund, and Dan Zelterman, our twelve miles of trail from Glastenbury Mountain to the Stratton-Arlington Road are cleared and in good condition. We fed the black flies well on both trips.

### *Section Annual Dinner and Meeting Follow-up*

Our first ever (and maybe only) outdoor annual meeting, in the form of a picnic at Hammonasset State Park, was attended by 25 hardy Section members who braved cold windy conditions (I didn't expect 50 degrees at the shore in May). While not our traditional roast beef dinner at the Cheshire Grange, many folks said they enjoyed the get-together. Thanks to George Jackson, Linda Hagstrom, and Sven Englund for donating door prizes. And Ginny Apple of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Project gave an interesting presentation on bobcats all around us in the state. Despite the chill it was a great event and good to see everyone who turned out.

See you on the trail, *Jim Robertson*

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## Connecticut Section Information

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**INQUIRIES:** Please direct all inquiries regarding the Connecticut Section to the President.

**PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:** *Trail Talk* is published four times a year in March, June, September, and December. Send activity reports, as a Word document attached to email, to Editor Fred Clark, at [fpclark1@comcast.net](mailto:fpclark1@comcast.net) no later than the fifth day of the publication month.

**MEMBERSHIP:** When filling out an application to join or renew your membership in the Green Mountain Club, circle **Connecticut Section** on the application. You will receive, at no extra charge, the Connecticut Section's newsletter and activity schedule.

#### DUES:

Individual Adult	\$45.00
Family	\$60.00
Senior (70 or older) or Limited Income	\$25.00
Sponsor (Individual/Family)	\$75.00

Send annual dues to:

Green Mountain Club

4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road

Waterbury Center, VT 05677-9904

You may also join or renew online at:

<https://www.greenmountainclub.org/>

**SPECIAL THANKS** to member Charlotte Hitchcock.

Each issue Charlotte facilitates the e-mailing of *Trail Talk* by formatting the issue and by reducing the file size of the email attachment.

**Want to help the Connecticut Section reduce expenses and save trees?** Just send an email to the Editor, requesting that you be e-mailed *Trail Talk*, rather than having it mailed to you. You'll receive *Trail Talk* sooner, too.

#### Calendar of Events:

Upcoming events are listed here:

<http://www.conngmc.com/newwiki/doku.php?id=start>

**New Members:** The Connecticut Section welcomes these new members who recently joined:

June Packard

Janice Gatzuras

We look forward to meeting you at our upcoming events.



## ACTIVITY REPORTS

### Shenipsit Trail March 7, 2021 By Sarah O'Hare

The 5th hike on the Shenipsit Trail series began on Birch Mountain Road in Glastonbury. We were a group of seven: **Tom and Patty Adams, Don Hagstrom, George Jackson, Jim Robertson, Marianne Valley, Sarah O'Hare** and the two trail dogs, Arlo and Molson. After a short road walk up Birch Mountain Road to cross Rte. 94, we entered the woods and headed south, passing through residential neighborhoods and by small ponds. After crossing a pipeline utility corridor, the woodlands took on a wilderness look. Hiking through a tunnel of mountain laurel overlooking a hemlock ravine, we descended, lingering at Flat Brook before continuing on. Don discovered the earliest sign of spring – newly-emerged skunk cabbage. A short side trail to a picturesque waterfall was passed by as other folks were there, and so we decided to visit there on our return.

Our turn-around spot was Windham Road which was easily found as we all had made a mental note of its landmarks from our previous hike. On the return, the visit to the waterfall was perfectly timed as the lunch hour was upon us. With Flat Brook running fast and deep, only the brave rock-hopped across where the view of the cascades was enhanced. We then hiked back through the hemlock ravine and the residential areas. At one of the ponds, a flock of red winged blackbirds swooped in and settled silently into the tall reeds, another sign that spring had arrived. It was then but a short walk back to our cars and the end of our hike.

### Cockaponsett Trail March 11, 2021 by Carol A. Langley

This trailhead off Rte. 148 is difficult to find. Due to **Jocelyn Linnekin's** navigation skills, I found it. **Marianne Valley** and **Mandy Brink** and Bella arrived a few minutes later. We started our hike on the Blue Trail which has several ups and downs and got us warmed up. Looking off in the distance I spotted bear scrapings then we found them along the trail but, with our chattering and laughing, I am sure the bear was hiding. He was letting us have the trail.

Who would consider approaching this group of women? We then found a stump where the bear had cleaned out an old bee hive and left just the shells of where the honey had been.

Starting up a bank, the GMC ladies came across a large tree approximately 30 feet long. So we good girls decided to get this tree off the trail. We were only able to lift it just so high because of another small tree alongside the trail so we had to turn it on its side to make sure it would not fall back on the trail. GOOD JOB!!!

When we reached the intersection with the Red Trail, Jocelyn suggested that we continue on and find the remains of an old cabin. Who doesn't like to scout out old things in the woods? So, we followed the short path but all that was left was a stone fireplace. This became our lunch spot. Looking around though we were wondering who would come out here and cut so many trees and just leave the mess. Mandy discovered that she had left her dog blanket on the Blue Trail where we had taken our first break. I advised her that we would go back and find the blanket.

Leaving the lunch spot we headed back on the Blue Trail where we connected with the Red Trail after passing the bridge. The Red Trail starts alongside the Pattoncock Reservoir then drops into a valley of rocks and water only to take us right back up and alongside the reservoir. Along the way we spotted a beautiful display from Mother Nature where ice crystals hung from branches along the water's edge. Back at the parking lot, very nicely laying on a rock was Mandy's dog blanket. A trail angel had picked it up and brought it out to the parking lot. We had not seen another person all day.

Since we were in the parking lot we decided to walk up the Old Filley Road. Walking along, Jocelyn spotted white blazes off to our right so it was time to get back on the trail. The white brought us along a ridge then down in a valley across a brook and soon we reconnected with the Blue & Red and were back to our cars. We started around 10:20 and finished at 2:30, The pace was quick and steady so we are logging the hike as 7.5 miles.



*West Woods — photograph  
by Marianne Valley.*

**West Woods  
March 21, 2021  
by Carol A. Langley**

The weatherman had predicted rain showers after 2:00 so the hike was a go. **Marianne Valley** and **Jocelyn Linnekin** joined me on this hike on the White Square Trail in search of the Rock Carvings. This was the second scouting mission to find the Rock Carvings, with 3 sets of eyes. We were determined to find them this time. Walking around in circles we found nothing, so we continued on and reached the rocky ledge over Lost Lake where we saw a small group of egrets. Lunch was had on this lovely spot with great views.

After lunch we continued on and, much to our surprise, we came upon a West Woods treasure: the basin which was important to retain rainwater in the summers when Native American Indians lived here. Jocelyn's trail maintenance kicked in and she started to clean the basin of leaves.

We continued north on the White Trail with plans to connect with a Red Trail to the Orange. Now what is this? A very confusing intersection and, after some discussion, we decided to continue on the Blue. A few feet further a sign says that the trail is closed. No way are we turning back. We are on a mission to find the Indian Cave. Approaching the utility lines work area, we looked around for trucks but saw or heard nothing so we quickly moved through the area. Then what do we see but the red blaze and next the orange. We are on our way. In a short time, we found the Indian Cave.

Our photographer had her phone braced on a rock ready to capture the hikers and the cave. As we were leaving, Marianne gave Jocelyn and me a beautiful

pink quartz rock. Now the trail back was a straight path, really what is the back of a house. So, looking around, Marianne remembered from the last time we needed to climb down a rock crevice then we were back on the trail. All too soon another hiking day was coming to a close. We reached the parking lot and chatted for a while since there were no rain drops as predicted.

**Northwest Park, Windsor  
March 24, 2021  
by Patty Adams**

As **Carol A. Langley**, the scheduler, was unable to come, **Tom** and **Patty Adams** and their dog Arlo were the adventurers. A great place to walk off-season and on a not too perfect day (overcast, temperature in the 50s), as I would guess that it could get busy! We only met one person on the trail once we got past the main buildings. The reservoir did have a few people fishing, canoeing and kayaking.

We hiked the majority of the outside trails, all varied ... woodlands, fields, marsh and bog. Each trail was uniquely blazed with moon, triangle, circle, additional center dot or cross and rainbow colored. Most trails were fairly easy walks with some up and down. As we had not been here before, we sampled the main attractions: dinosaur footprint, beaver pond overlook, bird hut, and viewing chair. The bog trail had a nice path with information signs along the way. It is set up as a walk for the blind, with a rope to guide you and all the signs also posted in Braille. The trails along the Rainbow Reservoir offered lovely views this time of year. Our total walk was about 6.5 miles.

**Sleeping Giant State Park**  
**April 6, 2021**  
**by Carol A. Langley**

Meeting time was 10:00 on Tuttle Road by the Mill River. I had arrived early and, just as I started to read my book, a dark shadow flew over my car. Looking through my windshield, I saw a bald eagle land on the top of a tree. He took time to preen himself, flap his wings and turn around and face the Mill River. In a short time he dove into the river and had himself a snack. Holding it in his mouth, he flew just above the river looking for a clear spot on the bank to land. What a special moment!

**Jocelyn Linnekin** arrived shortly after and we started our hike walking down the road that runs alongside the Mill River. Soon we reached the Violet Blaze which took us through the remains of an Old Quarry and the old building of a former axle shop. We had a steady climb for about a mile then the trail levels off, running on the north side of the Giant. Passing through here we were in awe as to the volume of trees that had fallen in recent storms and

the huge amount of time and effort that all the workers had put in so the trails would be clear for us to hike on. It is worth your time and effort to hike this trail to see the destruction and the work that was done.

After climbing up and over and down a rocky area, the path became very easy and we followed it to Chestnut Lane where it ends. We found a nice log to sit on for lunch. We followed the Horse Trail back which is also well maintained and easy hiking. Just before we reached our cars we came upon a dead snake which we moved from the trail. Next we saw a blanket of blue flowers which Jocelyn identified as Glorious Winter flowers. The day was almost over but not before we walked to Wentworth's Ice Cream and indulged on Rum Raisin ice cream cones. A great day and great company.

*Lions Head rest stop. Photograph by Jim Robertson.  
From left: Kevin Breton, Don Hagstrom, Mark Blanchard,  
Kevin Burke, and Joe Kekacs*



**Sages Ravine Backpack**  
**April 9-10, 2021**  
**by Jim Robertson**

A good-sized group of eight, **Mark Blanchard, Kevin and Eric Breton, Kevin Burke, Don Hagstrom, Joe Kekacs, Sarah O'Hare** and leader **Jim Robertson**, turned out for a spring overnight on the Connecticut AT. We met late-morning at the parking area for the Lions Head Trail on Bunker Hill Road in Salisbury and headed up the trail, stopping at the Lions Head overlook to enjoy the views on a sunny comfortable day. At the suggestion of one of our group, Eric took the initiative to be on the lookout for a potential new wife for the leader who, while not currently in the market, was nonetheless very appreciative of Eric's efforts. Continuing on, we paused at the junction with Bear Mountain Road where Don elected to follow the road to the AMC Northwest Cabin and scout the trail around the north side of Bear Mountain back to the AT. The rest of the group humped up to the summit, stopping for a few minutes for snacks, water and more views. Descending the north side of Bear can be a challenge even in the dry conditions we encountered. A few of us who had snowshoed over the mountain in March 2018 wondered in amazement how we had navigated the same route covered with snow and ice. We were younger and less risk-averse then, I suppose.

Don was waiting at the Sages Ravine Campsite caretaker's tent platform when we arrived (there was no caretaker yet, being so early in the season) and we proceeded up the loop trail to find tent sites.

*The Resplendent One*



After establishing camp, we went about the typical afternoon activities of collecting and purifying water and preparing evening meals. Following supper, Sarah and Kevin Breton entertained us with music on their Indian flutes, and we had a surprise as Kevin Burke stunned the audience with an impromptu fashion show, emerging from his tent in his "evening wear." Sarah put it best when she described him as resplendent. The great fashion houses of New York and Paris have seen nothing like it.

In the morning we packed and ate and hit the trail back across the state line to Connecticut. Reaching the base of Bear Mountain, Don led us along the side trail to Northwest Cabin, which most of us had never hiked and which saved us the climb back up. At the Cabin we ran into Angel Perez, a retired corrections officer, who had joined us on an overnight several years ago and was out camping with a friend. After a brief chat, we continued on our way, stopping at Brassie Brook Shelter for a break and a quick pause on Lions Head for a final glimpse of the great vista. Returning to the parking area, most of the crew headed for home. Kevin Burke, Mark and I stopped in Salisbury for coffee and baked goods at Sweet William's Café and sat at a sidewalk table hoping to see some rich and famous local residents, particularly Meryl Streep who is rumored to have a residence in town. Alas, no stars were spotted. But it had been a great trip with a great group, and a good conditioning backpack for some of the longer and more rugged treks we have planned this summer.

**East Rock Park**  
**April 20, 2021**  
by **Carol A. Langley**

A beautiful spring day was the setting for this hike. **Jocelyn Linnekin** and I had carpooled to the park. When we arrived, there were only two spaces to park. We started walking on the old Farnam Road, connecting with Trowbridge Drive. Both are closed to traffic. We met other hikers and bikers while we looked for the Red Trail which we never found but we did end up on Snake Rock, the southernmost part of the park. Looking North we saw the East Rock Soldiers & Sailors Monument and followed the White Trail to it. It is definitely worth your time to visit this lovely park and take in the views and read the history that is posted. We walked the Giant Steps up to the open viewing point and had great views of New Haven and Long Island Sound. We took advantage of a picnic table and had a lunch break. We were entertained by broad-winged hawks gliding along on the wind currents. As we started down English Drive, whom should we encounter but **Dick Hart**. He joined for the rest of the day. Jocelyn with map in hand led the way to a foot bridge over the Mill River. We followed the path along the Mill River that led us to the Eli Whitney Museum. Continuing on we walked up to Whitney Lake. There is a beautiful waterfall and picnic tables. There is a covered bridge over the river where in 1861 Eli Whitney built a dam to supply water to New Haven. In the winter, ice was cut and stored in an ice house that he built to supply the city with ice. We continued on and saw a beautiful patch of Dutchman's breeches and trout lilies. Birds were singing in the trees. What a day! After a short distance on a Blue side trail, we reached the road and followed it to our cars.

**Mattabesett Trail**  
**April 28, 2021**  
by **Carol A. Langley**

**Sarah O'Hare** was waiting at the Asylum Reservoir #2 on Brooks Road when **Jocelyn Linnekin** and I arrived. We started on the Blue Trail headed north alongside the reservoir. We climbed several rocky areas which got our hearts pumping. That is what hiking is all about. Reaching the top we found the Rock Cave, which showed evidence of use but no trash. Yeah!!! We continued on following the Blue Trail until we reached the old dirt road which would lead us down to Reservoir #1. What is this? A lovely little brook all backed up with leaves and branches. No way are we walking away. Yes, the GMC ladies

went to work and in minutes the brook was singing again. Reaching the reservoir we had a snack break. We then continued on, picking up the Blue/Yellow Trail when suddenly we saw a beautiful white dog looking like a wolf following us. He was friendly and even licked our hands. We called for the owner but no response. We continued on, the dog jumping into ponds along the way to cool off. We were getting near Brooks Rd. and were afraid of the dog running and getting hit. Jocelyn being the owner of two large dogs took hold of his collar and found a name and number. As Jocelyn held the dog and read off the number, Sarah called the owner. My part was to feed the dog small pieces of Sarah's peanut butter & jelly sandwich. The dog's name was Taz. Sarah reached the owner and plans were made to take him to her vehicle and wait for the owner. Ted the owner said he had a police car so, while we were waiting, a police car came down the hill and we flagged him down. Wrong police officer!! While we were waiting and were feeding most of our lunches to Taz, two Army National Guard Transport planes flew overhead. They were very low and we could even see the propellers as they passed overhead. Suddenly what do we see but an old vintage white police car from way back when. A gentleman gets out, introducing himself as Ted. Turns out he grew up in Middletown but now lives in Portland, Oregon. We chatted for a bit then Sarah took a photo. We needed to hike more miles after this adventure. We are all in overdrive. Jocelyn, whom I am trying to convince to become a hike leader had a map in hand, so I said, lead on girl. Soon we were crossing Bear Hill Road and picked up the Blue Trail just the other side of the utility corridor. We passed through a tunnel of Mt. Laurel. The trail led us in a circle; then we finally found the right direction. It meandered on to the point where we were wondering if the trail was leading us in the right direction. Suddenly there was shout. Yes, the Blue/Yellow Blaze is right here. The day was very warm in the 70s so the tunnel effect of the trail created a welcome breeze. Soon we crossed over the open hill under the lines and continued on the Blue Trail back to our cars. Total miles 7. Thanks for rescuing a lost dog!

**Mine Hill and Carter Preserves**  
**May 12, 2021**  
By **Sarah O'Hare**

The 360 acres that make up the Mine Hill Preserve is an historical site featuring stone and brick remains of a 19<sup>th</sup> century iron mine and furnace complex, and

granite quarries. Along the trail there are mine tunnels and several air shafts that have become winter homes, or hibernacula, for bats. **Jim Robertson** and his faithful pal Molson, **Don Hagstrom, Jocelyn Linnekin** and I set off to search out these features of the preserve.

After exploring the upper portion of the iron mine and furnace complex, we turned onto the Donkey Trail, the mining cart path named for the animals that pulled the carts through the complex. This elevated path runs for a mile or more, taking us by mine tunnels. The entrances were gated to keep adventure seekers, like us, from entering. Passing through mountain laurel and beneath a canopy of hemlocks, we approached the first of four air shafts, which are now bat cages. Covered with large grates, these air shafts are deep, rock-lined holes, where it is a constant 55 degrees. The ferns and mosses lining the stone walls inside audibly drip water into the depths. At the second bat cage, white quartz littered the area and a nearby remnant stone foundation may have been a holding pen for the donkeys.

After passing an abandoned quarry, we arrived at the junction with the Carter Trail, the next leg of our journey. This trail led across Quarry Bridge. Where the stream flowed beneath the stone bridge, a large frog sat sentry-like on a rock, until Molson's nose approached a little too close. In a flash and with a splash, it was gone. The Carter Preserve offered no special features but was a pleasant 2.5 mile hike nonetheless. Arriving back at Quarry Bridge, the frog had returned to its rock. Bugs flying around the opening of the bridge seemed the perfect spot for the frog to snag an easy meal. We set off again in the Mine Hill Preserve following the brook a short way. Our trail turned into an old roadway, passing piles of quarried rock. We followed the Shepaug River a short distance before our water view became a marsh. Red winged blackbirds announced their presence as we neared the iron mine complex. We toured the lower portion before concluding our most enjoyable 6.5 - 7 mile hike.



*Our outdoor annual meeting picnic at Hammonasset. Ginny Apple presented on bobcats all around us. Photograph by Jim Robertson.*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Upcoming events are listed here: <http://www.conngmc.com/newwiki/doku.php?id=start>.