

The Connecticut Section Of The Green Mountain Club

The Trail Talk

VOL. XXXVIII NO. IV

July 2007



The President's Message

GMC's Second Century Campaign to secure the future of the Long Trail is making great progress towards its' minimum goal of \$5.25 million. The next six to nine months will be a crucial time as we must raise an additional \$1 million. The CT Section has made a donation of \$1,000.00 as a club section – we now need our members to meet the challenge through their generosity and to support this very important and historic campaign.

Your donation or pledge will help to secure the Long Trail for the next 100 years for our future generations – in essence our grandchildren. Our forests, mountains, lakes and rivers are Mother Nature's greatest gifts to us to enjoy and protect.

Even though we are Connecticut residents many of us have enjoyed the Green Mountains of Vermont by camping, hiking or family vacations. As a section of the Green Mountain Club we have an obligation to support this effort.

Ben Rose - Executive Director and Shawn Keeley - Development Officer have joined with our CT volunteers to visit with some of our members in Connecticut. I would like to thank them for their help and support of the CT Section.

When you receive a phone call from one of the volunteers please be willing to do your part. To meet the goal, all members are being asked to consider making pledges that may be larger than they have ever given before. Please note that pledges can be paid over five years.

I would like to convey my gratitude to the members who have already made pledges and donations to the Second Century Campaign.

Thank you for your support

Carol A. Langley

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

On June 8 -10, 2007 the CT. Section was one of the hosting sections for the Annual Meeting which was held at Hildene in Manchester Village, VT. The following section members attended this function and worked very hard making sure that things went smoothly and all guests were happy.

Bill Brodnitzki , Gerri Brodnitzki, Sarah O'Hare, Jim Robertson, Jack Sanga, Doreen Scott, Henry Smith, Laurene Sorensen.

Gerri Brodnitzki covered the hiker store and rumor has it no one left without buying something.

Bill Brodnitzki was in charge of the set up for the Sat. night dinner.

Sarah O'Hare and Jim Robertson led hikes in the area and helped where needed.

Doreen Scott and Laurene Sorensen helped with lunch.

Henry Smith helped set up for the Fri. night program also breakfast and lunch.

Jack Sanga led a solo kayak trip to Lowell Lake and he was the man in charge of breakfast and stood guard so the pots didn't get drained before the coffee was ready.

Clean up time, everyone pitched in and did a great job. I am very proud of the great job the CT. Section did to make the Annual Meeting a success. Hope you all enjoyed the weekend. The next Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 31, 2008 in Waterbury Center at the GMC Headquarters.

Carol A. Langley



The Trail Talk

Club Information

<http://www.conngmc.com>

Officers & Executive Committee

Carol Langley—President

(860) 621-2860, cosmical14@yahoo.com

Dick Krompegal, 1st Vice President, Trails & Shelters

(860) 667-4205, rkrompy@aol.com

Jim Robertson, 2nd Vice President, Activities

(860) 633-7279, jrobert685@aol.com

Bill Brodnitzki, Director To GMC

(860) 542-5641, wbrodnitzki@snet.net

Sarah O'Hare, Secretary

(860) 563-7018, seohare7@yahoo.com

Jack Sanga, Treasurer

(860) 648-9614, jsanga@cox.net

Laurene Sorenson, Reporter to the Long Trail News

laurene@modernwriter.com

Please direct all inquiries regarding the Club to the President:

Carol A. Langley

67 Pondview Drive

Southington, CT 06489

(860) 621-2860, cosmical14@yahoo.com

The Trail Talk is published four times a year in January, April, July and October. Activity schedules are included in each issue. Reports of activities and articles must be sent to the editor no later than the tenth day of the month of the publication. Send articles to:

Dick Krompegal

142 Churchill Drive

Newington, CT 06111-4003

(860) 667-4205, rkrompy@aol.com

Membership

When filling out the form to join or renew circle the Connecticut Section on the application to receive, at no extra charge, the Connecticut Section's newsletter and activity schedule.

Dues:

Individual Adult \$ 35.00

Family \$ 45.00

Senior (70 or older) or Limited Income \$ 20.00

Nonprofit or Youth Group \$ 50.00

Business or Corporation \$125.00

Send annual dues to:

The Green Mountain Club

4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road

Waterbury Center, VT 05677-9904

(802) 244-7037, <http://www.greenmountainclub.org>

Connecticut Section Of The GMC

Post & Receive Messages, Photos, Other Activities

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ct_green_mountain_club/

New Members

Judith Kemp

Ellington, Ct

Charles MacMath

Trumbell, CT

Ron Sanga

Ashville, NC

Vince DeLaurentis

Darien, CT

Jeremy Haugh

Hartford, CT

Jeffrey Stuhl

Weston, CT

Craig Repaz

Hamden, CT



Millbrook-Blairtown Rd to PA State Line Section 6 of NJ, AT April 20-22- Backpacking trip

We drove down to Mandy's cabin in the Poconos on Friday, got a good night sleep and headed out Saturday morning to the trailhead. We parked the car at the Delaware Water Gap Recreation Center. The cab we arranged to take us to the other end of the trail was a no show. After a few refusals, Dan found some college guys who gave us a ride to Millbrook Village. The Village church was opened so we checked it out before heading up the big hill to the AT trailhead.

It was a beautiful sunny day with clear blue skies and 70 degree temperatures. Most of the hike was ridge walking so we had awesome views for most of the day. We stopped at Catfish Fire Tower. The top was locked so we climbed as high as we could to check out the view. There were a few backpackers out and a lot of day hikers. We stopped and chatted along the way. We had a snack by a nice stream where Dan soaked his feet in some ice cold water.

We camped for the night at the top of Mt Mohican. It was the best with views to the east and to the west. We sat out in a clearing and watched the sunset across a sea of mountain ranges. The sky was lit with beautiful shades of blues, oranges and pinks. It was so peaceful and serene.

The Trail Talk

On Sunday we were up and on the trail by 7:30am. It was another gorgeous sunny day. We hiked past Sunfish Pond. As we rounded the corner to the pond, it was as if we had walked into a bird sanctuary. Sunfish Pond is a 41 acre pond from glacial waters that is considered one of the seven natural wonders of NJ. It is a national historic landmark. Some of the AT goes around the pond's edge. We were there early enough that the sun was glistening on the water. It is a very pretty spot.

We hiked a gradual decline back towards the cars. Dan saw a black snake on the trail. Realizing that the cars didn't quite make it to the PA state line, we decided to walk across the bridge over the Delaware River to make it official. We went across the bridge, around the corner and touched a white blaze on a telephone pole to signify our entrance into PA and our completion of NJ. We back tracked to the car and headed for home. What a fantastic weekend to be out in the woods. Total mileage for the weekend - 15 miles

Backpackers: Mandy Brink, Dan Zelterman and Asha, the AT hiking dog.



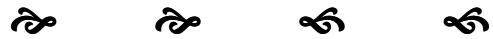
Metacomet-Monadnock Trail

Sections 9 & 10 total is about 8 miles including the walk to the parking lot. Carpoolers Don, Henry, Carol & Sarah followed Bill to the meeting spot in Pelham where we were joined by Dave. Leaving two cars there we somehow loaded everyone into Bill's vehicle with Sarah in the cargo area with all the packs and walking sticks. We arrived at the trailhead on Harris Rd in Granby, MA at 9:30. The four miles of section 9 is a pleasant walk over low forested hills. We walked thru a logged area, which was noted in the guide. New growth was already apparent. A barking dog signaled us as we approached private property where we had a view of Mt Toby to the north. After crossing a main road we ascended into a hemlock stand in a conservation area. White blazes turned black where the trail had been relocated. Nonetheless, Bill remembered the blacked out trail with hopes of viewing lake Metacomet. Eventually we rejoined the white blazed trail with no view of the lake area because of foliage. A short jaunt across two tar roads and we were back to nature. The next obstacle was the active Central Vermont Railroad tracks. At Hop Brook we replenished our energy with lunch and the anticipated Sarah Cookies. A short walk over a footbridge and out to Route 9 ends this section.

With no waiting we located the trailhead to section 10 at the entrance to Holland Glen. The glen is about a half mile long with crystal clear water and striking waterfalls. Henry tested

the depth and temperature to be three feet deep and cold. From here on the trail is a steady uphill with various wildflowers and streamlets. An opening gave a southern view of the Holyoke Range that looked so far away. Large stonewalls marked the area of an old agrarian community. Some confusion reigned as to the amount of lady slippers counted. Do they have to have blossoms or just leaves. We settled on an accumulative total of over 120 blossoms counted thru both sections. As to wildlife it was mostly heard with a number of birdcalls identified by Henry including scarlet tanager, cardinal, crow, ovenbird, blackbird and a number of warblers. The last half-mile had been relocated to tarmac and was a let down to tired hikers.

*Hikers: Don Hagstrom, Carol Langley, Dave Wells,
Henry Smith, Sarah O'Hare
Leader: Bill Falconer*



Farmington Canal Greenway, Farmington/ Collinsville May 12, 2007

Five of us gathered on a beautiful Saturday morning for a leisurely bike ride. We started about 10 am, heading south from the Farmington Valley Arts Center. Wildlife sightings were sparse, limited to a few songbirds, but we did have a gorgeous view of the Farmington River from the bridge. At Red Oak Hill Road we headed out towards Canton, still on the rail trail.

At Unionville the trail is still under construction. We opted to brave the crushed rock on the unfinished trail rather than face the traffic on Route 4. Just outside of Unionville we had to take to the road until we could pick up the trail again about 2 miles south of Collinsville. At about noon we reached Collinsville and had a delightful lunch of sandwiches and goodies at the Collinsville Baking Company. Then we moved

to a small park along the Farmington River and spent about 20 minutes enjoying the warm sun and watching kayakers and waterfowl before we finally turned around and headed back to the Arts Center.



*Bikers: Dave and Regina Chatel,
Ken Williamson,
Rosemary Miller
Leader: Laura Miller*



The Trail Talk

Long Trail / Appalachian Trail Maintenance Vermont May 18 – 20, 2007

The approach to the southern end of our section, to the Kid Gore shelter, begins with about a seven mile drive down a dirt road. After about five miles there is a gate which is closed in the fall, opened again after heavy snow for the snowmobiles then closed again. It is open for the summer but was not, I repeat not, opened yet this year. Plan "B". Drive back down the road, north on Rt. 100 then hike into the Story Spring Shelter to work the northern end of our section. After our long drive Andy Gagner and I arrived at the shelter about noon.



We set up our tents then ate lunch in a cloudy but dry day. We then walked north clearing a few blowdowns, but mostly clipping brush from the trail. Nearing the shelter again we met Dave Chatel clearing the trail. Later Jim Robertson joined us.

It rained during the night. The next morning, in a drizzle, we set out south to clip brush, clear blowdowns and work trail drainage. It rained on and off. In late morning Bill Brodnitzki and his sons, Tom and Bill joined us. They had arrived late the day before and camped out next to the road.

Because of rain, dampness and because all the work had been done we all left Saturday afternoon.

*Thanks for the work -
David Chatel, Andy Gagner, Jim Robertson,
Bill, Tom & Bill Brodnitzki.
Leader: Dick Krompegal*



Long Trail / Appalachian Trail Maintenance June 22 – 24

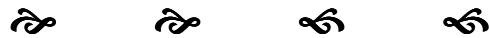
We all arrived on Friday afternoon in the rain and more rain. No work today. Saturday was beautiful. Cool but sunny. We split up into two groups. Sarah O'Hare and Bill Brodnitzki went north blazing. They blazed north for several miles then again on the return trip back to the Kid Gore shelter.

Bill Patrick and I worked south from the shelter. We removed about 7 – 8 blowdowns and clipped brush to keep the trail open. We worked up to about a half of a mile from the top of Glastenbury Mountain. The trail was in such good shape we decided there was no need to go to the top of the mountain so started to work our way back to the shelter. After a short rest we clipped brush in front to maintain the vista.

Bill and Bill had to leave early. Since the planned work had been completed Sarah and I decided to walk down and camp near the road – yes, dare I say, car camping. We spent a pleasant evening, part of the time in a conversation with a police officer checking up on campers.

Sunday, we explored a trail going around the Sommerset Reservoir for about 4 miles, scouting for a potential future hike. It's longer around than we thought. After cleaning up we started our drive back to Connecticut

*Thanks for the work –
Sarah O'Hare, Bill Brodnitzki, Bill Patrick
Leader Dick Krompegal*



Mattabesett Trail CT Trails Day June 2, 2007

This hike was listed in the CFPA's CT Trails Day brochure. With the pamphlet distributed all over Connecticut it was expected to bring our club to the attention of the general public. A good turnout resulted, however, all eight hikers were GMCers. No new people this year. Not even the lure of ice cream at Guida's afterwards could entice any new-comers.

We gathered at Black Pond then shuttled over to our starting point at Rt. 68, Paug Gap. Just a few minutes into the hike the leader spotted a deer. A blowdown caught our attention and while the first few hikers climbed through it scathed, Dick and his followers had the sense to walk around it, unscathed. The woods were cool and the insects at a minimum. Many, many snakes slithered off the trail as we disturbed their quiet search for patches of dappled sunlight. The tempera

The Trail Talk

considerably as we reached Beseck Ridge and with the sky a bit hazy the vast views were limited. Lunch had been planned for the ridge but the heat and glare sent us back into the shade of the woods for our break.

Thoughts and yes, many verbalizations (read whining) of ice cream kept Dan and Don from dragging their heels the last mile. And ice cream it was, a refreshing end to a delightful morning hike with friends.

*Hikers: Richard Krompegal, Dan Zelerman, Fred Clark, Don Hagstrom, Bill Falconer, Jared McQueen, George Jackson
Leader: Sarah O'Hare*



Mattatuck Trail June 16, 2007

This northern section of the Mattatuck Trail may have been a mere six miles but it packed a lot of punch! Beginning at the southern terminus we entered the woods on Mohawk State Forest land. Following many stone walls we discovered the dates of 1875 and 1876 that the walk book description stated were inscribed in the end stones. Here, too, Marissa and Dakota found several large turkey feathers, a deer was spotted and it was noticed that the Mountain Laurel was beginning to blossom.

After a short walk along a dirt road the trail passed over the top of a very large beaver dam. This proved to be a challenge for the footing was precarious. The dam had to be partially dismantled, actually just a few logs removed from the enormous structure, to build a foot bridge across a small section of wetland. A bullfrog nearby croaked his disapproval at our disruption of his peaceful home. Crossing the dam was thought to be a success, no wet feet

until the bogginess crept a little too far into the dam. We eventually stepped onto solid ground, a little muddied yet delighted with our little adventure.

After another short road walk we reached our lunch destination, the boat launch at Mohawk Pond. Many others were also enjoying the pond. Without wading in too deep, Dakota was able to pick a lily pad, its delicate white flower just beginning to bloom. After lunch we then proceeded around the eastern side of the pond that ascended to Wadhaus Rd. The blazes follow to the right then turn off into the woods for a mile before emerging out onto the road again. Carol and the girls opted to walk along the road and meet up at the trail crossing. The other half of the group proceeded along following the blue blazes. On the road we found a presumably newly hatched Northern Ringneck snake and with a little coaxing it slithered into the woods so as not to go the way of its sibling lying motionless nearby. Within moments of turning off the road to begin our rugged and rocky ascent, a pair of Scarlet Tanagers flitted nervously above, apparently distressed by our presence. Soon after we were back on the road, Carol and the girls waiting for us.

From here it was a moderate climb to the top of Mohawk Mountain. We found the old fire tower had been closed so our views were observed from the shade of a tree. We could spot the Catskills and Taconics in the distance and closer, Mt. Everett and Bear Mt. While resting here Carol pointed out a Cedar Waxwing in a nearby shrub. Setting off on the final 1.4 miles, Carol decided that it would be best for her group to descend directly on Tourney Rd. The rest of us descended along the blue blazed trail through the woods. With rolling thunder and dark clouds in the distance we quickened our pace and paused only briefly at Cunningham Tower. This stone tower was built in 1915, the beginning of an estate that never came to be. A short walk from here brought us to Tourney Rd. and to the parking area where we found Carol, Marissa and Dakota happily snacking in their car. It appeared we ended our hike just in time for the dark sky opened up on our way home.

*Hikers: Donald Woodbridge, Don Hagstrom, Carol Langley and granddaughters Dakota and Marissa
Leader: Sarah O'Hare*

Read The Schedule For A Heads Up

There are several activities on the schedule that may require some long range planning.

**Cape Ann Weekend
July 13-15**

We started Saturday morning with a hike at Halibut State Park. We took a trail that led us around a granite quarry filled with fresh water in a large granite bowl, with a beautiful view of the ocean as a backdrop. The water was an interesting emerald green and we learned about how the quarry operated on a self guided tour. We dipped our toes in the ocean before heading to the visitor's center, an old Coast Guard Station, that allowed us to climb a tower for a panoramic view of Cape Ann.

Next, we headed for Dogtown Commons, the real reason for the weekend. Finding Dogtown Commons was almost as difficult as hiking in it. Dogtown Commons is an abandoned New England Village from the 1800's. Our goal was to find many of the markers signifying the home of the last town residents as well as the markers engraved with words of wisdom from Roger Babson who took a large interest in researching Dogtown in the early 1900's. We decided to take the hardest trail described in the book. In true GMC fashion, we were lost by the first 15 minutes of being in Dogtown. We ended up hiking for 2 1/2 hours with 99% of the time being lost. We ended with a disappointing final of only finding four landmarks and none of the wisdom markers but were very happy to eventually find our way out after wandering on unmarked trails most of our time.

The mosquitoes were out in full force and saw us as their feast for the day. Dogtown Commons has endless hiking trails. My recommendation for anyone who might be interested in hiking there is to go in the fall when the mosquitoes are done and to splurge and buy the detailed map of Dogtown. The more vague map we had with us was a poor guide and not very accurate in it's markings. We did manage to stumble upon the markers for Abram Wharf, Joseph Riggs, Benjamin Stanwood and Jeremiah Millett. All the book mentions of these characters is that Abram Wharf was said to own most the sheep in town in 1800 and that Joseph Riggs was the descendant of Captain Samuel Riggs, a prominent land owner whose family owned the oldest home in Cape Ann built in 1674.

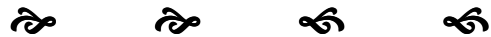


We headed back to the campground, grabbed our bicycles and headed out for a ride to check out Wingersheek Beach. We enjoyed a beautiful beach walk, cooled off our legs in the water, and saw a nice view of the lighthouse on the point. Having put in

a full day, we headed back to Cape Ann campground and cooked up some steaks over the fire.

On Sunday morning we packed up the site and headed off to a boat launch right by the campground. It was a beautiful sunny day, the ocean was so green and we were so happy to be hopping in our kayaks to enjoy the morning. I was grateful that Jack had done the research for the kayaking portion of the weekend. There were often stretches of sea grass that was like kayaking in a maze. We kayaked for a couple of hours, going around Ram Island and Pearce Island. We saw two interesting new houses that appeared to be built right on the grass area on the point. Our first thought was "Who would build a new house right here at the edge of the water?" On further investigation we discovered they were house boats. There were many, many egrets in the ocean grasses. The breeze was delightful and we hated to have to head back home. I had hoped to have more participants for this weekend, but we sure had a great time. Jack and I both agreed it would be well worth planning another weekend in Cape Ann, it was a beautiful place.

Participants: Mandy Brink, Jack Sanga



**Mattabesett Maintenance
April 29, 2007**

After breakfast we Blazed from across from Guida's, on Rt. 66, to Rt. 68 for a total of 5 3/4 miles. We also clipped brush, picked up garbage and removed several blowdowns. The trail in that area is in great shape.

*Sarah O'Hare, Lora Miller, Jack Sanga.
Leader: Dick Krompegal*

Mattabesett Trail Information

I attended a CFPA trails meeting this spring to inform them that illegal use of the trail by ATV's and motorcycles is on the increase again and they are causing a lot of erosion. The CFPA then wrote a letter to the State Of Ct requesting flyovers again and increased patrols to reduce the motorized use of the trail. I have not heard of any response from that letter yet.



The Trail Talk



L - R Andy Gagner, Jim Robertson
Long Trail / Appalachian Trail Maintenance In Vermont. June 2007.

Long Range Events Or Events Needing Planning

If you are planning an event of more than two days or needing reservations, adjusting of work schedule, etc., please let Jim Robertson know in advance - jrobert685@aol.com

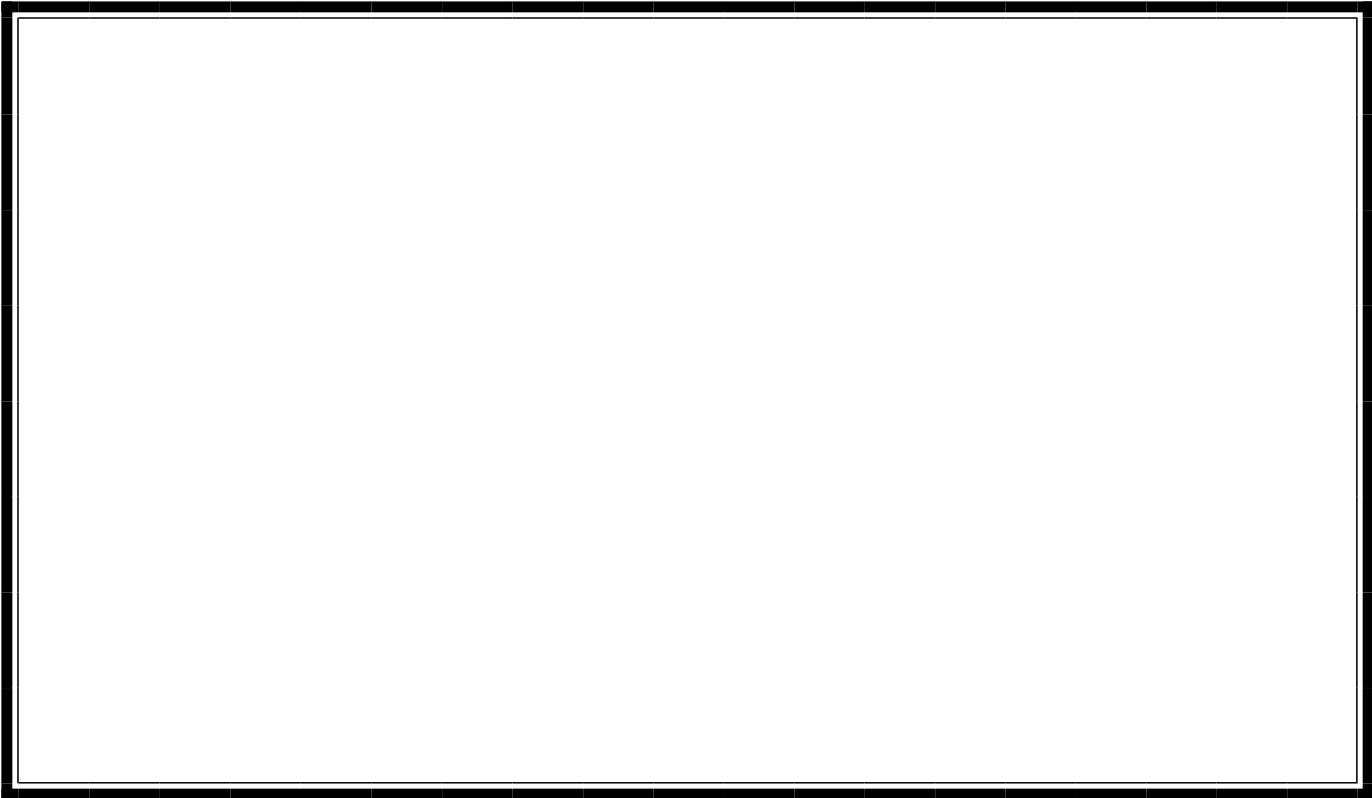
... and if you are member of the group you can post the event on the CT GMC Message Board at - http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CT_Green_Mountain_Club/

We Would Like To Hear From You!

It is more and more common for newsletters, like this one, to be E-mailed as a PDF file rather than to mail a hard copy. Not everyone, but more & more are receiving and reading information in front of a computer. E-mailing this letter would save our club printing and postage cost as well as volunteer time assembling the letters. However, not everyone has a computer or fast download. Paper copies will continue to be printed and mailed to those who want them, to post on bulletin boards, and to hand out on the trail. If you would like to state your preference to receive a hard copy or E-mailed please E-mail - gmcconnecticut@yahoo.com

Or if you would like to have an open discussion, become a member then post a message at - http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CT_Green_Mountain_Club/

Thank You



The Trail Talk

