

The Connecticut Section Of The Green Mountain Club

The Trail Talk



VOL. XXXVIII NO. II

April 2006

The President's Message

On Sat. March 18, 2006 the 38th Annual Dinner Meeting of the CT. Section of the GMC was held at the Cheshire Grange. Approximately 50 members, family and friends were served a wonderful sit down roast beef dinner with all the trimmings. Sarah O'Hare our V.P. of activities did a great job with refreshments for the social hour. Thanks to all who brought something to share with the group. After dinner we all moved up stairs for the business meeting and program of the evening about rock walls in New England.

The Section Officers for the year 2006 are

President	Carol A. Langley
1st. V.P. Trails Shelters	Dick Krompegal
2 nd . V.P. Activities	Sarah O'Hare
Treasurer	Jack Sanga
Secretary	Sarah O'Hare
Director	Bill Brodnitzki
Alt. Director	Dave Chatel
Trail Talk Editor	Dick Krompegal
Lt. Reporter	Marge Hackbarth

This year Many Brink received the Service Award, which is given to a member who has led 10 activities and submitted reports for the club. Serving on the Executive Board and leading 5 activities for the club you can also earn this award. The activities can be accumulated over years, however no write-up no credit.

The following members led activities for the club in 2005 and were recognized for their time:

Marge Hackbarth	Mandy Brink
Dick Krompegal	Lora Miller
Sarah O'Hare	Grace King
Jim Robertson	Mary O'Neil
Jack Sanga	Dan Zelterman
	Ken Williamson

Everyone was given a light weight, collapsible bowl and dish as a thank you gift. Thank you all again for your continued support and dedication to the club.

Please support these leaders and our new activity leaders that have scheduled a very full calendar of events for the months of May, June and July. If you didn't get your activity in this time our next schedule will be prepared in early July contact Sarah O'Hare to be placed on the activity leaders calendar e-mail.



New Members

Irenelisz Rychlik
Bristol, CT

Charles Hornbostel
Manchester, CT

Jean Moore
Springfield, MA



Wild Turkeys

Coped from the CTDEP site

It is estimated there are about 45,000 wild turkeys in Connecticut. Mating season is just ending, most hens are on their eggs now, sitting.

Habitat: A mixture of mature hardwood forests and open fields.

Weight: Adult male: 15 to 25 pounds; adult female: 8 to 12 pounds.

Length: Adult male: 48 inches; adult female: 36 inches.

Food: Acorns and other mast (hard fruit), fleshy fruits, corn, a variety of seeds, and invertebrates. Young turkeys (particularly) feed heavily on insects.



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Club Information

<http://www.conngmc.com>

Officers & Executive Committee

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Please direct all inquiries regarding the Club to the President:

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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

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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>

Kettletown State Park

March 4, 2006

With just a few inches of snow on the ground, snowshoes were unnecessary, yet it was still too deep for a quick pace as we began our hike on the Pomperaug Trail. The woods were a glistening delight in the bright morning sun; the shadows of the hemlocks and laurel danced in our path from the breeze. Fresh deer tracks crisscrossed the trail constantly, although the deer eluded our gaze.

The terrain was more rugged than we expected, so care in our ascents and descents of the rock ledges had to be taken. A few slips and slides resulted, but with no harm done. After two miles, we arrived at the shore of partially frozen Lake Zoar. Here, we paused for refreshments and to take in the view. Before getting too chilled, we stepped back on the trail, deciding to retrace our steps rather than continue along the Pomperaug Trail. The walking was easier now as we had packed down the snow. As noontime approached, we stopped again, this time for lunch. Sherri brought out her stove and made herself tea while coffee crunch bars were passed around. As clouds began to move in and as the wind picked up, hats and gloves were pulled back on as we made our way back.

After the four mile trek over the rugged trail, we searched for the trailhead of the Miller Trail by car. This trail, though kinder and gentler, was less picturesque than the Pomperaug Trail. Then having completed the Miller Trail, we departed for home. Kettletown State Park is worthy of another visit for there are more trails to explore than we had time for today.

Hikers: Sherri Hennessey, Leslie and Rich Chandler

Leader: Sarah O'Hare



Pre-Super Bowl Hike Mansfield Hollow/Nipmuck Trail Sunday, February 5

An unseasonably warm day greeted our annual pre-Super Bowl excursion. Unfortunately, we were also greeted by a swollen Fenton River, which had overflowed its banks and flooded the trail in several places. Starting out from Gurleyville Road in clouds and mist, we had a relatively dry walk south to the old mill. Soon the sun popped out, but the trail became more difficult to follow, with several sections cut by small streams or



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flooded completely by the river. We slogged along slowly, often reversing direction to head upstream along small tributaries until we could find an area of shallow water or logs to cross. Incredibly, some skunk cabbage was already sprouting in the swampy areas, providing some interesting aromas.

After passing the old dam near Chaffeeville Road, we found a used shock absorber, which, for a moment, Jack considered taking as a replacement for a worn one on his car. However, since there was no matched set, we left the shock, and then started climbing the gas lines. Partway up the hill, in the stream to one side, we passed an almost new 1975 Chrysler Cordoba. There were no signs any remaining "fine Corinthian leather", but we thought we heard the Ricardo Montalban advertisement whispering to us in the wind.

The leader got us lost at the top of the hill but we soon backtracked and found the trail again, leading south to the 50 Foot Cliff, where we stopped for lunch. We had a mostly uneventful afternoon, although the traverse south of Chaffeeville Road found more flooded trail, and the footbridge across the Fenton River was right at water level. However, we did find several frozen swamps, where we stopped and hurled rocks, in an unsuccessful attempt to break through the ice.



After finishing our hike in Mansfield Hollow State Park, a visit to the UConn Dairy Bar in Storrs completed the day.

Hikers: Jim & Jimmy Robertson, Jack Sanga



Lone Pine Trail and Mattabesett Trail, Durham/Guilford/Madison Saturday, April 15, 2006

Our group met at 9 am at the Braemore Preserve parking lot on route 77 in Durham. The morning was cool, damp and foggy, despite the forecast for sunny weather. We started by walking 0.2 miles south on route 77 and then turning to head west on the Lone Pine Trail.

The early part of the trail skirted a field and some houses, where a couple of aggressive dogs provided some excitement. They were finally repelled by some harsh words and gestures from Regina. We continued on through a moist area. Spring had started; a number of wildflowers were up, though most were not yet in bloom. The weather began to warm up by 10 o'clock or so, though it was still foggy and most of the vistas were still shrouded in mist. We continued along, shedding layers and gradually climbing. At one point most of the group spotted a red eft, though the leader was

taking a detour through the woods and missed this lone wildlife sighting. Eventually the Lone Pine Trail ended; we continued south on the Mattabesett.

Finally at 11:45 we yielded to the pleas from Dan's stomach and stopped for lunch. After a 20 minute stop we were on our way again, descending steeply down to route 77. At that point Regina (who was recovering from surgery) decided that 6 miles was enough for her that day. She and Dave retrieved their car from the lower parking area and departed.

The rest of the group pushed on for the final 3 1/2 miles. The shorter distance was somewhat more strenuous, and as the fog finally burned off and the temperature climbed we slowed our pace and drank lots more water. Dan pointed out an approximately 8 foot semicircle of stones to the right of the trail that indicated where a family with smallpox had been buried. Finally at about 2:30 we connected up with the start of the Lone Pine Trail and headed west again to the parking area. We finished at about 3 pm after 9 1/2 total miles.

*Hikers: Sarah O'Hare, Dan Zelterman, Rich and Leslie
Chandler, Dave and Regina Chatel
Leader: Lora Miller*



Cockaponset Trail March 25, 2006

On a cloudy early spring day three club members joined me. After driving to the Pattaconk Reservoir, because of a memory lapse, as to the beginning of the trail. Looking around I am thinking this placed really changed since 1981 then consulting the map we realized we were not at the trailhead. Back in the car and off to Rte. 148 where the trail starts. More confusion as we start the trail things are going well then suddenly we are crossing back and forth over Lampes Brook with no Blue Blazes in sight. After a half hour of bushwhacking it is time to turn around and try to retrace our steps and go back to where we saw the last blaze. In just a few short minutes what do we have two BLAZES as plain as day how we missed them is still a mystery. Confidence restored the leader takes control and a hiking we go.



The terrain is generally flat with few rolling hills, very well

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kept trail. The trail crossed several streams some of which were clogged with leaves and debris. This was just too tempting to pass up by a hiker so time was spent cleaning brooks/streams and then the reward

was to watch them gently tumble over rocks making their way to the pond or lake that was their destination.

A yellow side trail of about 300 ft. led us to a former Collier's cabin and charcoal burning area. The cabin's chimney remnants are still standing. We past thru a controlled burn area from years past and could see the new growth.

After lunch we continued on this very easy trail to our destination Beaver Meadow Rd. There are many options to make loops and different lengths of the trails. During our day in the forest we meet one hiker and one lady on a mountain bike. It is a very peaceful an enjoyable area. Thanks for joining me girls.

Hikers: Sarah O'Hare, Laurene Sorensen, Sherri Hennessy, Leader, Carol A. Langley



Metacomet Trail April 2, 2006

A beautiful spring day filled with sunshine, cool temperatures and a gentle breeze from the west greeted us at the Metacomet Trail Head. Five eager hikers and their leader packed into Bill Falconer's big red van and drove to Phelps Rd. where we would start the hike. While we were getting ready to depart a gentlemen named Jim May informed us he was waiting for a group of about 50 singles who were suppose to meet and hike the trail. The threat of 50 people on this short 5 miles trail has us moving quickly. Our fears never materialized since apparently it was the wrong day.

The Nature Conservancy of Suffield protects this section of trail that we hiked. Our footpath was very cleaned and in many places covered by pin needles. Along the trail someone has taken time to make sign posts of wood stakes that are held together by rope lashing and placed a signboard with arrows marking Suffield in one direction and Granby in the other.

Our first highlight of the day was reaching Chimney Point where we found the remains of an old stone fireplace facing east. Someone has placed benches here in front of the fireplace. Speculating on the home that was once on this site we started back to the trail with unanswered questions as to who lived there and when.

Chickadees, nuthatches sang as they darted in the trees from limb to limb. However they weren't the only music of the day. One of our hikers had a pedometer on and for some reason it was playing music and we could not shut it off, guess the battery finally died. Sarah spotted a downy woodpecker and off in the distance the call of the yellow-shafted flicker was heard. Many drilled holes in trees showed evidence that the Pileated Woodpecker was a resident.



Just before we stopped for lunch we saw Jim who was suppose to meet up with the singles coming towards us alone. Of course we invited him to join us. Lunch was enjoyed on some rocks facing west. Don Woodbridge shared his recipe on how to make homemade yogurt. Bill Falconer shared his advice on how to prepare sourdough bread starter and beer. Jim May disclosed some folklore of trails in Connecticut. Never know what you could learn on the trail.

Since we were in the flight path of arriving and departing flights from Bradley Airport we saw and heard planes all day. We tried to scout out the sight of a plane that trimmed about 20 feet off some trees about 5 years ago but were unsuccessful. All to soon the end was in sight as we descended a path down to our cars. We hiked from 9:30 – 1:30 and the pedometer registered 6 miles. Hope you all enjoyed the hike and the company as much as I did.

*Hikers: Sarah O'Hare, Skip Paterson, Bill Falconer, Don Woodbridge, Dick Arnold and Jim May.
Leader: Carol A. Langley*



If you wish to lead a hike, or have an event you think others would be interested in, please contact -

Sarah O'Hare, (860) 563-7018,
seohare7@yahoo.com

Check the new activity schedule. There are several events which require long range planning

Rails/Trails Ramble
Jan. 29, 2006

Although this is not an actual rail to trail at this time it is an old rail bed running from Plainville to Plantsville. Many years back I led this activity and many showed up so it was time to do it again. The first part had some shinning tracks indicating that they were being used led to some concern but soon we had the real abandoned tracks and the fun began. Soon we were all looking for date pins that had been set in the wood planks when the tracks were laid.

We even found an old signal piece of equipment that Dick Arnold had to play with. Jim Robertson and I



collected the date pins. The Quinnipiac River is in this area so there were a couple of bridges to cross. Following a path in the woods that led to one stone bridge that was no longer in use we discovered a homeless person's shelter. It was quite a compound; several tarps attached to trees and staked into the ground gave this person a living space of about 3 rooms. There was a clothesline, fire ring and it was near the river, sounds like just the right place to take up residence.

Before we knew it the real Rail/Trail section in Southington was ahead of us. Reaching a parking place with benches off Mill Street we took a break. Jim Robertson really needed one the most since he had dragged a lawnmower backwards down the trail for some distance. It had been spotted by the leader and she just couldn't let it litter up the land so it was dragged out. The town authorities were notified and it was disposed of.

Next stop Kry's Pizza in Plantsville. Just as we finished eating and walked to our cars the promised rain fell from the sky. Thanks for joining me everyone. Next adventure is from Plantsville to Cheshire.

Ramblers: Sarah O'Hare, Skip Patterson, Jim Robertson, and Dick Arnold.

Leader: Carol A. Langley



Future Trail Maintenance Trips To Vt.

August 12, 13, 14

Maintenance Trip Basing At Story Springs

October 3, 4, -5

Trail Maintenance Basing At Kid Gore



Wilderness Area

At least part, but maybe all, of the section of The Long Trail / Appalachian Trail we maintain in VT is proposed to be designated as a wilderness area. Some comments concerning wilderness follow.

"Wilderness designation means that motorized uses are banned in that section of the forest - whether it is logging, road-building or recreation such as snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles. It remains open to hunting, fishing, camping and hiking."

.....

"The 100-square mile Glastenbury Mountain-Lye Brook wilderness complex is the biggest, best opportunity we have for restoring wilderness conditions in Vermont," "It is one of the few places in Vermont that appears big and wild when viewed from outer space and deserves stronger, more far reaching protections than are proposed."





Richard Krompegal
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