



Connecticut Section of the Green Mountain Club

Volume LII, Issue II April to June 2020 Fred Clark, Editor

President's Message

Spring 2020

A Tale of Two Winters: This has been a year of two winters. After some snow, sleet and freezing precipitation in December, the balance of the winter (so far) has been mild and without significant wintry conditions in most of Connecticut. We've been able to hike in our state's parks and preserves on bare, mostly dry, trails as if it were late-fall or early-spring. Our events up north during February reassured us that Deep Winter still exists, however, in the Green Mountains of Vermont and in the Adirondacks of New York. During the weekend of February 8-9, we held our first Section event at the GMC's renovated Bolton Lodge near the Bolton Valley ski area. The beautiful lodge has been restored to its historical splendor and made a great destination and base for a weekend of camping and snowshoeing. A fresh powdery snowfall in excess of a foot, daytime temperatures in the single digits and overnight temperatures below minus-10 under a full moon reminded us that winter is not that far away. A week later a group of us snowshoed into Story Spring Shelter. The snow depths at higher elevations are vastly different than even in the valleys of Vermont. We negotiated a snowpack of 18 to 24 inches with deeper drifts in spots, and some challenging navigation. And over the Leap Year weekend, Joe Conaci led a crew to the Adirondacks, basing at an AirBnB house in Saranac Lake, NY, near the High Peaks area. Again, we found snow packs in excess of two feet and cold, windy conditions.

Our 51st Annual Dinner and Meeting: Our annual dinner and meeting will be held at the Cheshire Grange Hall on Saturday March 28 starting at 5:00 pm. The price is only 16 dollars per person for the Grange's famous roast beef or vegetarian lasagna dinner. The dinner is by far our largest event of the year and is always a great opportunity to meet and catch up with other GMC members and guests. If you haven't already sent in your reservation form, please contact Vice President of Activities Dennis Himes at dennis@cookhimes.us or 860-335-5672 or drop him a check at 650 Bolton Road, Vernon, Connecticut 06066. After the dinner and our annual business meeting, we'll have a presentation on a growing population of bobcats in Connecticut by Ginny Apple, a master wildlife conservationist with the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

Our upcoming event schedule is included in this newsletter but the schedule is dynamic. Events are added, and some may be changed, between newsletter issues. Be sure to check the wiki page <http://www.conngmc.com/newwiki/doku.php?id=start> and Dennis's weekly emails for new events and schedule updates.

See you on the trail,

Jim Robertson

Green Mountain Club Information

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

Connecticut Section Information

<http://www.conngmc.com>

Officers and Executive Committee

President:

James E. Robertson
860-633-7279
jrobert685@aol.com

First Vice President, Trails and Shelters:

Mike Shaw
860-381-9130
msshaw2@mail.com

Second Vice President, Activities:

Dennis P. Himes
860-454-8301
dennis@cookhimes.us

Director:

James Fritz
860-221-9173
james_fritz@sbcglobal.net

Alternate Director:

Andrew J. Hood
860-646-2753
andrew.hood@snet.net

Secretary:

Kevin T. Burke
203-729-1603
burke-kevin@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer:

Richard Hart
203-484-9925
huntcar@att.net

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. Activity schedules are included in each issue. Articles and activity reports must be e-mailed to the editor no later than the fifth day of the month of the publication. Articles and activity reports must be sent in a Word Document in Times New Roman, font size 10. Reports sent from phones or tablets will be returned.

Editor's e-mail:
fpclark1@comcast.net

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/>

WANT TO HELP THE CONNECTICUT SECTION REDUCE EXPENSES AND SAVE TREES?

Just send an e-mail to the Editor, requesting that you be e-mailed *Trail Talk*, rather than having it printed and mailed. You'll receive *Trail Talk* sooner, too.

SPECIAL THANKS to members Charlotte Hitchcock and David Wells. Each issue Charlotte facilitates the e-mailing of *Trail Talk* by formatting the layout and reducing the file size; and David facilitates the mailing of *Trail Talk* by stuffing envelopes and donating the postage.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Metacomet Trail, December 7, 2019 by David Wells

The early December snowfall resulted in changing the planned hike from a traverse of the Metacomet Trail in East Granby to an out and back snowshoe. The meeting place was changed to East Granby Farms on Rte. 187. Utilizing the Brian Spears Trail, **Sarah O'Hare, Carol Langley**, and I climbed to the ridge near the summit of Peak Mountain and intersected the Metacomet Trail. Following the Metacomet, we walked north almost to the Suffield town line. We decided this was a good place to turn around as well as the stop for lunch. We then retraced our steps along the trail to the center tower of the three aircraft ridge warning light towers at which point we connected with an unmarked trail known to the leader and descended the ridge, soon reconnecting with the Brian Spears Trail and returning to East Granby Farms.

We crossed paths with several other hikers doing the Metacomet and an AMC CT group which had similarly changed their planned hike. The day was bright sunshine with a biting cold wind.

Barn Island Hike December 21, 2019 by Mandy Brink

So close to Christmas, I thought I would have some fun with the hike by assigning everyone a hiking elf name. Some of the hiking elves joining us were Figgy Shiny-Shoes, Tinsel Jelly-Pots, Sugar Plum Jingle Jangle, Tinsel Mug-Warmer, Gingerbread Pointy-Toes, Snowflake Bell Ringer, Kringle Nipper-Nose, Prancer Bell-Ringer and Kringle Stripey-Socks, to give you some examples. Everyone got a nametag with their elf name which proved to be fun later in the hike when other hikers passing by noticed our name tags and asked about them. It gave us another good laugh.

Several people in the group had not been to Barn Island before. It was the usual beautiful walk through the frozen marsh areas looking out into the ocean.

I wanted to show the ones new to Barn Island, the stone foundation for the house that Venture Smith had built and lived in for two years. We had been there last hike but of course I couldn't remember where it was exactly. Carol Langley to the rescue with her incredible sense of direction. She had been on the last hike and had a keen sense of the location. Even coming in from the opposite direction, she was able to lead us to it. There Tom and Patty Adams shared the history of Venture Smith, a freed slave, whose first home in freedom was on Barn Island. After that it was off to find the cemetery. Many of the stones are hard to read but we did find one stone dated to 1796. In the corner of the cemetery was a huge very green tree. It stood out among all the brown surrounding it. Joe informed us that it was an American Holly Tree. Because it didn't have a partner, it would never flower with the red berries we are used to seeing on Holly.

After about six miles of hiking, it was back to the car for our tailgate Christmas feast. Joe brought some delicious split pea soup, Carol some fudge, Mandy some eggnog and all participants came with cookies to share. I think we may have cancelled out any calories we burned hiking and then some. It was fun though and really set the mood for the holidays as everyone departed with their elf name and sample cookie tray in tow.

Hikers: Mandy Brink, Craig Guild, Joe Conaci, Carol Langley, Tom and Patty Adams, Linda and Don Hagstrom, Jim Robertson and our furry friends, Molson and Arlo.

Rocky Neck State Park New Year's Day Hike January 1, 2020 by Carol A. Langley

A beautiful sunny day greeted us. I cannot think of a better way to start off the New Year so I have been leading this hike for 31 years. Only one year do I remember that the hike was cancelled due to inclement weather. **Jim Robertson** and **Molson** were the first to arrive followed by **Andy** and **Holly Hood** and **Jocelyn Linnekin**.

Packs on our backs, off we started down the paved road which leads to the camping area. Soon we crossed the bridge and the lower parking lot, where we picked up the trail. There was evidence of several fallen trees that had recently been cut. Reaching our first junction, we hiked down the hill towards the pond. We then encountered some wet spots but soon started up a hill which led us to the parking lot off Rte.



156. Usually there are no cars in this lot, but today there were several. The good weather had everyone outside to start off the New Year.

We tried to use the trail that we had in the past, but a short distance in, it was under water. The next trail we tried also was under water. Finally, on our third try, we were successful and reached the old road that runs alongside the river. This led us to the Pavilion: our destination for lunch. Finding a table in the sun that had two fir trees to create a wind block, we settled down and the table soon was decorated with a chocolate bar, cookies and box of chocolates for us to dine on. The best treat of the day was in the leader's pack and soon all hikers were holding a shot of "Fireball Whiskey" to bring in the New Year. Now that we all had a little fire in us, it was time to set off and find Bakers Cave. Just as we crossed over the bridge, we met some people who knew the whereabouts of the cave and gave us directions. Jim took a picture of our happy group of GMC hikers.

We then crossed back over the bridge and started down to the beach area. The tide was coming in, so the waves were rolling some with white caps. We walked the boardwalk to the end and crossed over the parking lot back to the paved road. Jocelyn, Holly and I took a few minutes to check out the cabins with thoughts of future plans to bring our grandchildren for an overnight.

Soon we reached our cars and another wonderful hike with great friends was over. Thank you all for joining me and hope to see you next year when we will be at Hammonasset State Park.

White Memorial Foundation January 12, 2020 by Carol A. Langley

Another beautiful sunny winter/spring day greeted **Sarah O'Hare** and me as we prepared to hike. We started our hike walking down the dirt road past the museum and following the Bantam River until we crossed the Bissell Rd. The path then turned into a foot bed of pine needles from the evergreen forest we were walking through. A side trail led us to White's Woods Rd. where we picked up the Little Pond Trail. The trail took us onto a boardwalk skirting Little Pond and the Bantam River. A few geese were gathered together, holding court and making plans for winter if it ever decided to come and stay.

We then picked up the Pine Island Trail which connected with the Mattatuck Trail. That took us to Duck Pond where, a couple of winters ago, Sarah and I had the opportunity to watch a beaver for quite a time come out of his home and then return. Sad to say, the beaver house did not look like anyone lived there at the present time. Retracing our steps back out to the Mattatuck Trail, we walked back to our cars and had lunch at a picnic table in the sun in the field near the Carriage House.

After lunch, we followed the Yellow Blaze Lake Trail to the observation platform, but all was quiet and we moved on. We crossed over a cement water way which in years past was used for the ice that was claimed from Bantam Lake and sold to homesteads in the area. Crossing a dirt road, we

followed the Windmill Trail. That brought us to a camping area which led out to Whitehall Rd. This was our greatest challenge. Because the road was not paved, it had become a real muddy mess, where even cars coming and going were driving from side to side to pick the best spots. All too soon we were back at our cars and the day's event was coming to a close. Thanks for joining me, Sarah. I enjoyed your company. Temperatures were in the 60s as we drove home.

**Winter Weekend at Bolton Lodge
February 8-9, 2020
by Jim Robertson**

Bolton Lodge is one of the oldest structures in the Long Trail system. Built in 1928 and originally located on the LT, it had fallen into disrepair after the trail was rerouted away from the lodge and prior to an extensive renovation by the GMC in 2017. The result is a real gem, a fantastic GMC rental facility in a beautiful setting with easy access to miles of backcountry trails associated with the Bolton Valley Resort. The lodge can be accessed by a hike/ski/snowshoe of about 2/3 mile up the Catamount cross country ski trail from the resort access road, or a downhill 1.6-mile transit along the Catamount Trail from the main resort area.

As can happen during New England winters, our original plan to drive north on Friday and spend two nights at Bolton Lodge was scuttled by a major snowstorm (Bolton Valley reported 17 inches of new snow as a result), so most of us opted to wait until early Saturday morning to make the trip. **Lawrence Baxter** and **Dick Hart** decided to head up on Friday and got up the ski area access road to just beyond the Catamount Trail but no further as the snow got deeper and the plows struggled to keep the road clear. They reversed course and found hotel accommodations for the night in Montpelier.

The rest of the crew arrived Saturday morning. **Mandy Brink, Kevin Burke, Barb Kelly, Joe Conaci, Dennis Himes, and Jim Moore** took the longer but downhill route from the ski area, while Lawrence, Dick and the leader took the short but uphill slog. Several of us dragged sleds with gear in addition to carrying packs. On arrival we unloaded gear and food, got the wood stove going, and determined our afternoon activities.

Kevin and Lawrence stayed at the lodge while the rest of us snowshoed out along trails for a beautiful walk on a cold (temperatures never got out of single digits) but clear-sky day. We were accompanied by a friendly Husky/Samoyed that belongs to a local property owner lower down on the Catamount.

Upon returning, we were pleased to find that John Page, a former GMC president and current adopter of Bolton Lodge who played a big part in the 2017 renovation, had skied up for an afternoon visit. I'd had the good fortune to meet up with John two weeks earlier, when I'd gone up to scout Bolton Lodge during a Burlington Section event, during which he'd provided a wealth of background and information on the work required to upgrade the facility to its current state.

As the sunlight waned and a full moon rose over Ricker Mountain and the ski area, we feasted on Barb's appetizers, Mandy's chili and several other hearty eats, then played a few rounds of games – the names of which I didn't record – that resulted in hours of hilarity. By now, the outside temperatures had dropped below zero, but that didn't deter our true winter warriors Joe and Kevin from sleeping outside! Kevin had pitched his tent and Joe set out just ground cover and a cocoon-like arrangement with his sleeping bag. We didn't have an outside thermometer but Sunday morning temps were below -10 F. I was relieved to exit the lodge and hear Kevin call out a greeting. Joe was still sleeping soundly but stirred when I talked to him. Both reported cold feet but felt good otherwise. After stuffing ourselves with Dennis' blueberry pancakes, we packed our gear and headed down the Catamount Trail to the road. The leader shuttled groups back up to the ski area parking lot, ensuring that everyone's car started in the subzero weather. Mandy later remarked that it was an ideal trip from an elevation perspective: they traversed downhill from the ski area to Bolton Lodge one day, and downhill to the road the next. Despite the schedule adjustments due to weather, it turned out to be a great weekend, and we'll strongly consider renting Bolton Lodge (or Bryant Camp which is also in Bolton Valley) again.

**Quinnipiac Trail and Sanford Alternate Trail
February 15, 2020
by Sarah O'Hare**

After moving away many years ago, **Jocelyn Linnekin** has made Connecticut her home once again. Enthusiastic about reconnecting with the CT GMC, she joined **Carol Langley** and me on our hike this morning. The hike was a two-part hike, the first section from Cornwall Avenue to Rte. 42. As this trail was all about rocks and elevation change, the mild winter did us a favor with a snow and ice-free path. Throughout our climb we had views to the east of the Sleeping Giant. Needing to stop for a rest, the map showed what we thought would be a fine stopping place. Roaring Brook (and its falls) was our destination. It was a disappointment, however, as the brook certainly did not live up to its name and the falls were not much more than a trickle. After continuing on, we found the true Roaring Brook, flowing fast and deep. An ice formation on a log spanning the brook took on the appearance of a lovely lace curtain valance. The falls were impressive and were a destination for many hikers, as noted by the worn paths to the brook's edge.

After this section's hike of four miles, we descended to Rte. 42, crossed, and began the second portion, a loop encompassing the Quinnipiac and the Sanford Alternate Trails. The Quinnipiac Trail led us down into the picturesque Nettleton's Ravine. The trail then divided; we stayed the course on the Quinnipiac. For 1.5 miles we climbed, eventually reaching the summit of Mt. Sanford. Our timing was

perfect as it was the noon hour and we were ready for lunch. Refreshed, we forged on, now descending. A view of a horse farm below gave Jocelyn a heartfelt pause, as she had recently sold her sheep and horse farm in Massachusetts. Continuing our descent, we arrived at the deserted YMCA Camp Laurel. It won't be long before the voices of happy campers will reach the ears of hikers who pass by. But now, the camp was silent. Passing the camp, Carol remembered an old lean-to somewhere nearby. Sure enough, it was still standing. We stopped in to hear Carol's story of a visit some years ago and of finding a large animal inside the shelter. Oh, and the creature was dead.

With another mile to go and mostly uphill, we did our best to keep up the pace. Reaching the junction with the Quinnipiac Trail, we headed down into Nettleton's Ravine. Arriving back at our cars, we were happy to have hiked this seven-mile trail, an invigorating start to a new year of hiking.

**Story Spring Shelter Backpack
February 15-16, 2020
by Jim Robertson**

We'd considered a number of destinations for this winter backpacking weekend, including Spruce Peak Shelter or Little Rock Pond Shelter, depending on the weather. As the weekend approached, **Mark Blanchard, Kevin and Eric Breton, Kevin Burke**, and I decided we'd go to Stratton Pond Shelter as we hadn't snowshoed and camped there in several years. As sometimes happens with plans, however,



we made a last-minute venue change. On arriving at the LT/AT parking area on the Kelley Stand Road, we discovered one group of ten and another group of five all gearing up to trek into Stratton Pond overnight. With our five intrepid trekkers, that would put the shelter population at twenty. So, to paraphrase the famous New England laureate, we decided on the road less traveled, and headed towards Story Spring Shelter via the roads then the Long Trail from USFS Road 71.

The Kelley Stand Road and USFS 71 were well packed and groomed by snowmobiles so we made good time (photo by author). Arrived at the LT crossing at 11:45 and figured we had this trip in the bag with only 1.6 miles on the LT remaining, although the snow was unbroken and averaged two feet deep. In most places, the contour of the trail guided us, but the trees were covered with ice and windblown snow, which obscured many of the white blazes. We made slow but steady progress with Kevin Breton and Mark doing most of the trail-breaking until ... we realized we were off the trail. So, we fanned out, seeking some sign of the footpath.

Human performance studies show that, in unfamiliar situations, the risk of negative consequences increases. At one point, Kevin Burke apparently found a low spot or gap between rocks with particularly deep snow that engulfed him (he later apologized for what he characterized as “sailor language”) and the leader did a noteworthy turtle imitation in another area.

Fortunately, no one captured these mishaps with cameras. Although we don't rely on technology in the woods, Kevin's Guthook phone app and my Apple iPhone map app combined with Mark's land navigation skills, got us back on the trail after about 30 minutes of wandering. But the sky was bright blue and the forest was truly a winter wonderland.

We arrived at the shelter around 2:15 and set about digging out the picnic table and the approximate location of the fire pit. There was just a bit of windblown snow in the shelter that was easy to scrape out. Firewood collection was a challenge, since the immediate area has been scoured and most of the remaining standing dead wood was distant and encased in ice. After a few hours of collecting, sawing and splitting, we were able to get a fire going, albeit slowly and with constant attention.

Warm meals and drinks, stories and general merriment filled the evening until the fire started to die down around 8:30 and we crawled into our sleeping bags in the shelter. Temperature was about 10 degrees then but actually warmed overnight as winds shifted to the southwest, bringing some snow and wind but making for generally comfortable sleeping.

On Sunday morning we had quick hot breakfasts, packed and trekked back out to the Kelley Stand Road parking lot. We said goodbye to Mark who was headed back up to his place at Bromley and the rest of us stopped at the West Wardsboro general store for coffee and a few more calories. Thanks to the usual group of winter warriors for an enjoyable weekend.

**Tri-Town Forest Preserve, North Stonington
February 22, 2020
by Mandy Brink**

Did we have the right month for a winter hike listed as possibly a snowshoe hike? It felt like a warm April day and by the time we finished our hike at 1:15, it was 50 degrees. **Don and Linda Hagstrom, Sarah O'Hare, Jim Robertson and Molson**, and I met at the trailhead and started with a get-well picture from the group to George Jackson. Sarah had made some large get-well posters so we posed, got a group shot and sent the picture via Facebook so George would know we were thinking of him.

We started down the red trail, studied the maps for our hike options, and decided to go the blue trail which covers the circumference of the preserve and is listed as the most difficult. We found the foundation for the Charles Main farm, which was fun to explore. There is also a display to read about the history of the farm and local area. The hike had its decent ups and downs. This preserve is full of varied, beautiful stone walls. We stopped often to study them and talk about what we thought they represented. We had a brief snack at the top of one ridge where Molson was happy to get the first of Linda's treats.

We ran into a very friendly group of hikers from Portland who are part of the Meshomasic Hiking Club. We shared information about our clubs and invited each other to any future hikes. We found a

great lunch spot with some stones that were like seats. From there we hiked down to Lost Pond. Due to time restraints, mainly Mandy needing to go to work, we cut onto the yellow trail that lead us back to the car. There was one small section on the blue trail that we missed but we will grab that next time. Mileage for the day was five miles.

Adirondack Trip
February 28-March 1, 2020
by Joe Conaci

On Friday, **Kevin Burke** and I were the first to arrive at the rented house in the Village of Saranac Lake. **Mandy Brink, Barb Kelly, and Jim Robertson** arrived shortly afterwards. We warmed up with a dinner of tomato soup, after which Mandy presented a cake to celebrate Jim's birthday and retirement. **Dennis Himes and Maure Briggs** arrived subsequently. After some discussion of hiking plans for the next day, I went to sleep outside – to test out some neat gear I made. The next morning, we split into three groups, Dennis and I headed to the Western High Peaks, while Barb, Jim, and Mandy set out for Ampersand Mountain, and Maure hiked into Saranac Lake to explore the village.

Ampersand Mountain is a 1,021-meter peak named after the circuitous form of nearby bodies of water. Barb, Jim, and Mandy found a gradual approach to the mountain, that suddenly became steeper after a mile and a half.

The trail then became precipitously steep shortly before the summit, with much treacherous ice. However, the cloudy skies cleared up enough that they were treated to fantastic views from all sides of the rocky summit. To the north, the Saranac Lakes; to the east, the highest mountains in New York State; and to the south, the Seward and Santanoni Ranges. They completed the five-mile out and back in about six hours.

Dennis and I drove further west, over some still snow-covered roads, through the summer hamlet of Coreys, to Seymour Mountain. A mountain named after a mostly forgotten Governor, it lacks an established trail to the peak. In the Adirondacks, these trail-less peaks often have worn-down herd paths that drive Leave No Trace practitioners mad. We hiked six and a half miles along the Blueberry Trail and then took the Ward Brook Truck Trail. This relatively flat terrain took about three hours. At the start of the herd path, we were encouraged to see that the snow on this seven-hundred-meter climb was already broken out.

However, about a half-way through this route, we encountered two other snowshoers headed down. They had given up without reaching the summit.

This meant that Dennis and I would have to break trail and navigate through spruce traps to the peak. The next stretch of the herd path followed along an old land-slide, which was very steep. I pulled ahead of Dennis at this point. Above the slide, I found that the previous hikers had gotten very confused, leaving many interconnected paths among the false summits. I broke trail over the last third of a mile, through some three meter deep snowdrifts. Unfortunately for Dennis, my internal frame backpack and shorter stature meant I left a very narrow trail to the summit.

With these, and other difficulties, there was only about an hour and a half of daylight when we began to descend. We traversed the land-slide section of the herd path with an appropriate amount of our own slides; then, by headlamp, back along the Ward Brook Truck Trail and the Blueberry Trail. We were tired, so it was a slow pace, taking nearly another five hours to reach the trailhead. We were immensely relieved to reach the cars, but not nearly as much as Barb and Jim, who were waiting there to ensure our safe return.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2020

Sun. 15 Mar.—Tunxis Trail from CT Rt. 179 Pine Mtn Road to Ratlum Rd. 6.8 miles. Meet 9:00 a.m. at the trail crossing on Ratlum Road which is 0.2 miles in from CT Rt. 219 north of the Barkhamsted Reservoir dam. Level: Moderate.
Leader: Dave Wells, 413-789-1097, dwellshiker@earthlink.net

Wed. 18 Mar.—Day hike. Nehantic/Pachaug Trail, Voluntown. 6.5 miles. Northern end of the Nehantic Trail to the northern end of the Pachaug Trail. Level: Moderate.
Leader: Sarah O'Hare, seohare7@yahoo.com.

Sun. 22 Mar.—Westwoods Trails. Meet 10:00 a.m. Parking at Peddlers Rd., off U.S. Route 1. Plan to hike 6-7 miles in a maze of trails. Level: Easy/Moderate.
Leader: Carol A. Langley
860-877-4449 cosmical42@gmail.com

Sat. 28 Mar.—51st Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Section of the GMC. Cheshire Grange. Details forthcoming.

Note: The Annual Meeting is POSTPONED INDEFINITELY, due to the COVID-19 virus, on the recommendation of the GMC

Sun. 29 Mar.—Day Hike to work off the Annual Dinner. Contact Jim Robertson for details. jrobert685@aol.com; 860-633-7279

APRIL 2020

Sun. 05 Apr.—Day hike, Hike around Green Falls Pond and then join the Nehantic Trail to hike to Route 49 in Pachaug State Forest. Meet at the Green Falls trail head at 12 noon. Plans to go to Buttonwoods for ice cream afterwards. Mileage 6.5. Level: Easy.
Leader: Mandy Brink: trekeragb@sbcglobal.net or cell 860-237-7426.

Sat. 11 Apr. [Easter Weekend]—Hike the western part of McLean Game Refuge. Hike about 4 miles on blazed trails as well as unblazed terrain - this hike will require bushwacking. We will explore cellar holes and stone works. Meet 9 AM at the Refuge

access on Westledge Road, West Simsbury. Level: Moderate to Difficult.

Leader: Dave Wells, dwellshiker@earthlink.net

Sat. 18 Apr.—Lowden Brook Trail Loop. Pachaug State Forest. Meet at Youth Area parking lot at 9am in Pachaug S.F. Mileage 3.6 miles with options to add more miles based on time and group. Option for ice cream at Buttonwoods afterwards. Level: Moderate. Leader: Mandy Brink: trekeragb@sbcglobal.net. or cell 860-237-7426.

Wed. 22 Apr.—Torrington Trails. Walcott, John Muir and Testone Loop Trails. Approx. 6.5 miles. Level: Moderate.
Leader: Sarah O'Hare, seohare7@yahoo.com.

Sun. 26 Apr.—Day Hike, Buckingham Reservoir and Case Mountain Recreational Area, Glastonbury/Manchester. Meet 9:00 am at parking area on Coop Road off CT Route 94/Hebron Avenue in Glastonbury. Hike to Case Mountain and return. About 9 miles. Dogs on leashes welcome. Level: Easy/moderate.
Leader: Jim Robertson, jrobert685@aol.com, 860-633-7279 home, 860-918-0964 cell

MAY 2020

Sat. 02 May—Rocky Neck Extended Loop Trail, Niantic CT. Meet a trailhead on CT - 156 W at 9am. Miles 3.9 miles. Level: Easy.
Leader: Mandy Brink: trekeragb@sbcglobal.net or cell phone 860-237-7426.

Sun. 03 May - Mon. 04 May—Backpack. CT and NY AT. 7 easy miles from Bulls Bridge south into Wiley Shelter in NY where camp fires are allowed. Return on Monday. 14 miles total.
Leader: Sarah O'Hare, seohare7@yahoo.com.

Sun. 10 May—Bird and Flower Walk at White Memorial Foundation, Litchfield, CT. On this walk our attention will be focused on looking for wildflowers and birds, in particular warblers, as well as listening for bird songs. The distance we'll walk could be 5 to 6 miles however this is a guesstimate. Bring binoculars and bird and wildflower identification books. Meet 9 AM at the White Memorial Visitor Center parking lot off Rt 202, Litchfield, CT. Level: Easy.
Leader: Dave Wells, dwellshiker@earthlink.net.

Fri. 15 May – Sun. 17 May—Trail Maintenance Weekend at Story Spring Shelter. Level: Moderate. Contact: Mike Shaw, 860-381-9130 call or text, msshaw2@mail.com

Sat. 23 May—Windmill Ridge Nature Reserve/Putney Mountain VT. A Spring hike in southern Vermont. Contact leader for details. Leader: Jim Robertson, jrobert685@aol.com, 860-633-7279 home, 860-918-0964 cell

Sat. 30 May—Berlin Land Trust, Old Girl Scout Camp Merribrite. Meet 10:00 parking lot off Rte. 372 Chamberlain Highway. Hike 5-6 miles Level: Easy. Leader: Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449 cosmical42@gmail.com

JUNE 2020

Wed. 03 Jun.—Menunkatuck and Mattabesett Trails. Rt.80 to Bluff Head parking on Rt. 77 Guilford. Approx 6.5 miles. Level: Moderate. Leader: Sarah O'Hare, seohare7@yahoo.com

Fri. 05 Jun. – Sun. 07 Jun.—Trail Maintenance Weekend at Kid Gore Shelter. Level: Moderate. Contact: Mike Shaw, 860-381-9130 call or text, msshaw2@mail.com

Sat. 06 Jun.—Grandparents Hike on Rails/Trails in Southington. Get out the strollers, carriages and childrens' bikes. We will walk 1.5 miles into downtown for Ice Cream and return to parking area on Lazy Lane off Rte. 10 L. Leader: Carol A. Langley, 860-877-4449, cosmical42@gmail.com

Sat. 13 Jun.—110th GMC Annual Meeting hosted by the Laraway, Northern Frontier and Sterling Sections at Sterling College, Craftsbury Common, VT. See details at <https://www.greenmountainclub.org/annual-meeting/>

Wed. 17 Jun.—Nature Walk. Walden Preserve, Salem. 3 easy miles through meadow, wetlands and woodlands. Sadly, no dogs are allowed. Sarah O'Hare, seohare7@yahoo.com.

Sat. 20 Jun.—West Mountain Trails, properties of the Simsbury Land Trust. Loop hike of about 5 miles. Meet 9 AM at parking area on Westledge Road (Rt 309) (almost opposite Pasture Lane), West Simsbury, CT. Level: Moderate to Difficult. Leader: Dave Wells, dwellshiker@earthlink.net

Fri. 26 Jun. – Mon. 29 Jun.—Backpack the AT in Maine from Route 4 to Caribou Valley Rd. Distance 24 miles. Level: Difficult. Leader: Mandy Brink, trekeragb@sbcglobal.net or cell 860-237-7426

Sat. 27 Jun.—Annual Farmington River Paddle. Meet 9:00 Launch Site off Rte. 4 in Farmington. Plans are to paddle 10 miles to Curtiss Park. Option to take out at 5 miles at Sycamore Tree where we will do lunch. Level: Easy/Moderate. Must wear a life jacket. Leader: Carol A. Langley, 860-877-4449, cosmical42@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE:

Wed. 02 Sep.—Sun. 13 Sep.—High adventure to paddle the Allagash River in Maine. If interested in further details, please email Mandy Brink at trekeragb@sbcglobal.net



*February Winter Weekend:
group at Bolton Lodge,
photo by Jim Robertson*