



CONNECTICUT SECTION OF THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB

Volume LI, Issue I

January to March 2019

Fred Clark, Editor

President's Message

December 2018

A group of Connecticut Section members participated in a backpacking trip to Bourn Pond in Vermont in mid-October, led by Sarah O'Hare. It was a pleasant three-mile hike in to the Pond and an enjoyable camping weekend despite a bit of rain and wet snow, a reminder that Winter sometimes comes early to the mountains, especially in New England. With the continued snow accumulation up north and the generally cool wet weather here in Connecticut, it appears that winter may be here to stay this year. The above-average rainfall in October and November has created a second "mud season" on many hiking trails in the Northeast. Normally the one mud season in Spring is enough; this year we've experienced a second one.

As we arrived back at the parking lot at the Branch Pond recreation area, we met a number of folks who are part of Wilderness Volunteers (wildernessvolunteers.org), a Flagstaff, Arizona-based group of trail enthusiasts who travel throughout the USA to do volunteer trail work. This group, many of whom had driven cross-country from Arizona and Nevada, planned to spend a week working on trail clearing and hardening between Bourn Pond and Stratton Pond in the Lye Brook Wilderness! They extended an open invitation to us to come out to Arizona to hike and/or work with them in the future.

Our own trail maintenance work is done for the year, thanks to VP Mike Shaw and the many Section members who turned out for trail work weekends from April to September. We continue to receive compliments from long distance hikers about the good condition of our 12 miles of the Long Trail.

Mark your calendar: Activities VP Dennis Himes has set a date of Saturday March 30, 2019 with the Cheshire Grange for our annual dinner and meeting. This will mark the celebration of our 50th anniversary as a chartered GMC section.

It's that time of the year that is sometimes called "stick season," when most of the leaves are down, and our favorite trails provide some great views that we don't get in summer. We've enjoyed some open vistas on our recent hikes and have more events listed on the activity schedule in this *Trail Talk*. Hope you have plenty of opportunities to get out and enjoy the Winter season.

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

(860) 729-1603

burke-kevin@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer:

Richard Hart

(860) 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 sent to the editor no later than the FIFTH day of the month of the publication. Article and activity reports must be sent in a Word Document in Times New Roman, font size 10. Reports sent from iPhones or iPads will be returned.

Send articles and activity reports to:

Fred Clark

1 Horse Run Hill Road

Cromwell, CT 06416-1133

fpclark1@comcast.net

MEMBERSHIP: When joining or renewing your membership in the Green Mountain Club, circle *Connecticut Section* on the application to 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

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

WANT TO HELP THE CONNECTICUT SECTION REDUCE EXPENSES AND SAVE TREES? Just e-mail the Editor, requesting that you be e-mailed *Trail Talk*, rather than having it 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 reducing the file size of the attachment, and David facilitates the mailing of *Trail Talk* by stuffing envelopes and donating the postage.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Rangeley, Maine – South Arm Rd.

Sept. 9-13, 2018

Dave Wells and I met Dan Zelterman at the Hiker Hut in Rangeley, Maine. After settling in the bunk house Dan drove us into town and we had dinner at Parkside & Main. Excellent food and lovely views of Rangeley Lake. This was our second visit. On our return trip what do we see but a backpacker hitch-hiking. Dan pulls over and the boy jumps into the jeep. We drive him to the local IGA just up the road and wait for him to buy a few necessary food items. He is then dropped off at the trailhead and continues the journey.

Back at the hiker hut everyone climbs into their sleeping bags and lights are out soon. During the night on a visit with mother nature I took the time to view the night sky and saw the Milky Way which we cannot see here in CT. Up at the crack of dawn, and breakfast done, we are ready to hike. Steve Lynch recommended that we leave our cars at his place and he would drive us to the trail head.

Mon. Sept. 10: On the trail before 9:00 we had miles to go and planned to do two days hike in one because of the impending bad weather that was expected after 3:00 that day. Lunch was at the Little Swift River Campsite and we moved on. Nothing is easy in Maine. Rocks, roots and mud again. 1 mile an hour. I had spoken with the Jolly Green Giant a/k/a Dave and asked him to go ahead and save a spot at the shelter for Grandpa & Grandma. Dave sped along and reached the shelter a little after 3:00. Dan and I pulled in around 6:00. No one was there except Dave. While we were cooking our dinner a young couple came in but no one else. A quiet night. Not really. The rain came down in buckets, drumming on the metal roof and the wind howled. We had hiked 9.4 miles so a good night's rest would have been great!!

Tues. Sept. 11: We waited out the storm until 11:00 a.m. Raingear on, we proceeded to hike to our next night's site. Along the way Dan and I stopped and talked with two L.L. Bean marketing reps that were doing a short section. When we reached Rte. 17 Dan announced that he was not going on. So we waited with him while he called and sent a text to Steve Lynch to pick him up. Assuring us he would be okay, we continued on. Dave and I then descended 1,000 feet in .7 mile. We found a lovely campsite and a babbling brook just a few feet away. Darkness was moving fast into the valley so tents were up and

dinner was cooked in record time. Food secured in our bear canisters, we climbed into our bags. Around 1:00 a.m. a mother grouse moved in and was very disturbed with Dave's sawing wood in the wee hours. She made quite a racket, squealing three different times, but Dave did not hear her. She finally took the chicks left. We hiked 4.5 miles – the distance was easy, but not the terrain.

Wed. Sept. 12: Up at first light we were ready to go. Only the Good Lord knew what we were in for. It was more of the same terrain. Much to our surprise we reached the Bemis Mt. Shelter a little after 2:00. Did my watch stop? We purified our water and claimed our spaces in the shelter. We even took a nap. Around 4:00 people started coming by to check the shelter but chose to go up on the hill and tent. Only one gentleman joined us. Quiet night. Only the little brook sang. Only 3.8 miles.

Thurs. Sept. 13: Now what is that noise? It is pitch black out, 5:30 a.m. The hiker who joined us is getting ready for his day. We have a big day so we should get a move on. I believe we left the shelter a little after 7:30 a.m. Today we climbed Bemis Mt. and Old Blue. Today we would be walking up a stream of water that ran down the rock trail. On Mon. we had over 2 inches of rain so water was just oozing out of the ground everywhere. Mud and pools of water in areas were knee deep. We carefully walked over broken puncheons, hopped between rocks, etc. We found an open spot with a view for lunch. The trail opened for about 2 miles with a smooth path of pine needles then the last 2 miles were exhausting as the trail hugged the side of a mountain with roots and rocks. Thank heavens there were trees to hold onto. Do I see the road? What a wonderful sight. We finally reached South Arm Rd. at 5:30. Steve our shuttle driver would be picking us up at 6:00. We hiked 10.5 miles in 10 hours. Steve took us along Rte. 17 and we saw a beautiful sunset over Rangeley Lake. Arriving back at the Hiker Hut it was after 7:00. We decided to spend another night rather than tangle with a MOOSE on the loose. Quick showers and into town to eat, only one restaurant was open: Forks in the Air. We had a lovely dinner then treated ourselves to a large dish of great vanilla ice cream. MAINE IS DONE!!!! Next Year I hope to finish New Hampshire. Hope you will join me. Dan has already signed on! Dan earned his wings on this trip. He waited two hours before getting a ride and then treated two hikers to dinner at Parkside Rest.

Hikers:

Dave Wells, Dan Zelterman, Carol A. Langley

Long Trail Maintenance

Sept. 28-30, 2018

The Tale of the Shelter Mighty Mouse

I wonder if they scope us out as we walk up the trail, the critters of the woods? First to arrive was Mike, dedicated to drive up with equipment and make sure we had what we needed before heading back to CT due to travel plans to Guam. Next to arrive were Kevin, Barb, Dick and Sven. They got busy working on trimming up hobble bush. Mandy arrived for dinner and Dennis by the light of his flashlight at dark. Were they plotting and planning on which food bag looked the most delicious as we finished up dinner? We safely placed our food bags in the bear boxes and headed to bed at backpackers midnight.

And while we slept, Mighty Mouse was at work. His work was discovered as we pulled out bags for breakfast. Somehow Mighty Mouse had managed to crawl into the locked bear box to attack and the chosen bag was Sven's with a hole chewed in the bottom and a granola bar munched upon.

So off to work we went. Some to touch up blazes, some to do water bars and some to trim hobble bush. We were out all day working hard. We began to hear tales on the trail. Tales of a hanging bag back at the shelter that had been attacked by "something big". Sven had duck taped his food bag and had it hanging on one of those cans that are supposed to keep critters away from the bags. Our theory in talking later in the evening was that when Sven was out, he was working in a spruce area that clearly upset the squirrels because they sent a message to the Story Springs shelter critters to Kamikaze Sven's bag. One hiker claimed to see a chipmunk hanging off of it. Either way, the bag was pretty well shredded and food on the shelter floor.

Walking back on the 3 miles of trail that we had worked on, we were proud to say the trail looked great. The water bars were working, the water draining off the trail, the trail wide for easy hiking and the down trees removed. Many appreciative hikers thanked us for our work. Back at the shelter, Kevin had cut wood for a fire, Sven declared his bag a goner and we settled down for a snack of cookies. Later we had dinner, lit a fire and enjoyed the relaxing evening of tales around the campfire. The sky was clear and the stars sparkled everywhere. Dennis who knows a lot about the skies was pointing out the different stars and constellations. It was a productive and fulfilling weekend.

Trail Maintenance Workers: Mike Shaw, Dick Hart, Kevin Burke, Sven Englund, Barb Kelly, Dennis Himes and Mandy Brink

Zoar Trail, CT

Sept. 8, 2018

There was some uncertainty whether or not Leslie and Richard were coming on the hike. In case they showed, a note was left directing them to begin the hike on the trail leading lakeside. The first couple of miles of the Zoar Trail followed the shoreline of Lake Zoar. Views of the lake were enough to keep George and Don from complaining about the rocky ups and downs. Across the lake we could see Jackson Cove. The recreation area appeared eerily quiet as the busy summer season had long since ended. The only dwelling we saw was an old, beat up houseboat moored just steps off the trail. With imaginations running to the macabre we picked up the pace and moved along.

The trail made a sharp turn inland and ascended steeply. A side trail directed us a short distance to Prydden Falls, where we stopped for a rest. Refreshed, we continued along and at some point it was realized that we were on some old road rather than the trail. After retracing our steps a short way we suddenly saw two hikers heading up a hill. Assuming they were on the actual trail we quickened our pace. We then realized that it was Leslie and Rich. Apparently we had started out on our hike just moments before they arrived and they had been only minutes behind us all this time. With Rich now in the lead we were certain to stay the course and not miss any more turns.

As we neared the last leg of our hike we glimpsed the parking lot through the trees. Surely something was amiss as we hadn't yet gotten to the road walk section. Much to our delight, it appeared that there had been a trail relocation to keep hikers off the roadway. Whether it shortened or lengthened the original 6.5 mile trek we didn't know. But we did know that we had a fine time on the Zoar Trail.

Hikers: George Jackson, Don Hagstrom, Leslie and Richard Chandler

Leader: Sarah O'Hare



Bourn Pond, VT

Oct. 13-14, 2018

It had been a rainy week leading up to our much-anticipated backpacking trek to Bourn Pond. The rain was ever so slowly tapering off as we drove up to VT on Saturday morning. Much to our surprise, however, the light rain was turning to snow! The trail into Bourn Pond was short, a normally easy three-mile hike on the Branch Pond Trail. Today, though, much of the trail was underwater so it became a rock-hopping and careful balancing act to get through. We all arrived safely and quickly tended to setting up our tents. The plan had been to take a short hike over to nearby Stratton Pond, a fine way to spend a long afternoon. Kevin, however, had other plans for us. If we wanted a fire then we all had to pitch in and gather wood. As priorities prevailed, we set out looking for firewood. Not only was it late in the season for finding firewood close by, it was soaked through. How would it be possible to get a fire going at all? Never underestimate the skills of Kevin and Jim. With saws and hatchets at work we had plenty of wet wood at the ready. And while many men take pride in starting a one-match fire, Jim has surpassed that ability. He used his magical survival skills to start a zero-match fire! In no time a fire had miraculously caught and was warming our afternoon.

As the afternoon turned to evening, stoves were set up and dinners were cooking. Kevin and I took turns playing our Indian flutes, our soft melodies circling over the pond. Mother Nature must have approved as she cleared the skies and let the stars shine through. We awoke to a chilly morning and as the mist lifted we could see Stratton Mountain in the distance. A lone loon was on watch for its morning meal. We packed our wet gear and headed back down the trail, the sun shining on us for a change. While not ready to head home just yet, I suggested we stop at Molly Stark State Park and hike up Mt. Olga. Kevin and Eric had thoughts of pizza and beer, Linda, Don and George had chores waiting at home, so just Jim and I stopped at the park and hiked the easy mile up to the summit of Mt. Olga. A climb up the fire tower afforded a fine view of mountains as far away as NH and MA. While our Bourn Pond companions missed out on an enjoyable side trip, we all had a memorable weekend in Vermont.

Trekkers: Jim Robertson, George Jackson, Kevin Breton, Eric Breton, Linda and Don Hagstrom
Leader: Sarah O'Hare

Mattatuck Trail, CT

Nov. 18, 2018

The Mattatuck Trail in Cornwall has been extended south into Warren. We began this seven mile section on Valley Road and hiked north to Flat Rocks Road. A few inches of crusty snow made for an arduous trek. However, without the snow cover, we wouldn't have had an inkling of what creatures roamed these woods. Animal tracks showed quite an array. From the tiniest mouse prints to the very large bear tracks; and there were prints, too, from a raccoon walking along a log, turkey, coyote (possibly a pack) and deer. The only wildlife we did see were the minuscule springtails (snow fleas), appearing as black dots on the snow.

The trail was hilly, crossed many fast flowing streams, wound through boulder fields and provided a view of the northern end of the Upper Shepaug Reservoir. While the trail conditions made for a difficult hike, it was a memorable adventure.

Hikers: George Jackson, Dave Wells
Leader: Sarah O'Hare

Heublein Tower Hike, CT

Oct. 28, 2018

Hoping for nice fall weather the leader scheduled this hike to the Heublein Tower for the Sunday of the last weekend that the tower was expected to be open for the season. Unfortunately, his forecasting skills weren't so good. Saturday the 27th was a beautiful autumn day. Sunday turned out to be wet and misty. Despite that, a good crew turned out for this annual Section tradition. We met at the MDC water treatment plant at Reservoir Number 6 and started out. The maintained road wasn't bad but once we continued onto the Metacomet connector we found the trail to be as wet as it's ever been, with small streams crossing the footpath and generally wet muddy conditions. Molson was in his element in the mud but the two-legged hikers were subject to some wet feet.

The low clouds blocked the normally nice views from the Metacomet on the ridge above the Farmington River valley. We proceeded on hoping that the skies might clear at the summit. Upon reaching the Tower, only Linda and I decided to climb the tower to the observation deck. For Linda it was her first time ever up the tower. From the top deck, not only were the valley and Simsbury blocked from view, but we could barely see to the ground below us! Stopping to look at

the exhibits and restored rooms inside the structure provided some consolation.

We rendezvoused at the bottom and walked over the large pavilion overlooking Avon for lunch at the picnic tables. As is typical several folks brought Fall-themed snacks to share, so we all had a delicious dose of sugary goodness. The hike downhill along the Metacomet Trail to the reservoir found the trail as wet as earlier, with one set of puncheon boards mostly in, rather than over, the water.

As it turned out, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection decided to reopen the tower the following weekend, the first weekend of November, because the foliage season peaked so late this year. If I'd only known oh, well. Thanks to everyone who joined our annual sojourn. We'll do it again next year.

Hikers: Don and Linda Hagstrom, George Jackson, Bob and Mel Michaud, Sarah O'Hare, Darry Ruitter.
Leaders: Jim Robertson & Molson the Alpha Dog

Devil's Hopyard State Park Hike, CT Nov. 11, 2018

We had a nice November day for a hike on several loop trails in Devil's Hopyard. In contrast to the event two years ago when Connecticut had a drought, this year was just the opposite. Chapman Falls were roaring with the most flow I ever recall seeing. The trails were extremely wet and muddy. But for a few minutes before the hike, I wasn't sure I would even make it to the starting point. Unbeknownst to us, the Foxtown Road bridge over the top of the falls is closed to vehicle traffic, apparently because it needs some type of structural repair. So anyone approaching from the east (like the leader), had to park on that side and walk across. Turned out that Bob and Mel had driven in from the east side as well but had arrived early enough to loop back around to the west on Hopyard Road. Once we were all together, we started on the Red trail to the west and back southeast, connecting with the Yellow trail to a height of land and lookout. This modest vista provided a good spot for a break and "elevensies" at 11:00, in recognition of the third meal of the day eaten by hobbits in J. R. R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* books. Molson enjoyed some steak, courtesy of Linda and Don, then we hiked down into the main park area, finding some picnic tables in the sun for lunch.

After lunch it was across the covered bridge over Eightmile River and up to the vista overlooking the

river valley, where we had some nice views and found another hiker who was willing to take a photo of our group. A fair number of other hikers were traversing the same area, enjoying the beautiful day. We returned via the Orange loop along the river, with its challenging rock climbs. Along the river as we neared the covered bridge we passed a group setting up some type of Satanic picnic, including some folks under the supervision of two young men (warlocks?) weaving a pentagram of twine and a group of young women (witches? Wiccans?) sitting in a circle smoking and saying incantations (just kidding about the latter). Where else but in Devil's Hopyard State Park!

Hikers: Don and Linda Hagstrom, Carol Langley, Bob and Mel Michaud, Darry Ruitter.
Leaders: Jim Robertson & Molson the Alpha Dog

Annual Turkey Trot, McLean Refuge, CT Nov. 24, 2018

On a cloudy brisk day seven hikers joined me. Promptly at 9:30 we were off since the temps were cool and no one wanted to stand around. A short walk on the dirt road that led into the refuge and we picked up the Blue Trail which is part of the Loop Trails. The ground was frozen because of the few cold nights we had, which was a blessing; otherwise, we would have been walking in mud as we did on a previous hike.

We stayed on the Blue Trail until we reached a dirt road where we picked up the Summit Trail. Reaching the summit where generally one would see horses—being ridden in the field or just grazing—there were none in sight. When we took a short break my oldest daughter Paula remarked that I had said the trail was easy and mostly flat. Well after the summer I had hiking in Maine and New Hampshire this was flat. When we descended the Summit Trail we picked up the North Purple Trail.

The North Trail became very easy with its rolling path leading us to the Spring Pond Trail where we spent a few moments taking in the beauty of this place. Cabin is still standing and in good shape. Leaving the Spring Pond area, we picked up the Orange Horse Trail which in short time had us back to our cars. This was probably the fastest time that I had hiked in McLean. We were finished at 12:30. I have looked through many of the old issues of *Trail Talk* but could not find the exact year that I started doing this hike the Sat. after Thanksgiving but it is somewhere in the 20's. I am going to keep looking and will have the correct

number of years for next year's hike. Thanks for joining me on the annual event for the Connecticut Section!

Hikers: Carol A. Langley, Paula A. Drivdahl, my oldest daughter, Karen A. Palumbo, my youngest daughter and my granddaughter Marissa M. Drivdahl, Mel & Bob Michaud, Darry Ruiter, Dave Wells.

Metacomet Trail, CT

Dec. 1, 2018

The blue-blazed Metacomet Trail is a 62-mile trail that follows a traprock ridge from Meriden to Massachusetts. Our hike was the northern portion consisting of eight miles and over two mountains from East Granby into Southwick, MA. Beginning at Rte. 20, we climbed up Peak Mtn. All along its ridge we had vast views. We could see the Heublein Tower to the south, the Litchfield hills to the west, and the historical Newgate Prison below. At a popular overlook, just a mile from the start, a hiker was searching for his glasses that he had lost the day prior. He had given up his search when we came along. He graciously offered to take a photo of our group, and then, just as if on cue, Carol's sharp eye caught a glint of light - his glasses were found! The grateful hiker departed and then we, too, were on our way.

As we continued on, the basalt rocks along the cliff edge gave an other-worldly feel. There was a particular spot along here known as Chimney Point. Indeed, the rock formations did appear as chimneys. At the East Granby-Suffield town line there was another fine rocky overlook, just the spot for our lunch stop. While we observed planes from Westover AFB flying over, a keen eye focused in on a short piece of rainbow between two clouds. Carol explained that this atmospheric phenomenon was known as a sundog. Sundogs typically appear as a pair, one on each side of the sun. Due to the trees, we couldn't see if there was a companion to the first.

Crossing Phelps Road, we then began the ascent of Suffield Mtn. Again, as along Peak Mtn., the path followed a rocky ridgeline, but without as many views. It gradually descended into Massachusetts where the blazes became white and the trail was underwater. The bog bridges were in serious need of repair. It was but a short way from here to the end at Rising Corners Road. The hike ended as happily as it began, with friends sharing the miles with smiles. And our discoveries - from lost glasses to sundogs - made it a fun and memorable adventure.

Hikers: Dave Wells, Dick Hart, Carol Langley, Mark Blanchard, Mandy Brink, Patty Adams and her faithful four-footed friend, Arlo

Leader: Sarah O'Hare



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 2018

Sat. 15 Dec.—Day Hike, Tri-Town Ridgeline Preserve, North Stonington. Meet at trailhead at 91 Miller Road at 8:30 am. Hike 5-6 miles. Easy/moderate. Bad weather postpones to Sunday, Dec. 16. Contact leader for more details. Jim Robertson, jrobert685@aol.com, rober2je@westinghouse.com, 860-633-7279 (home), 860-519-8310 (mobile).

Sat. 22 Dec.—American Legion/People's Forest-Meet 10:00 Mathies Grove Parking on East River Rd. Hike/Snowshoe weather conditions will dictate activity and miles. L. Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449, cosmical42@gmail.com

Fri. 28 Dec.—Sun. 30 Dec.—Winter Backpacking in the Adirondacks, Eastern High Peaks. Enjoy rigorous terrain and luminous winter scenery in the Eastern high peaks. The exact route will depend on weather conditions, snowpack, and the interests of the hikers. Expect a trek of 12 to 15 miles if the snow is fresh and 18 to 25 miles if the trail is already broken. Snow pack averaged 3 feet at the 4,000 foot level, as of 2 Dec. 2018. Contact leader by 20 Dec. to ensure proper planning for this physically challenging trek. L: Joe Conaci 860-381-9130 by text or jconaci@hotmail.com

JANUARY 2019

Tues. Jan. 1—29th Annual New Year's Day Hike. Meet West Beach Parking at Hammonasset Beach 10:00. Plan to hike 5-6 miles. L. Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449, cosmical42@gmail.com

Sat. 05 Jan.—Explore Ninigret Park Wildlife Refuge in Rhode Island. There looks to be about 4-5 miles of trail as well as a Visitors Center. I've never been there so I'm hoping to have some buddies to help me explore. Plan to meet at Ninigret at 10 am. Level: Easy. Leader: Mandy Brink: trekeragb@sbcglobal.net.

Sat. 12 Jan.—White Memorial, Litchfield, CT. Rt. 202. Meet 10:00 Museum Parking Lot. Hike/Snowshoe 5-6 miles. L. Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449, cosmical42@gmail.com L.: Easy

Sat. 19 Jan.-Sun. 20 Jan.—Winter Backpacking. Place TBD. Contact leader for details. Jim Robertson: jrobert685@aol.com, rober2je@westinghouse.com, 860-633-7279 (home), 860-519-8310 (mobile)

Fri. 25 Jan.-Sun. 27 Jan.—Winter weekend at Great Bear Cabin in NH. Day hiking from cabin. Level: Moderate. Cost of cabin split among participants. Cabin limited to 6 people. Co-leaders: Dick Hart: huntcar@att.net or Mandy Brink: trekeragb@sbcglobal.net

FEBRUARY 2019

Sat. 2 Feb.—Hike the Barn Island Management area. Meet at Barn Island at 10am. 4.2 miles. Level: Easy. Dogs permitted on leashes. Leader: Mandy Brink: trekeragb@sbcglobal.net

Sun. 10 Feb.—Farmington River Rails-Trails Meet 9:30 in Collinsville, CT. We will walk & talk alongside the lovely Farmington River approx. 5-6 miles. Return back to Collinsville for a hot drink and treat at local restaurant. L. Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449, cosmical42@gmail.com L. Easy

Fri. 22 Feb.-Sun. 24 Feb.—Winter Weekend, Woodstock, NY (same farmhouse rental as in past winters); Difficulty: Variable – hikers' choice. Various options of hikes ranging from easy to difficult. (with more snow this year, hopefully). Cost of farmhouse split among participants. Contacts: Mandy Brink at trekeragb@sbcglobal.net or Jim Moore at jmoore@acentech.com

MARCH 2019

Sat. 02 Mar.—GMC's 23rd Annual Winter Trails Day at Flood Brook School in Londonderry, Vermont. Hikes, workshops, and more. Watch the *Long Trail News* for details.

Sun. 03 Mar.—Day Hike. Lake Zoar Area Trails, Southbury. The Pomperaug, Crest and Brook Trails approximately 5.5 miles. Level: Moderate. L. Sarah O'Hare seohare7@yahoo.com.

Sun. 10 Mar.—Salmon River Trail. Meet 9:30 Rte. 16 Comstock Covered Bridge. Hike 6-7 miles. L. Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449, cosmical42@gmail.com L: Moderate

Sat. 30 Mar.—50th Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Section of the GMC. Cheshire Grange. Details forthcoming.

MAY 2019

Mon. 20 May-Sun. 02 June—High Adventure Trip to the Outer Hebrides in Scotland. Plans are to hike selected portions of the Hebridean Way over nine days. The Hebridean Way is a 155-mile walking route across 10 islands of the Outer Hebrides. We'll have time to sight-see in the cities of Oban and Glasgow, Scotland. We will stay in hostels, etc. and eat in restaurants, so no camping or cooking gear needed. We will not have a sherpa-service and we will be walking for at least part of nearly every day, so plan to carry all gear/personal items in a backpack. If you are interested in being on the information list for this trip, please e-mail either leader.

Leaders: Mandy Brink, trekeragb@sbcglobal.net or Mike Shaw at msshaw2@mail.com

