

# The Connecticut Section Of The Green Mountain Club

## The Trail Talk



VOL. XXXVIII NO. IV

October 2005

### The President's Message

Autumn can be a great season for biking and hiking however we now share the woods with the **HUNTER**. Please wear Blaze Orange or Red Vests and hats especially our leaders when we are leading activities this fall and winter. Inexpensive plastic orange vests can be found in most sporting goods stores. One color that we should avoid is **WHITE**. Hats and mittens that are white have been mistaken by hunters for a moving deer and people who were in the woods to enjoy themselves have experienced being shot at and in some cases have become a fatality.

Mother nature can also play tricks on us a nice sunny day in the valley can become cold wet and windy on a summit. Heat packs should be a staple each hiker has in their pack for the coming months. Heat packs come in different types and sizes from ones that can be used for hands and feet to larger sizes for the inside of a jacket or vest.

Let's play safe and be prepared!  
Carol A. Langley

### New Members

Imee Dasigan  
East Haven, CT

Sherri Hennessy  
Plainville, CT

Lori Peter  
Meriden, CT

Mary Ann & Normand LeSieur  
Quaker Hill, CT

The Next Annual Meeting & Dinner Is  
March 18, 2006 at the Cheshire Grange.

### Natchaug Trail Saturday, July 9

Friday's torrential downpour made us wonder if today would bring us more of the same. To our delight the rain stayed away giving us instead sunshine struggling through the clouds to brighten our day. Eager to begin our hike after a lengthy car shuttling to the northern terminus we stepped onto the Nipmuck Trail at a quick pace. The Natchaug Trail is reached after hiking a half mile stretch of the Nipmuck.

The woods were beautiful this morning. After the rain the woods were refreshed, brighter, the air sweeter. We were all excited to be sharing in nine miles of perfect hiking conditions. At noon we reached Bigelow Brook with its water high and running fast. We paused here for lunch as there was a cool breeze and a good view of the river. Lora passed around her chocolate confections and within moments she was relieved of her bounty by hungry hikers. Here, also, we posed for a group photograph.

The trail followed the brook for over a mile. Many garter snakes and toads were seen along this stretch, one toad we may have saved from being a snake's lunch. Soon we were climbing a gentle ascent to the Rt. 44 crossing. We were all surprised to find that we had hiked seven miles already. With only two miles to go we felt the morning had passed too quickly. Following the path through a field we soon came to a footbridge crossing Stones Brook. We signed the register and noticed that the last entry was from GMC and CFPA member, Bob Schoff, the trail manager of this section of the Natchaug Trail, stating that he had recently mowed the path through the field ahead. Sure enough, after crossing the sturdy little wooden bridge, the trail had been neatly trimmed, the field on either side tall with grasses and wildflowers. It wasn't long before we reached Rt. 198 and its short road walk to the cars. Not quite ready to give up the day we headed over to Willington Pizza Too for great pizza and lively conversation.

*Hikers: Ken Williamson, Lora Miller, Laurene Sorensen,  
Doreen Scott, Matt Golec, Craig Pocock  
Leader: Sarah O'Hare*

## The Trail Talk

### Club Information

<http://www.conngmc.com>

#### Officers & Executive Committee

##### Carol Langley—President

(860) 621-2860, [cosmical14@yahoo.com](mailto:cosmical14@yahoo.com)

Dick Krompegal, 1st Vice President, Trails & Shelters

(860) 667-4205, [rkrompy@aol.com](mailto:rkrompy@aol.com)

Sarah O'Hare, 2nd Vice President, Activities

(860) 563-7018, [seohare7@yahoo.com](mailto:seohare7@yahoo.com)

Jim Robertson, Director To GMC

(860) 633-7279, [jrobert685@aol.com](mailto:jrobert685@aol.com)

Secretary, Position Open

Jack Sanga, Treasurer

(860) 648-9614, [jsanga@cox.net](mailto:jsanga@cox.net)

Marge Hackbarth, Reporter to the Long Trail News.

(203) 237-0560

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](mailto: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](mailto: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>



### Cleveland Way Trip In England

June 18-July 1

This trip encompassed hiking the Cleveland Way, a 110 mile trail through the North York Moors National Park. We spent our first day in England visiting some friends of Mandy's and adjusting to the time change. Denise cooked us a nice lasagna dinner before we headed to the hostel in Manchester.

In typical GMC style, we started out the trip with the challenge of getting into Helmsley, a village where the trailhead was located. They had flash floods the night before with the breaking of a dam which washed out the bridge into town. Our bus driver from York basically dropped us off in a small town of Oswaldkirk and said, "Good luck, Helmsley is 4 miles that way.". Some kind folks were kind enough to give us rides going quite a way out of their way to do so.

We were able to see the ruins of Helmsley Castle before officially hitting the trailhead to begin our hike. We were also able to see the beautiful ruins of Rievaulx Abbey. We hiked any where from 10-15 miles a day, the first few days being on some of the most beautiful farmland in all of England and eventually climbing the moors of the national park.

On our second day, some of us took a cab into Thirsk, the homes of James Herriot, before hitting the trail to Osmotherley. There we were able to visit the museum of the famous author as the veterinary practice he describes in his books "All Creatures Great and Small". We walked up to see St Mary's Church and walked around the village before heading back to Sutton Bank to start our hike for the day.

Our third day was the most challenging, hiking up one moor and down the other. It was hot and sunny and the country folk asked us if we brought the good weather. In the pictures the trail looks very flat but not so. Those moors were up and down and we were quite tired at the end of our day.

On day four, we finally got some rain. Jack stumbled up the Kildale camping barn, a converted to hostel barn on a Yorkshire farm in Kildale. It was the neatest place and one of the favorite stops. We had sheep peeking in the window, baaing at us. We celebrated Lora Miller's birthday at a small quaint tea shop in Kildale that evening. We also met up with Ian, a Englishman who was also hiking the Cleveland Way. He ended up hiking with us a few days.



This day we hit the highest moor in the park, Urr Moor at 1489 ft. We headed to Saltburn by the Sea and got our first glimpse of the North Sea. From here on in, our days would be spend walking along the cliffs of the North Sea from Saltburn to Filey. Jack and the girls took a day off from hiking to visit Hadrians Wall, the old Roman Wall that is located in the very

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northern part of England. The rest of us hiked to Runswick Bay, enjoying the beautiful views of the cliffs and water. The next day we stopped in Whitby, one of the larger towns to see the downtown area as well as to walk the 199 steps leading to St Mary's church and then to Whitby Abbey. We enjoyed stopping to see these sites but weren't too happy when at 4:30 pm we still had 7 miles to hike to get to Robin's Hood Bay. We got into Robin's Hood Bay late and very tired. While the cliffs look flat in the pictures, there were fissures between them so you would have to go all the way down to sea level and then all the way back up to the top to continue hiking.

We hiked into Scarborough and stayed at a really nice campgrounds. Scarborough was probably the biggest town we passed through and we got to know it well as we spent quiet a bit of time hiking through it looking for the trailhead on our last day of hiking.

Our last day was rainy, cold and windy along those cliffs. Fortunately it was an easy walk into Filey and the completion of the trail. We celebrated in typical GMC style, with pizza for supper that night. We stayed at an adorable B&B that night and headed back into York the last day to see the sites there. We spent our last night at the hostel in Manchester and headed for the airport the next morning. The trip was fantastic. We had great weather, met some of the friendliest people and overall were very pleased to have completed the trail

*Participants: Mandy Brink, Laura Brink, Lora Miller,  
Patty Adams, Jack Sanga,  
Olivia Sanga and Amy Chalmers*



### Airline Trail Bike Ride July 31

Amidst the summer's heat and humidity, we had a nice day for a 13 mile round trip ride on the Airline Trail between Colchester to East Hampton. The trail was quite busy with walkers, runners, and bikers, especially near our starting point off Route 2. As we headed south across the Rapallo and Lyman viaducts, one of which has eroded significantly in places, the crowds thinned out a bit. The Cranberry Bog in East Hampton marked the halfway point, so we stopped, chatted, ate snacks, spied frogs   and tossed many, many rocks into the water, first attempting target practice on some lily pads, and then competing in the traditional stone-skipping contest.

The return ride was uneventful until Drew's bike developed a flat tire. Jack, Ken and Sarah had ridden ahead of the rest of the group, so we had to set in motion an impressive logistical daisy chain. I left Sherri and the two boys and rode ahead to catch up with Jack and Sarah. Sarah then rode ahead to catch

up with Ken (who was of course, leading the race by this time...) and his repair kit. Jack and I rode back to where Drew was waiting, followed shortly after by Sarah and Ken. The repair process occurred so rapidly that I forget now who did what, but I think Jack was removing and replacing wheels, Sarah was patching, and Ken was supervising. It was a team effort that would rival a NASCAR pit stop. We returned to the parking lot with no further problems to equipment or riders.

*Riders: Sherri Hennessy, Sarah O'Hare, Ken Williamson, Jack Sanga, Drew Sanga, Jimmy Robertson  
Leader: Jim Robertson*



### Kid Gore Maintenance, VT Aug. 19-21, 2005

This was our long-awaited weekend when our Long Trail relocation was to be cleared, blazed and opened for the hiking community. Five CT section GMCers arrived early Friday afternoon, set up camp, then tackled the overgrowth around the Kid Gore Shelter. In no time Dick, Dave, Jim and Bill had the area cleared, took inventory of the tools needed and did other chores around the shelter. Sarah gathered wood for a fire. Supper of shared appetizers began early while hikers stopped by, some finding more room at nearby Caughnawaga Shelter. The water source was better there anyway for our usual, dependable little spring was nearly dry, nary a trickle today.

The highlight of the evening was not the shrimp cocktail, the cheese and crackers, sausages, avocados, ham rolls or even the chocolate chip cookies. Bill and Jim presented a plaque to Dick on behalf of our section members. It was to thank him for his twenty years of dedicated service to the Long Trail. The plaque was Bill's design after finding an old (original?) metal LT blaze on a rotting log along our section last October. He had mounted it on a board and trimmed it with rope. Jim had scripted the embroidered words of appreciation. Dick was touched by the gesture. There is a picture of it on our club's website.

Friday night brought rain which dampened Bill's tent floor as well as all of our hopes for a productive work day. Our spring, however, was once again flowing. After a leisurely breakfast to wait out the rain it finally ceased and so we set out. With no chainsaw we were limited to handsaws and clippers. And because no blazing could be done on the wet trees we were beginning to wonder if our efforts were in vain for the undergrowth we cleared was sure to grow back. Arriving at where it was thought a vista had been flagged for tree removal



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we found no such flags. Uncertain as to which trees the Forest Service wanted cleared we continued along this first switchback loop (there are three) where it comes out at Lydia's Rest. We then proceeded to the switchback loop on the western side of the main trail. This section had been approved and flagged by the Forest Service. We found it unacceptable, below our standards for sound footing. It went through a boulder field and followed uncomfortably on a slope. The proposed trail was no better than that which we were relocating. We cleared it to the best of our ability and with our energy and spirits falling we became wet and chilled.

Back to the shelter we trudged. After gathering more wood Jim attempted to start a fire with damp wood. In short time he got one going, one worthy of Jack, our fire master. An early supper once again whiled away the hours. Strawberry shortcake topped off our dinner, sharing it with the hikers who spent the night in our shelter. As we turned in, the fire burning low, the full moon peeked through the clouds giving promise for a dry Sunday. Perhaps we would blaze after all.



During the night, not only did it rain, at times in torrents, it thundered, too. Bill was prepared this time having covered his tent with a tarp. He had been spared another drippy night. The rain stopped at daybreak but after a disappointing day yesterday Dick decided to give in to the weekend's poor weather. We packed up early and headed out with optimistic thoughts of a more productive work weekend in October. Before heading home to CT Dick, Jim and Sarah stopped at Poncho's in Wilmington for lunch.

*Written By: Sarah O'Hare*

*Workers: Bill Brodnitzki, Jim Robertson, Dave Chatel*

*Leader: Dick Krompegal*



### Mt Flume and Mt Liberty Hike in NH August 6, 2005.

We headed up early Saturday morning from Grace's house and met Allen at the trailhead. We were actually impressed that we were taking a hike, where Grace, had already hiked the trail previously and knew just where we were going. It was a hot, humid and sunny day. The trail started as a gentle slope going upward. We knew that couldn't last forever because the book described the climb at the second hardest climb in the White Mts. Sure enough, the last mile went straight up over some very challenging rock faces. It was a 3000ft elevation gain in 2 miles but most of it was in the last mile.

Grace and I were a bit worried that the hike wouldn't be

challenging enough for the guys so we were very comforted to hear an occasional moan and groan come out of them while we walked. It was clear and we could see the mountain range for miles. We had some lunch on Mt Flume and then headed off to Mt Liberty. That was an equally beautiful mountain. The descent was straight down and a bit hard on the knees. Allen commented that he's rather be biking straight up Mt Washington than hiking down the trail we were on. We were happy to reach the bottom. Grace and Mandy were happy because they got to mark off two more peaks on their 4000 ft peak list. Total miles for the day 9.8. We went off to a nice dinner. Afterwards we very stiffly walked to the cars and headed back to MA.



*Hikers Mandy Brink, Allen Freeman and Jim Moore.  
Hike leader Grace King.*



### Natchaug Trail Sat. July 9

Friday's torrential downpour made us wonder if today would bring us more of the same. To our delight the rain stayed away giving us sunshine struggling through the clouds to brighten our day. Eager to begin our hike after a lengthy car shuttling to the northern terminus we stepped onto the Nipmuck Trail at a quick pace. The Natchaug Trail is reached after a half mile stretch of the Nipmuck.

The woods were beautiful this morning. After the rain the woods were refreshed, brighter, the air sweeter. We were all excited to be sharing in nine miles of perfect hiking conditions. At noon we reached Bigelow Brook with its water high and running fast. We paused here for lunch as there was a cool breeze and a good view of the river. Lora passed around her chocolate confections and within moments she was relieved of her bounty by hungry hikers. Here, also, we posed for a group photograph.

The trail followed the brook for over a mile. Along this section a snake was spied and a toad nearby told us the snake was about to have its lunch, too. In a moment, thanks to a pair of gentle hands, the toad was safe and the snake was to continue on with its hunt. Soon the trail ascended to the Rt. 44 crossing and we were all surprised to find that we had hiked seven miles already. With only two miles to go we felt the morning had passed too quickly. Following the path through a field we soon came to a footbridge crossing Stones Brook. We signed the register and noticed that the last entry was from GMC and CFPA member, Bob Schoff, trail manager of this section of the Natchaug Trail. He reported that he had recently mowed

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the path through the field ahead. Sure enough, after crossing the little wooden bridge, the trail had been neatly trimmed, the field on either side tall with grasses and wildflowers. It wasn't long before we reached Rt. 198 and its short road walk to the cars. Not quite ready to give up the day we headed over to Willington Pizza Two for great pizza and lively conversation.

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Doreen Scott, Matt Golec, Craig Pocock  
Leader: Sarah O'Hare*



Tunxis Trail  
Sun. Sept. 18

This 9.5 mile section of trail follows the blue blazed Tunxis Trail, the blue/yellow dot and blue/white dot trails to make an enjoyable circuit. We began at the gate on East Church Rd. in Burlington. After a short distance a quick walk up a side trail took us to Tory Den, an area of ledges and caves. It was a hiding place for Tories during the Revolutionary War then a century later it was one of the many camping spots the Leatherman used during his 30 years of wandering through CT and NY. Returning to the main trail we soon began the challenging yet fun section of our hike, the Mile of Ledges. It is a series of boulders and ledges with clefts and overhangs. As we left the ledges we passed a pond, its water level low from the lack of rainfall over the summer. The lily pads were fading, signifying that autumn was soon upon us.

At the end of the pond we turned off the main trail and road walked for a half mile to reach the blue/yellow dot trail taking us back into the woods and along Bryda Ledge. The trail soon became an old woods road, its many depressions were giant mud puddles, home to the many frogs that leapt in to safety as we passed by. It was here, too, where we began to watch our foot placement for the efts were in abundance on the trail. This old woods road followed along the south slope of Johnnycake Mountain then followed paved Johnnycake Mountain Road for a mile before turning off into a cow pasture. During a springtime pre-hike the leader had to step over a series of electric fences (very carefully) with cows grazing an arm's length away. Today, however, the electric fence was gone as were the cows. Entering the woods again we climbed to higher ground along the edge of a swamp then one last road walk taking us by the reservoir on the Bristol Water Dept. property. Soon we were back to East Church Road with just a half mile to go. Lora spotted a snapping turtle hatchling in the road and it was transported to safety, no fingers nipped in the process. We arrived at our starting place tired but refreshed after the long hike.

*Hikers: Lora Miller, Sarah O'Hare*

Plans are in the making for a hiking trip in Glacier National Park for June 2006. If anyone is interested in receiving upcoming information contact please contact Mandy Brink, [Trekeragb@aol.com](mailto:Trekeragb@aol.com), 860-535-0744

### Mandy and the Three Wise Men Nantucket, Sept 9-11th

This is the story of a trip that Mandy got to take with the three wise men. Now in the Bible Story, the three wise men were named Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar. In this story, their names were Larry, Curly and Mo. Actually the guys were great fun. I was afraid I'd be a fourth wheel but they were happy to include me in all their activities.

The adventure started in typical GMC style with the brakes failing in Jack's truck on the way to the ferry. After getting the truck towed, Mandy and Jack got the rental car loaded with bikes and got to Hyannis in time to catch the last ferry out for the night. Since both Ken and Dave had trouble finding the hostel by daylight, they were nice enough to meet Jack and Mandy at the ferry by night to lead the way. That is lead the way after a few beers for good measure. It was a challenging bike ride in the darkness, especially when both Ken and Dave's headlights failed. We had a ride by the light of Jack's headlight and by the light of the silvery moon.



Saturday was beautiful and we headed out for a great day of riding. We stopped by the beach where we watched four seals playing in the water. The three wise men got their piggies wet and Mandy went in for a swim.

Actually it was a huge dip by a very big wave. After a snack we headed off for more biking. We got lost on a gruesome sandy road but the three wise men checked the map and we eventually found pavement again.

Sometimes on a trip you find out who your true friends really are. For Dave, that was this day. He ended up with a flat tire, a poor helpless biker along the path when friend, Ken, breezed on by, leaving him in the dust. Fortunately Jack and Mandy came to the rescue. Ken did, however, redeem himself when he came back and figured out how to use the pump to inflate the tire.

We headed to the hostel, had a nice snack and showers before heading to the beach to watch the sunset. Mandy cooked kinner, double skunked Ken in Acey Ducey and then got beat by novice Dave. We pigged out on Boston Creme Pie before heading to bed.

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Sunday was another beautiful day. We had breakfast at the hostel before heading out for more riding. Again we hit several beaches where we were able to record on film for the first time in history, Ken in the water up to his knees. Dave was busy checking the water temp with his handy dandy thermometer. The wise men were sure handy to have along. After riding to Eel Point and Cisco Beach, Mandy and Jack headed back to town while Dave and Ken checked out the winery. We took the 4pm ferry back to Hyannis, a bit sad to end our very fun weekend. Total miles was 80-100 miles. You know how Dave is, a golden retriever, always out exploring. Thanks guys for a great time.

*Participants: Mandy Brink, Jack Sanga,  
Ken Williamson and Dave Chatel*



### Acadia National Park Trip, Maine Sept 22 to Sept 26th

We got off about 4pm on Thursday and drove as far as Bangor where we stopped for the night. On Friday we got an early start and pulled into the Seawall Campground at 9am with blue skies and a promising day. Laurene was able to contact a friend, Emily, that lived on Cranberry Island so after setting up camp, we headed for the ferry at Southwest Harbor. Emily met us on the dock and gave us a wonderful private tour of this beautiful island. We spent the afternoon biking out to all the various points, walking on the shores and enjoying the beauty of the ocean. Later we took the ferry for a brief stop at Little Cranberry Island before heading back to the mainland. We stopped for a brief visit to Echo Lake to watch the sunset. After a quick trip to the grocery store, we headed back to camp and had a late dinner of chicken stew cooked up in the dutch oven with smores for dessert. Our lantern died that night so we survived by the campfire light that night and the rest of the other nights too.

On Saturday we awoke to another beautiful day. We decided to spend the day climbing. We started out on the Spring Trail which led us to the Penobscot Mountain Trail. We hiked Penobscot Mountain and then headed to Sargent Mt (the second highest peak in Acadia). The views were absolutely incredible. The tree line is low in these parts so we spent a lot of time ridge walking with spectacular views all around. We had lunch on top of Sargent MT before heading down a very challenging trail, the Deer Brook Trail to the Jordan Pond Trail. We picked up the trailhead to the Bubbles and hit South Bubbles Peak first for a wonderful view of Eagles Lake. We saw the Bubble



Rock, a huge boulder that is just carefully balanced right on the edge of a cliff. We hiked to the North Bubble peak for more views before heading down for a walk around the Jordan Pond. We stopped at the Jordan Pond Tea House for dessert. It was incredible. The most delicious popovers with ice cream and tea. We high tailed it up to the top of Cadillac Mt for the sunset. The summit there is not public knowledge, but we found it while waiting for the sunset. And oh the sunset which can't even be described. It was a beautiful array of blues, pinks, yellows and oranges across the skies. Again back to the campsite around 8pm where Laurene cooked black beans and rice for a late 9pm dinner that was delicious. After smores for dessert, we headed to bed, tired but happy with our day.

On Sunday we decided to ride some of the carriage trails. We did the loop around Eagle Lake followed by the loop around Witches Pond and the loop up to Paradise Hill. The view of the ocean at the top of Paradise Hill was again awesome. We had a picnic lunch by Eagle Lake. It was a windy day so we decided to seek a smaller body of water for kayaking. We chose Northeast Creek. We saw a good variety of ducks and birds including one blue heron who followed us around every corner at the beginning of our paddle. We paddled the stream for a little over an hour before we were stopped by the beginnings of a beaver dam. We knew the paddle back would be more challenging as we paddled into the wind so we turned around and got a good work out back to the launching area. After loading up the wet and muddy kayaks, we headed to Beals for lobster. Mandy got a lesson from Laurene in how to eat the lobster. We sat on the pier, overlooking the harbor, a view as New England as it can be. We talked to a through hiker who had just finished his hike the day before on Mt Katahdin. Once again, back to the campsite for a fire, smores and then to bed.

We woke to gray clouds on Monday. We packed up and were happy that the three days we had chosen to be there were sunshine since the forecast for the week was rain. It started to rain shortly after we left the park. After a few stops for last minute snacks we began the long trek home to Connecticut. While Mandy was the official leader on paper for this trip, Laurene ended up being more the leader as she had been to Acadia several times before and knew much of the offerings there. She was the personal tour guide for the trip.

*Trip participants: Mandy Brink and Laurene Sorenson.*



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### Cotton Hollow and Great Pond Preserves September 4, 2005

We took two short hikes at Nature Conservancy preserves in South Glastonbury. The first follows the streambed along Roaring Brook through the Cotton Hollow Preserve. This 87-acre linear park takes hikers through a deep hollow that housed a thriving mill industry from the late 1700's into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Remnants of building foundations and dams are numerous, although they are becoming less obvious as the forest continues to reclaim the land. Cotton Hollow is only one-half mile from my house, and I've hiked it many times, but it never ceases to reveal something new, and each season gives a different perspective. We followed the trail west to the park boundary that overlooks a four-story stone mill wall, then returned, pausing at one of the many natural pools in the brook. Due to the geography, the entire round trip through Cotton Hollow is only one and a half miles.

Our second hike was a few miles away in Great Pond Preserve, which is a tribute to some forward-thinkers in Glastonbury who helped negotiate the establishment of this large preserve around the vernal Great Pond as an open space connected to a large residential development in the 1980's. In addition to the pond, which was nearly dry in early September, the preserve houses several large red cedar trees, including the reputed largest in New England. After completing our hike, several of us enjoyed a barbeque at the Robertson homestead.

*Hikers: Sarah O'Hare, Lora Miller, John and Mary O'Neill,  
Muriel Schmitt, Jimmy Robertson  
Leader: Jim Robertson*



### Lillinonah Trail Hike Oct. 16, 2005.

A (very) small but enthusiastic group. We had a sunny but breezy day for our hike, following the week of torrential rains. Directions to the starting point in the blue trails book were not entirely accurate, requiring us to drive 2.2 miles from the cross road (instead of the 0.5 miles suggested) to reach the parking area at Pond Brook Boat Launch.

Once on the trails, blazes were mainly good, though in some areas they were getting a bit worn (causing us to take some unplanned detours). The trails were surprisingly dry, with only a little standing water. However, the numerous streams in the woods were quite full, more like spring flood season than the fall. The wind was gusting and there were some alarming creaky sounds from dead branches but none managed to fall upon our heads! We enjoyed views of the lake through the trees and had lunch on a rocky beach.

*Leader: Lora Miller  
Hiker: Muriel Schmitt*



**The Next Annual Meeting & Dinner  
Is March 18, 2006 at the Cheshire  
Grange.**



**If interested in attending an  
activity please  
contact the leader.  
Sometimes an activity is cancelled or the starting time/  
place may be changed.**



**Plans are in the making for a hiking  
trip in Glacier National Park for  
June 2006. If anyone is interested  
in receiving  
upcoming information contact  
please contact  
Mandy Brink, [Trekeragb@aol.com](mailto:Trekeragb@aol.com),  
860-535-0744**





Richard Krompegal  
The Green Mountain Club  
142 Churchhill Drive  
Newington, CT 06111-4003



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