



Connecticut Section of the Green Mountain Club

Volume LII, Issue I January to March 2020 Fred Clark, Editor

President's Message

Winter 2019 – 2020

On trips north to Vermont, I frequently stop at the rest area on I-91 in Guilford. During a recent trip, I picked up a copy of a free newspaper called the *Vermont Country Sampler*. It included a reprint of this poem, written in 1943 by George A. Perry of Springfield, Vermont. I think it is worth sharing:

~ Long Trail ~

The trail leads through the sheltered dell, and up the stern, rough mountainside.
Leaving the vale where children dwell, for heights where God and peace abide.
By grassy slope and rocky steep, and through the dim cathedral wood,
Ever its upward course I keep, seeking that holy solitude.
Each turn reveals a fresh design, luring the soul that would be free.
I falter not but mount each height, led by the white blaze on the tree.
To keep my feet from wandering, each step is marked with perfect care.
For here a sign points to a spring, another to a vista fair.
An arrow painted on the ledge leads up the pathless mountain-cone
And on the treacherous, storm-swept ridge, a quartz rock caps each cairn of stone.
But always there and always white, symbols of faith and surety,
I press on boldly, ever right, trusting the white blaze on the tree.
And when at last the sun goes down, long shadows warn of coming night,
With confidence I'll hasten on, safe-guided by these emblems white.
They'll lead me to a ferny nook, high on the western mountain-side
A lean-to by a purling brook, and there safe-sheltered I'll abide.
With supper o'er, the fire burnt out, on balsam boughs I'll sleep in peace,
Grateful to him who built the hut, and made the blazes on the trees.

We are fortunate to be part of the current generation that carries on the legacy of those who built the hut(s) and made the white blazes on the trees. Our Long Trail work today includes not only maintaining and repairing the shelters (the huts) and freshening the blazes, but also clearing trail blockages and keeping encroaching vegetation at bay. Thanks to this year's Connecticut Section trail crew led by **Mike Shaw** that included **Kevin Burke, Joe Conaci, Sven Englund, Don and Linda Hagstrom, Dick Hart, Dennis Himes, Larry Keckler, Barb Kelly, and Kevin Vann**.

SAVE THE DATE: Our annual dinner and meeting will be held at the Cheshire Grange Hall on Saturday, March 28, 2020. Details will follow in a separate correspondence/ mailing.

See you on the trail,

Jim Robertson

A Note of Thanks

On behalf of our family, I want to thank the Connecticut Section for the many expressions of support and condolences during my wife Kate's recent illness and passing. Your kindness has helped to sustain us over the past year as she dealt with cancer for a third time. While she never hiked or camped on the Long Trail (a deluge on top of Mount Greylock that produced streams through our tent on an overnight trip during our senior year of college may have tainted her view of backpacking), Kate was always fully supportive of my GMC activities and our financial contributions to the Club.

Jim Robertson

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Pachaug River Paddle August 17, 2019 by Mandy Brink

I was already in the Pachaug area, so Dave Chatel agreed to paddle there instead of the Pawcatuck River. We decided to explore where I had left off in July. We headed out under the bridge into the expanse that seemed very wild but sadly we did not paddle far before we came to a dam. After investigating, we realized we couldn't navigate the river past the dam. We turned around and I offered to show Dave the part of the river I had paddled last month. We somehow missed the small turn-off branch that led us back to the bridge. Instead we went to the left. We paddled into a very large swamp that was beautiful. There was enough water to navigate so we continued in as far as the water allowed.

We paddled for a good hour before I mentioned that I had no idea where we were. Dave at one point commented, asking if I thought we were still in Connecticut. We both noted that it was quite a large and beautiful area. We had it all do ourselves. Eventually the waterway did get very narrow and we had to turn around. We got back to the boat launch about one, just as the skies were getting gray. By the time I drove home, it was pouring down rain. So now I've explored the Pachaug and hope to put the Pawcatuck back on the schedule for next spring.

Metacomet Trail Caroline Smith Memorial Hike September 15, 2019 by Carol A. Langley

A beautiful sunny day was on tap. There were cars in the parking lot but no GMC members so I started my hike. After a steady climb I was walking along

the ridge to the hum of Rte. 372 and I-84 remembering the days when all was still and quiet except for the singing birds. The trail is in good shape and easy to follow with several look-outs. Reaching the first cliffs near the old army training facility I met a group of three rock climbers from Worcester. A short distance further there was an instructor who was teaching his student how to secure ropes to trees and how to hook up properly.

Continuing on, I reached Rattlesnake Ledges and had lunch. A gentle breeze was blowing and the view to the west and south was spectacular — what a viewing spot for the autumn leaves! I did not find Warrens Den, so I will go back another day and search further. The descent down was a slow go since the trail was basically loose rocks and roots. Reaching the bottom, I met a mother with her two sons who were Boy Scouts; they go out hiking just about every weekend. Now I was on good footing and moving along when something flew into my left eye and startled me. Taking a few moments to regain my balance, the eye was stinging and watery but I was able to see and moved on. Reaching the first set of rocks I once again came upon the climbers but did not converse with them since they were focusing on the task at hand.

At 2:00 I reached my car and thought of Caroline Smith — this hike was in her memory. When Caroline was in her 80s and no longer hiking, she would meet hike leaders and hikers after their activity with apple cider and cinnamon donuts. Those were the good old days when we would have 8-10 people.

**AT-Paradise Lane – Undermountain Trail
October 26, 2019
by Carol A. Langley**

A beautiful sunny fall day greeted me. I started the hike after waiting until 9:30 with no one showing. Since the hike was planned in remembrance of Colonel Anthony Shookus and Herb van Winkelen, I turned the hike into a trail maintenance day, as these two gentlemen were the ones who introduced me to trail maintenance in Connecticut and Vermont.

Taking the Paradise Lane Trail, I started with removing branches off the trail and cleaning a few water bars where needed. Looking off to the east, I saw a black metal frame and, after investigating, found an old metal headboard and footboard made of black iron, probably from the 1920s. After turning off from the camping site, I met my first two hikers of the day and soon they disappeared. Reaching the junction of the AT and Mt. Washington Rd., I decided to walk over to the Northwest Cabin and check out the cabin and grounds out, since I am a cabin monitor. Everything was in good order, except whoever was staying there had left a loaf of bread on the table. I decided to wait a bit to see if they returned, which they did, and I spoke with them about leaving out food since we have a resident bear in the vicinity of the cabin. I can witness first hand to this. While staying at the cabin in August, I had just put up my tent and was returning to the cabin when someone shouted bear. A good size black bear was walking just inches from my tent. No, I did not panic and yes, I slept in my tent that night!!

Continuing on, I walked the Bog Trail out to the Mt. Washington Rd., spending much time clearing water and leaves off the road. Reaching Bear Mountain, I chose a nice rock outcropping facing west. The hills towards New York had already lost their color. The sky was a beautiful Colorado Blue and the white wispy cirrus clouds foretold wet weather to come. There was a steady stream of hikers, dogs and children. I was very pleased to see all these people on the trail, since it meant they were not watching television, playing video games or on their cell phones.

Reaching the junction of the AT with the Undermountain Trail, I took a short break and was reading the sign when a young man approached me and said “someone is very mad at me.” Not sure

what was up I said, do you need to talk. The reply was no, he needed some direction as to which way to go. He decided to hike out to Lion’s Head and I continued on and down the Undermountain Trail, cleaning water bars and socializing with all the hikers and dogs. In one spot I was actually kneeling on a rock when three young men questioned what I was doing. After I short explanation, I suddenly had these three young men helping me. A very good day, I spoke to 35 people and socialized with 15 dogs. Sorry you missed all this action on the AT on this lovely day. See you next time.

**New Hampshire Hike – Mt Nancy
Aug 24, 2019
by Mandy Brink**

Chiseling away at our 100 highest list, Mike Shaw, Jim Moore and I decided to hike Mt Nancy, a mountain that had been on our list for quite a while. We met at the trailhead on Saturday morning at 9:30, happy for a sunny summer day. We took the Nancy Pond Trail. In early afternoon we reached the prettiest spots ever, first coming upon the Nancy Cascades, the Nancy Pond and the Norcross Pond at 3100 feet. These ponds were the picture postcard of what you’d expect to represent the wilderness of New Hampshire. It was tranquil beauty at its best. After enjoying lunch and sitting by the ponds for a bit, we headed upward to bag the summit at 3926 feet. After a few pictures, we hiked down to enjoy yet another moment at the ponds before heading back out for the day. Mileage for the day was about ten miles.

**New Hampshire weekend
September 13-15, 2019
by Mandy Brink**

Not getting our act together to backpack in Maine, Jim Fritz, Jim Moore and I shifted our plans to nab a couple of the peaks Jim Fritz still needed to get his 48 list peaks done. We met at the Shapleigh Bunkhouse on Friday night, studied our map and decided on Mt Cabot for Saturday and Mt. Waumbek for Sunday. The forecast for Saturday was rain, but it ended up being an interesting day. We didn’t realize it was the weekend after 9/11 so they were running the Flags on the 48 race and well as the Kilkenny Ridge race. Despite the weather there were lots of people on the trail. We reached the old fire warden’s cabin on Mt Cabot before the summit.

There flying was one of the largest American flags I had ever seen on a hike. It was blowing very majestically too, with enough wind to put it on full display. We went and grabbed the summit at 4170 ft and then headed back to the cabin to have lunch. The little cabin was packed with hikers, also trying to stay dry for lunch. After lunch, we headed back down the trail to complete our nine miles for the day. On our way back to the bunkhouse, we saw a very large moose, nibbling on trees along the road. We were so excited to see a full-grown moose up close. After we stopped, watched and took pictures, the moose finally had enough of people gawking at him and he moved back into the woods. After showers and dry clothes, we had dinner and then to bed.

On Sunday it was a beautiful sunny day. We headed out right after breakfast so we could nab the mountain before having to drive home. The sunshine again brought out a lot of hikers. We took the Starr King trail. We had good views at Mt. Starr King (3907 ft) before heading over to Mt. Waumbek at 4006 ft. We moved right along and were back to the cars by early afternoon. It was 7 miles for the day. Jim Fritz was very happy to get these two peaks off his list. Five more to go and he will be finished with the New Hampshire list.

Hancock Brook and Whitestone Cliff Trails
September 22, 2019
by Sarah O'Hare

Our morning hike on the Hancock Brook and Whitestone Cliffs Trail was a two-for-the-price-of-one hike. The two trails are part of what is known as the Waterbury Area Trail system. Richard and Leslie Chandler, Carol Langley, Jim Robertson with Molson the dog, and I first hiked the Hancock Brook Trail, a 2.6-mile loop trail that began by a climb over rocky ledges. Molson needed an alternate route and, after some searching, he and Jim located a bad weather trail. The view from the Lion Head summit was of the Naugatuck Valley. As we approached our turn at the northern end, we were met by the roar of dirt bikes. Fortunately, as the trail turned sharply south, the bikes had taken off in a different direction. We then found ourselves in peaceful surroundings once again. We were now in a hemlock ravine, the trail closely following Hancock Brook. Impressive stonework on the opposite side kept the railroad

tracks from sliding into the brook. How long ago it had been built, we didn't know.

Our second hike was on the Whitestone Cliffs Trail in the Mattatuck State Forest. This 1.7-mile loop trail also had us making a steep climb. And, once again, Molson and Jim had to look for an alternate route to the top of the cliffs. As today was the last day of summer, and with the day warming, we all were somewhat relieved that it was a rather short hike. Probably Molson felt that way most of all.

Quinebaug and Pachaug Trails
September 18, 2019
by Sarah O'Hare

Due to a trail closure on a section of the Narragansett Trail, this hike's location was changed to a 6.7-mile loop hike consisting of the Quinebaug and Pachaug Trails. With Mandy Brink's new trail dog, Forty, setting the pace, Mandy, Forty and I began at the end of the paved Flat Rock Road. Turning south onto the Quinebaug Trail, we followed an old and rocky woods road. While sparsely blazed, we found our way easily, that is, until we came to an unpaved roadway. The blazes just disappeared and nothing trail-like was to be found. Neither of our maps showed this dirt road and so we were stumped. As luck would have it, two young ladies just happened to drive by. One of them had hiked this section recently and suggested that we just continue down the road to Phillips Pond, where we would pick up our trail. Remembering that I had the new *CT Walk Book* in my pack, I dug out the hefty tome. The newer map showed this road as Trail 1 Road and that the path was located just east of the road. Deciding to just do the easy road walk, we did eventually find ourselves at the picturesque Phillips Pond.

The blazes at the pond pointed to our northeast turn onto the Quinebaug-Pachaug Crossover #2 Trail. In less than a mile, we would then turn north onto the Pachaug Trail. At Hell Hollow Road, we took a short detour down the road to view Hell Hollow Pond. Our next turn was onto the Quinebaug-Pachaug Crossover Trail #1. This trail proved to be a bit challenging as it had seen little maintenance. It was overgrown, the brambles catching our clothing and exposed arms. Forty appeared not at all fazed, his thick coat protecting him from the pricklers. We eventually stepped out onto the Quinebaug Trail, a rocky and rutted extension of Flat Rock Road. A

short way further and we were back at our cars, in plenty of time for Forty to get home, be fed and tucked in for his long afternoon nap. And Mandy had time enough before she headed off to work.

**Hop River Trail Bike Ride
September 28, 2019
by Jim Robertson**

Linda and Don Hagstrom joined me for an out-and-back bike ride on the Hop River rail-trail section between Vernon and Andover. The parking lot on Church Street in Vernon was already full when we arrived, so we parked along the side of the street. I found out later that Linda and Don had debated whether Don had parked at the edge of a patch of poison ivy or some other, non-irritating plant (more on that later). This section of the trail climbs gradually to a high point at Bolton Notch, then descends towards Andover, passing Valley Falls Park and coinciding with the Shenipsit Trail for a stretch. At our first rest stop, an older couple mentioned that the trail near Bolton Notch gets a bit rough. We thought little of the comment until we hit a patch of the trail that was more trap rock than crushed stone or sand, and sure enough it rattled our teeth.

Beyond Bolton Notch and the tunnel under Route 44, the trail was a breeze, as we dropped gradually to Andover, crossing through an impressive new pedestrian covered bridge over Route 316 to the old Town Hall. Finding no place to sit and eat, we reversed course and headed back a short distance to an area with some large concrete blocks for lunch. On the return trip, we passed a group of Bolton Troop 73 Scouts – both boys and girls – who were picking up trailside trash. Some of their leaders were setting up a picnic lunch at the Notch, but, despite the enticement of hot dogs on the grill, we continued on our way to the finish in Vernon. After completing the ride, we spent a few minutes reading the informative kiosks and inspecting the remaining structures of the one-time rail station, including the base of the roundhouse table, a small section of rail and the anchors of the water tower. And as we walked back to our cars, I noticed that, not only had Linda correctly identified the ground plants as poison ivy, but it was one of the lushest, healthiest looking patches I'd seen all summer. There were no follow-up reports by any of the participants of any skin rashes, fortunately.

**Penwood and SLT properties
October 19, 2019
by Dave Wells**

The day was a beautiful fall day—clear blue sky, bright sunshine and great hiking temperature. From the meeting point at the parking lot off East Weatogue Street in Simsbury, Bob and Mel Michaud and I hiked through the Tanager Hill SLT (Simsbury Land Trust) property and ascended the ridge into Penwood State Park. Entry into Penwood is near Lake Louise which we passed by and started up the road leading toward the Pinnacle. Part way up, we cut off on an unmarked trail which travels below the ridge in a northerly direction. This unmarked trail has existed off and on for the last 45 years or so that I have hiked on the Penwood property. At the moment the trail is in good shape and easy to follow despite the lack of trail blazes.

The unmarked trail ends at the northern end of Penwood, where it intersects the New England Trail. Continuing on the NET, we hiked about ¾ mile to a broad ledge with good views to the west into the Farmington Valley. At this point we took a side trail to the east which traveled downhill into and through the Wilcox Park property and looped around, returning to the NET farther north. We continued northward on the NET to Mountain Road in Tariffville. At this point, we left the NET and turned to head back southward on an unblazed trail which follows a shoulder of the ridge on its west side. This trail eventually entered the James Property, another SLT property, passing through it in a half mile and intersecting the NET.

Following the NET southward, we passed the end of the unmarked trail from earlier and continued into Penwood. After a mile or so, we turned off on a new trail (blazed) which descended to a power line in the valley. Following the power line, we intersected the trails of the Owen-Mortimer SLT property, and traversing this property returned to the meeting point of the hike.

**Mad Tom Shelter Site
November 2 and 3, 2019
by Mark Blanchard, local guide**

On the Long Trail, Mad Tom Shelter has had an interesting history. It was built in the 1960s at Mad Tom Notch, moved south in the 1980s to a scenic location away from the notch, then abandoned in the

late 1990s because the new location was exposed to northerly winds and had an intermittent water supply. An intrepid group decided to hike into the abandoned site and spend a night in chilly conditions.

A total of seven hikers (Jim Robertson, Carol A. Langley, Kevin and Eric Breton, Kevin Burke, Joe Conaci, and I) made the trip up Bromley Mountain ski trails and along the AT/LT where they turned off the trail to the site. Joe took some photos of the site in its “as is” condition. A few hours of group work cleared the old fire ring, removed brush from around the shelter platform, and located the water supply. The day was clear and calm with temperatures at a comfortable 40 degrees. A camp fire, dinner, and a variety of unique libations made for a warm and entertaining evening. All were safely in their sleeping bags by hiker's midnight (around 8 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time).

Morning arrived after a bonus hour, courtesy of the shift to standard time. One hiker hit the trail early, and the remainder returned the site to its native state after breakfast. On the return hike, the day appeared to be quite cloudy along the Bromley Ridge. It quickly turned into a clear day below the cloud deck, once we descended the ski trails. A total of three hikers were able to muster the energy to have breakfast at Hapgood's in Peru.

**Sleeping Giant State Park
November 13, 2019
by Sarah O'Hare**

It was one of those bitterly cold and windy days, one that makes the eyes water and the nose run. For Don Hagstrom, Dick Hart, Jim Robertson and his faithful friend, Molson, and me, this was our first visit to Sleeping Giant State Park since the May 2018 tornado that had swept through the park. The parking and picnic areas were unrecognizable as we arrived at the barren entrance. Heading up the Tower Trail, we noted the impressive improvement to the gravel roadway. Evidence from the storm lay everywhere, with trees strewn over the forest floor. These decaying trees become important as they contribute to the overall ecosystem of the forest. They will provide dens and nesting cavities for mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. Insects, too, will inhabit these logs and will help in the decaying process. Then the logs will eventually break down into vital nutrients to replenish the soil.

We followed the Tower Trail as it curved upward to the stone observation tower. Approaching one curve, a young four-point buck ambled down towards us. He appeared not at all concerned with our presence, even when Molson began barking. He approached closer, a sweet sight it was! The magical moment didn't last long, however, as he turned off into the woods, picked up the white trail, then disappeared. At another bend in the roadway, an area of destruction had opened up a new vista to the northeast. At the tower, we were impressed with the panoramic scene. The clear day allowed for a fine view of New Haven, and Long Island Sound was shimmering from the sun's reflection. Then, with a picnic table as an invitation for a break out of the wind, we had a snack break.

Back on the trail, we turned onto the orange trail and headed towards the western end of the park. Don's keen eye noticed some does watching us from atop a ledge. Once their presence was discovered, they turned tail and disappeared. The return to the western end, where we began our hike, was on the yellow trail. We stopped for lunch atop the rocky slab in the cedar grove. Being on the southern side of the mountain, we were protected from the wind and the sunshine kept us from getting chilled. It wasn't long afterwards that we were back at the parking area. It was estimated that we hiked about six miles, just enough, but not too much, for Molson.

**Tefftwald Land Preserve
November 23, 2019
by Mandy Brink**

Three times is a charm. I had been wanting to get Linda and Don Hagstrom out to the preserve and finally had a date where they were able to make the hike. Linda and Don, Patty Adams, Lynn May and Carol Tattersall, and I didn't do a whole lot of miles in the end because we stopped a lot to explore. Starting from the parking lot, we first headed to what looks like an old root cellar but is thought to be much older, possibly from the Gungywamp. Patty shared a bit of that history. Next it was to the old pump where I shared about the history of the old Girl Scout camp. We headed to my favorite spot by the brook with the waterfalls. I was telling the group about the year Cathryn Dolan and I had hiked there and seen a mink. Lo and behold, there was a mink again, running along the water edge. He popped in a hole between the rocks and kept poking his head out

to see if we were still there. After a group shot by the Poet's bench, we headed to the meadow and then to the pavilion, where we stopped for a snack. The loop of trails behind the Pavilion leads to a beautiful swamp area. You walk a bit along the swamp, which was quite serene. We saw a big beaver lodge there and were serenaded by the quacking of ducks. Looping around again, we did the Doodle Loop to check out the Bell York Cemetery. The final loop involved a steady uphill. So much for my statement, "the hike is completely flat." We arrived back to the cars only having done 3.5 miles. We sat on the nice stone bench there and had lunch. I offered to repeat the loops in reverse if anyone felt they hadn't gotten in enough miles but everyone was happy with what we had hiked, and so we headed for home. It was a beautiful fall day, a great day to be tramping along the trails of the former Camp Coit Girl Scout camp.

**McLean Refuge Annual Turkey Trot
November 30, 2019
by Carol A. Langley**

A beautiful cold sunny late autumn day greeted Melanie and Bob Michaud, Jim Robertson, Darry Ruitter, Dave Wells and me as we all met in the parking lot. We also had two Alpha male dogs: Molson and Maxwell, an eight-month-old pup. We left Jim & Darry, owners of the dogs, in the parking lot until the decision was made as to who was the boss and would be the leader. Shortly, we were joined on the Horse Trail by both dogs and owners. Molson decided that he has been the lead dog for years and didn't want to argue with the little pup, so he let him lead. The Horse Trail is an easy foot path and a great warm-up trail. When we reached the Purple Trail and took a short break, Dave suggested that we follow the Purple to the Gray, which would

lead to a nice waterfall on Barndoor Hills Rd. The waterfall was lovely and there were remains of an early settlement in the area. There were not any rocks in the sun suitable for sitting on, so we crossed back over the road and found a nice sunny spot for lunch. Molson and Maxwell wolfed down their food and wanted to beg for more, but Jim and Darry were stern with the dogs and soon they settled down and enjoyed the sun also.

Finally, Maxwell had enough and was up and barking, saying, we are wasting time, let's get going. Off the group of hikers went with Maxwell in the lead. Talking and hiking makes the day go fast and soon we were back to the Horse Trail. Plans were to go down to Spring Pond and soon we reached the Blue Trail where we took a break, taking in the peace and beauty of this lovely place. We then picked up the old road which goes through the refuge and reached the junction with the sign pointing us towards Trout Pond, our next destination.

This is where we started to encounter many walkers with their dogs. Every dog was a challenge for Maxwell, to bark in earnest, letting them know he was the BOSS. Molson was having a leisurely walk with Jim in the back talking with Bob. The path after the Mclean Cabin has been made into crushed gravel where had previously been a dirt road. The walking was a bit difficult for the dogs. As the clouds were moving in from the north, we reached the parking lot. "Sun Dogs" were framing the sun, foretelling of the winter weather to come. We hiked 9.7 miles in five hours. Good job, GMC hikers!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 2019

Sat. 07 Dec.—Hike Metacomet Trail from CT Rt. 20 to Rising Corner Rd., Southwick, MA. 5-6 miles. Moderate terrain. Meet 9.30 am. at Trail crossing on Rising Corner Rd. Dave Wells
dwellshiker@earthlink.net. 413-789-1097

Sat. 14 Dec.—Hike Metacomet Trail. Meet 10:00 a.m. at parking off Edgewood Rd., plan to hike out to West Rock and return 6 miles. Level: Easy/Moderate.

Leader: Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449
cosmical42@gmail.com

Sat. 21 Dec.—Hike Barn Island in Stonington. Meet at Barn Island at 9 am. Many trail systems. We can hike till we are tired or frozen, whichever comes first. Probably 5 miles or so. Level: Easy. Leader: Mandy Brink, trekeragb@sbcglobal.net or 860-237-7426. Bring your favorite Christmas cookie to share with the group.

JANUARY 2020

Wed. 01 Jan.—Annual New Year's Day Hike. Meet 10:00 Rocky Neck S.P. Will hike on trails out to Pavilion and return on boardwalk walking alongside Long Island Sound. 5-6 miles. Level: Easy/Moderate. L. Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449 cosmical42@gmail.com

Fri. 10 Jan.—Sun. 12 Jan.—Adirondacks Winter Weekend, based in Saranac Lake, NY. We will likely plan two hikes, one moderate and one difficult. We will stay in a rented house not too far from Lake Flower. The cost of the house will be split among the participants. Please note your interest before the end of the year. Level: Variable. Leader: Joe Conaci 860-324-4930 or jconaci@hotmail.com

Sun. 12 Jan.—Hike/Snowshoe White Memorial, Bantam, CT. Meet 10:00 a.m. at museum parking. 6-7 miles. Level: Easy/Moderate. Leader: Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449 cosmical42@gmail.com

Sun. 19 Jan. (Martin Luther King Holiday Weekend)—Hammonasset Beach. Meet 10:00 a.m. at West Beach parking. Dogs and children welcome. Level: Easy. Leader: Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449 cosmical42@gmail.com

Sat. 25 Jan.—Messerschmidt Pond Cockaponset Trail near Deep River, CT. Meet 9 a.m. at trailhead on CT Rt. 145N/Horse Hill Rd, off exit 64 on I-95. 3.4 miles. Level: Easy. Leader: Mandy Brink: trekeragb@sbcglobal.net or phone 860-237-7426.

FEBRUARY 2020

Sun. 02 Feb.—Northwest Park Hike/Snowshoe, approx. 6 miles. Meet 10:00 a.m. at main entrance. Level: Easy/Moderate. Leader: Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449 cosmical42@gmail.com

Fri. 07 Feb.—Sun. 09 Feb.—Winter Weekend at GMC Bolton Lodge, Bolton, VT. Enclosed shelter; wood stove. Approx. 2/3 mile hike/snowshoe from parking area into the lodge. \$77 per night, split evenly between participants. Contact Jim Robertson jrobert685@aol.com; 860-519-8310 cell; 860-633-7279 home.

Sat. 15 Feb. (Presidents' Day Weekend)—Day Hike. Quinnipiac Trail, Cheshire and Bethany. 7.0 miles. Cornwall Ave to Rt. 42 and Sanford Alternate Loop Trail. Level: Moderate. Leader: Sarah O'Hare, seohare7@yahoo.com.

Sat. 22 Feb.—Tri-town Forest Preserve, North Stonington. Snowshoe or hike. 5 miles. Meet at trailhead on Miller Road at 9 a.m. Level: Moderate. Leader: Mandy Brink: trekeragb@sbcglobal.net or phone 860-237-7426.

Sat. 29 Feb.—Sun. 01 Mar.—Winter Backpacking Trip on the Long Trail. Depending on weather and snow conditions, destination will be either Spruce Peak Shelter (four-sided, wood stove) three miles south of VT Route 11/30, or Little Rock Pond Shelter (three-sided shelter, plus tent platforms) three miles via Homer Stone Trail. Contact Jim Robertson for details. jrobert685@aol.com; 860-519-8310 cell; 860-633-7279 home.

MARCH 2020

Sat. 07 Mar.—Winter Trails Day. Hikes and gathering beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Green Mountain Club Headquarters in Waterbury Center. GMC will have 10 to 12 hikes which need trip leaders, a bonfire which will need tending and various tasks throughout the day it could use a hand with.

Sun. 08 Mar.—Mattabesett Trail - Meet 9:00 a.m. at River Rd. Middletown, CT. Plan to hike 9 miles. Level: Moderate. Leader: Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449 cosmical42@gmail.com

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.

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

SAVE THE DATE:

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

In Memory of Kathleen L. Robertson (1957 – 2019)

On behalf of the members of Connecticut Section of the Green Mountain Club, the officers wish to express their heart-felt sympathy to Jim Robertson and his family on the recent passing of Kate Robertson. Kate was an engineer at Pratt and Whitney before leaving work to devote her full efforts to raising Jim and Kate's three children, Kerry, Brenna and James. Kate was also active in her South Glastonbury community: volunteering at Hopewell School, with the Glastonbury Girl Scouts, and at St. Augustine Church as a religious education instructor. Kate returned to work as a part-time tutor for special needs children and later as a full-time math tutor and instructor at the Glastonbury-East Hartford K-5 Magnet School. Kate will be deeply missed by the many people whose lives she touched.

Mike Shaw, First V.P.,
Trails and Shelters
James Fritz
Director to the G.M.C.
Kevin T. Burke
Secretary

Dennis P. Himes, Second V.P.,
Activities
Andrew J. Hood
Alternate Director to the G.M.C.
Richard Hart
Treasurer