

Connecticut Section of the Green Mountain Club

Volume XXXXVII Issue I Co:Editors Carol A. Langley/Celia Campbell-Mohn

President's Message Jan. -Mar. 2016

With Dick Hart's leadership, our Section completed a major project in Vermont in September, replacing the roof of Story Spring Shelter. The old asphalt shingle roof had served backpackers well for decades but had degraded to the point of having a number of leaks. A large group of Connecticut GMCers along with Club field staff hauled in wood, shingles, vapor barrier, ladders and other tools to effect the replacement. And of course the old shingles and all those tools had to be carried out as well. Thanks to all who participated in this significant effort. Replacement of the Kid Gore Shelter roof awaits us in 2016.

In late September the GMC held its annual Volunteer recognition picnic. Among our Section members, special mention goes to Mandy Brink who was recognized with the GMC *Green Mountain Award* for individuals who do exemplary work for the Club. Congratulations, Mandy, for a well-deserved award!

We've had some questions about finding listings of Connecticut Section activities. Activities, which are all led by volunteer Section members, are posted in multiple locations:

- The three month activity schedule included with your quarterly Trail Talk newsletter
- On the Section web site: <http://www.conngmc.com/index.php/activity-calendar/> (uses Google Calendar)
- On the GMC web site: <http://www.greenmountainclub.org/page.php?id=381> (also uses Google Calendar)
- On the Section wiki site: <http://www.conngmc.com/newwiki/doku.php?id=start> (requires a username and password that VP of Activities Mandy Brink can provide to you). When you get to the site, click on the link for the current three-month calendar.
- *And*, thanks to Jim Fritz, on our new Facebook page: search for Green Mountain Club – CT Section, and Like the page when it appears. Event updates will be posted as they approach.

Our annual dinner and meeting will be held on Saturday April 2, 2016 at the Cheshire Grange. A reservation form will be sent at a later date. I hope you can join us for this popular annual event, which provides a great opportunity to meet or re-connect with new and old members of our Club.

No doubt many of you heard the news in October that Geraldine Largay "Inchworm", the Appalachian Trail hiker who went missing in Maine in 2013, had been found. We've had a number of discussions on hikes about her disappearance and death, mostly focused on "how?" – How did she get off the trail? How did she (apparently) die so quickly when she appears to have had all or most of her gear with her? Written accounts seem to point to exposure/hypothermia as a major contributor. Many of us have experienced cold wet weather during outdoor events, and probably suffered and shivered a little (or a lot), so it's not hard to visualize a scenario where Inchworm got cold very rapidly and hypothermia set in, with its attendant disorientation. When we're out on the trails this winter, let's be prepared to stay as dry and warm as possible so we can enjoy the many activities we have scheduled. (my thanks to Bob Michaud for his periodic updates on the investigation into Inchworm's demise.)

See you in the great outdoors,
Jim Robertson

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Please direct all inquiries regarding the Club to the President.

The Trail Talk is published four times a year, Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. 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:

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Membership

When filling out the form to join or renew, circle the **Connecticut Section** on the application to receive, at no extra charge, the Connecticut Section's newsletter and activity schedule.

Dues:

Individual Adult	\$45.00
Family	\$60.00
Senior (70 or older) or Limited Income	\$25.00
Sponsor (Individual/Family)	\$75.00

Send annual dues to:
The Green Mountain Club
4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road
Waterbury Center, VT 05677-9904
(802) 244-7037, http://www.greenmountainclub.org

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Scott Eldridge
Carina Oltmann-Jimenez

SEE YOU ON THE TRAIL!!

GOOGLE CALENDAR

If you would like to be added to this site please subscribe to site listed below.

Ct-gmc-activity-reminders+subscribe@googlegroups.com

Allen Freeman will be posting our activities to this site. Please contact him with any questions:
allen@allenf.com

HIKE LEADERS

All reports must be sent in a Word Document in Times Roman 11. Reports sent from I-phones or I Pads will be returned. Thank you!
Carol A. Langley & Celia Campbell-Mohn

Helpful Food Storage Hint

A 17oz. hummus container will hold two sandwich thins, plus a package of peanut butter and small container of jelly or honey. To spread the P&J use a stick from and ice pop. It is mouse proof. Used many times.
Carol A. Langley

LEAVE NO TRACE

Many hikers are eating Pistachio Nuts and dropping the shells at shelters and on the trail. Shelling them at home saves you time and weight on the trail. Use a clean empty peanut butter jar for carrying them in and out!!!!!!

Upper Goose Pond Sept. 25-26, 2015

A stay at Upper Goose Pond on the AT in Massachusetts is always a pleasant visit. At this time of year the caretaker is still on duty at the cabin. There is the option to stay in the bunk area of the cabin or pitch a tent out back. Rocking chairs on the porch afford a view of the pond. Canoes are available for paddling and swimming is a delightful way to cool off on a warmer day.

Linda, Don and I met at the Tyringham Road trail crossing and shuttled over to our start at Rt. 20. Don was just hiking in with us to the pond and would be returning home later. From Rt. 20 we began our hike, crossing I-90 on the AT footbridge, then began the climb to Upper Goose Pond. After arriving and setting up our tents we stopped in at the cabin. The caretaker, Shepherd, and his friend Grampy, made us feel welcome. Other hikers were in for the night as well and we all shared trail stories.

While back at our tent site and cooking supper, Jim arrived, as he was expected to arrive before dark. At this time Don headed back down the trail to head for home. He would be back the next afternoon and meet up with us somewhere along the trail. The moon phase was nearing full. All were enjoying the view of the moon rising over the pond, with its brilliant reflection shimmering on the water.

At about 3 a.m. Barred Owls could be heard far off in the distance. It's always special to hear their calls in the night. However, at 5 a.m. they started up again, this time in our camping area, and so very loudly. There were perhaps three owls and the calls held an unusual barking sound. We wondered what other creature had joined in. An internet search later found that one of the many calls the Barred Owl makes is a barking sound. So that mystery was solved.

Since we were all awakened early we rose and fired up our stoves before first light. With 7.5 miles ahead of us we stepped on the trail early to begin the hike out. The long ups and downs made the trail seem endless. About two miles from the end we were startled by Don, who thought it would be amusing to announce his arrival by jumping out from behind a tree. He accompanied us those last two miles. This overnighter was very enjoyable and has been planned for a return next year.

Hikers: Linda and Don Hagstrom, Jim Robertson
Leader: Sarah O'Hare

Connecticut Appalachian Trail Oct. 16-18, 2015

With the Iron Bridge in Falls Village out the plans for this trek had to be changed. To avoid the detour of a four mile road walk at the end of our hike we began at south Gate on River Road, instead of Rts. 7/4 at Cornwall Bridge as originally planned. Don was anxious to get on the trail as this was his first backpacking trek since he was put out of commission six months ago. The spring in his step was back. His wife, Linda, accompanied us as far as Stewart Hollow Brook and then she headed for home. Her plan was to return on Sunday and hike in to meet us somewhere along the trail.

The autumn day was perfect as we hiked the easy section of trail along the Housatonic River. As we approached the turn up to the Silver Hill Campsite we had a decision to make. We needed to either get water at the tiny spring here and carry the extra weight up to the campsite or expend our strength in pumping the camp's water pump 30-40 times before the rusty water flowed. The spring and extra weight won out. After setting up our tents we visited with a hiker in the pavilion. He commented that there had been bear activity at the Pine Swamp Brook Lean-to the night before. That put us on alert for that was to be our next night's stay. The hiker moved on, leaving us with thoughts of bears roaming south to Silver Hill.

We passed a quiet night and in the morning found that a few others had come and set up camp after dark. We got a relatively early start on the trail. With thoughts of bears behind us we began to wonder if, when and where we would meet Jim. He was to join us at some point and time during the day, having been unable to arrive to join us on Friday. Crossing the Breadloaf Mountain area, an AT access point, we began to think that he could actually be ahead of us. Every hiker we passed became aware of our expected trail companion.

Arriving at our night's destination at Pine Swamp Brook Lean-to at an early 1:00, we weighed the pros and cons of continuing on another 2.5 miles to the Sharon Mountain Campsite. After considerable discussion we decided to stay and just deal with a very long afternoon. After all, there was water here and

most of the trail's water sources were bone dry. And although we opted for tents, there was a shelter and a picnic table here to make our stay more comfortable. What we had neglected to consider in our option whether to stay or move on was that this is where there had been a bear prowling recently. In reading the shelter's register there were several entries noting bear activity. Oh my.

Much to our pleasant surprise Jim arrived not too long after we did. He told us that every hiker he passed, including the scout troop, was on alert for him. Dinner preparations were begun early as the dark was closing in and the temperature was quickly dropping. After supper, feeling quite chilled, we went for a walk to warm up. We explored an old woods road that led to an empty house. Upon returning we retired at the early hour of 7:00. The night brought forth the calls of the owl, coyotes and geese. One of us had vivid dreams of bears and another heard footfalls, real or imagined, so it was convincing enough to assume we had had a visitor. Would our food bags, hoisted high but maybe not high enough, be nothing but shreds in the morning?

We all began to crawl out of our warm cocoons into a still dark and really cold (below freezing) morning. The priority was to check to see if we had food for our last day. The beam from the lamp light found that the food bags were undisturbed, hanging high. That 'ol bear had or had not made an appearance. We'll never know. It was only 5.5 miles to the end at Rts. 7/112. The trail was rockier and more arduous than any of us had remembered. After a brief rest stop at the Sharon Mountain Campsite we enjoyed the views west of Bear Mountain, Mt. Everett and the Catskills beyond. Soon Linda came bounding up the trail, bringing snow flurries with her. She accompanied us the rest of the way down to our cars. This was an enjoyable trek and it was great to have Don out backpacking once again.

Hikers: Jim Robertson, Don and Linda Hagstrom
Leader: Sarah O'Hare

Heublein Halloween Hike Saturday October 31, 2015

Linus (of *Peanuts* fame): take heart; the *Great Pumpkin* lives. A dozen GMCer's came out to follow the Pumpkin for this annual adventure, which coincided with Halloween this year. The weather was just about perfect for hiking, sunny and temperatures in the fifties. Everyone (so the leader thought) was

assembled and ready to hike prior to the advertised 9:30 am meeting time, so we got an early start from the reservoir, walking north along the east shore and up the alternate trail. Many sported blaze orange clothing, adding to the festivity, and the leader was decked out in a large foam pumpkin costume. After about a mile and the first uphill however, the leader realized that the pumpkin was of the non-breathable variety and elected to remove it and stuff it in his pack. Others were kind enough to take some of his overflow.

We noted that the trails could use some Connecticut Section-style expert maintenance, as there were several fallen branches along with grown-in thorns and the aging faded trail blazes, which may have caused us to miss a turn off the Metacomet connector trail.

Great views awaited us upon reaching the ridge and starting toward the Heublein Tower. Scores of other hiker were out on this beautiful day including our own Kaz Rybak who had arrived at the parking area just after we had departed and took the shorter Tower Trail up to the summit. With all 13 hikers accounted for, several of us climbed the tower to enjoy the outstanding 360 degree view from the observation floor. Cloud cover was high enough and the air clear enough that we could plainly see north to Mt. Tom in Holyoke and south to Castle Crag and West Peak in Meriden.

After climbing back down the tower stairs we found two picnic tables for lunch. We swapped stories of preparing for the winter and plans for winter hiking, camping and snowshoeing adventures before packing up and heading down the Metacomet through some nice foliage to the reservoir and our cars. Kaz decided to loop Reservoir Number 6 for some extra miles. Thanks to everyone for a nice day and hike.

Leader: Jim Robertson
Hikers: Alina Badus, Mandy Brink, Jim Fritz, Gary Griffin, Don & Linda Hagstrom, Carol Langley, Bob & Mel Michaud, Kaz Rybak, Dave & Karen Wells



Tunxis Trail November 22, 2015

This was a reschedule of a hike planned for August that was postponed due to heat and humidity. We met at the trailhead on Route 219 in Barkhamstead and took two cars to the starting point on Old Route 20 in East Hartland. Gray skies threatened all day but we didn't get rain as we made our way at a good pace through a very nice section of trail. Early on we hugged the border line between Tunxis State Forest and MDC lands, being careful not to stray onto posted water company, lest we be detained for trespassing. After climbing to limited westward views, we dropped down and across Roberts Brook then up to Pine Mountain for an extended snack break. The rocks atop the Indian Council Caves made a good lunch stop with decent views of the forest and wetlands below. We cruised along for the remaining portion of the hike, finishing the eight miles just after 2 pm, having avoided precipitation and darkness. Thanks to all for a great day on a great section of the Tunxis Trail.

Leader: Jim Robertson

Hikers: Don Hagstrom, Bob and Mel Michaud, Sarah O'Hare, Dave Wells

Waterbury Reservoir Paddle September 11-13, 2015

Six of us met at the headquarters of the Green Mountain Club. After saying hello to the staff we picked up some lunch which we ate at the side of the Little River in Stowe, VT. We then drove down some country roads and finished up on a dirt road that led to the put-in.

The Little River is the main source of Waterbury Reservoir, an 823 acre, man-made reservoir that ultimately feeds south to the Winooski River and then west to Lake Champlain. The lake is never wide but is about fairly long with a large inlet to the east. It is about 1.5 times as large as Green River Reservoir that we paddled in 2011. These two reservoirs along with Somerset Reservoir are the three largest lakes entirely within the state borders.

After unloading the four kayaks and a canoe, we put all our gear in or on the boats and the flotilla took off. We headed going downriver. In a fairly short time the

river began to widen out and look more like a narrow lake. It widened further as we paddled along. The weather and water were beautiful. We were well north of the area where speedboats are permitted.

In about a mile and a half, we past Cotton Brook and got to our campsite. After unloading the 'yaks and canoe, we set up camp. Following dinner we played one of Mandy's games and then went to sleep.

On Saturday, we set out to paddle down to the dam. The dam was built for flood control purposes to protect Burlington. Along the way we stopped to check out many of the campsites. We also took a refreshing swim. Most of the sites are new in the last 2-3 years. On our way back to camp we stopped at the beach at Little River State Park to eat lunch.

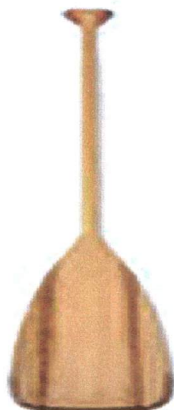
A highlight of the trip was stopping to check out one of the sites only to find a rope swing suspended from a lakeside tree. Adam tried it a couple of times and we all got infected by the simple joy of flying through the air and jumping into the water. Most of us did it a few times.

Following a rainy dinner and some more game playing under the tarp we crashed. Sunday dawned dry and clear. Though our paddling was coming to an end, the weekend still had some fun left to it.

Back on Route 100 and south of GMC HQ, we stopped at an outlet store owned by Cabot Cheese. A sample tasting room of their various cheeses served as our brunch. Across the parking lot is a Lake Champlain Chocolates outlet which needed exploration. Further south on Rt. 100 is the Ben and Jerry's plant which cried out dessert time. There was an exposition of groups performing Morris folk dancing from Wales. We then paid our final respects at their Flavor Cemetery – a fence-in plot of headstones with rhyming verse for each of the flavors that B&J has stopped making.

Sarah had mentioned she was interested in seeing the new GMC bridge spanning the Winooski River. I led the way further down Rt. 100 and Rt. 2 to where the Long Trail crosses. We walked the short distance to the bridge. It is quite impressive and massive. After walking across it and back and taking a few pictures, we all parted ways and went home.

Paddlers: Mandy Brink, Sarah O'Hare, Jim Moore,
Adam and Mike Shaw.
Leader: Dick Hart



AT/MA Katadhin- KI Rd.- Monson Sept. 16-21,2015

As planned we all met at Katadhin Stream C.G. at L.T. #5 in anticipation of the big climb on Wed. I was up at the crack of dawn and on the trail before 7:00. Dave caught up with me at the falls and was never seen again. Next was Joe who hiked with me for a short distance and then he was gone. I was amazed just how many people were on the trail in the middle of the week in Sept. Reaching the open rocks the wind was blowing so hard it was a challenge to stand up and keep your balance. This is where a nasty dizzy spell set in and for safety reasons I had to turn around and go back down.

On the way down I sat with 3 guys one of which I had camped with in the spring in VA. They were passing around a smoke and an 18 oz. bottle of Fireball Whiskey but I was a good girl and refused. I had to set a good example since I could have been their grandmother!!! Darn.

Reached the shelter and was snoozing away when I head Joe come in. Wow you made good time. Not so Joe also suffered a dizzy spell and had to turn around.

By dinner time Dave the "youngster" in the group had made it to the top and was back down. Boys & Girls if you plan to hike Katadhin do it "Now" don't wait until you are "Old & Dizzy".

The evening went quickly with a few hands of cards. Dave and I then went out to the open lot and did some star gazing. The Milky Way, three satellites, Orion, Cassiopeia, Pegasus and many more we couldn't identify.

Up early as we were dropping Joe off at Abol Bridge so he could complete a small section. Dave and I then drove to Phil Pepin's in Monson to meet shuttle. It was close to noon time when we finally reached our destination on the KI Rd. to start our hike to finish the last 30 miles of the 100 mile wilderness. We only had 3.9 miles to hike in to Chairback Gap LT but it took most of the afternoon since the heat was on once again.

Fri. our plans were to hike to Cloud Pond Shelter and yes once again it was up and down with rocks and roots. Every once in a while we had good footing but still lost time when we then encountered the rough stuff again.

Sat. Sept. 19 We climbed Barren Mt. 2,660 with beautiful views of the many lakes & mountain ranges, forded Long Pond Stream and spent the night at Wilson Valley LT. Getting water at this shelter was a challenge. A freight train went through shortly after we had settled in for the night. The ground shook and the LT rumbled what an experience.

Sun. Sept. 20 Most of the hiking was good and thank heavens that I had Dave with me since it was a challenge to reach the ropes across streams. We had lunch on top of Little Wilson Falls in the warm sunshine. We spent the night at Leeman Brook LT.

Mon. Sept. 21 We hiked into Monson on a relatively easy trail to Phil Pepin's place where we would meet Kathy A. have a hot shower, sleep in a cabin and go out to dinner. Here is where we also repacked for the next trip. This is quite the place to stay very clean.

We went out to eat and I drove, the return trip was a waking up call for us. Drive along on a dark winy, hilly road in Maine I had an on coming car flashing their lights and couldn't figure out why then suddenly what should appear but a BIG BULL MOOSE running alongside my car. Just a tap of the gas pedal and we

were gone as the Moose passed behind my car. That is the closest I ever want to be to a Moose!!!

**Caratunk U.S. 201-Monson Rte. 15
Sept. 22-25, 2015**

Leaving two cars at Phil's we drove to U.S. 201 to start hiking. Kathy was cold so she took off like a rocket and was never seen again till we reached Pleasant Pond LT. It was a cloudy cool day so Kathy moved on Dave and I were staying. Only one other hiker joined us for the night. We walked down to Pleasant Pond and watched a beautiful sunset, the colors changed from rose to purple then deep blue until it faded away.

Wed. we climbed Pleasant Pond Mt. hiked by Moxie Pond and stayed at Bald Mt. Shelter. Kathy joined us but tented. We had a quiet relaxing evening. Hearing that Moxie Bald Mt. was a tough climb we headed out bright and early. It was a cool day and we were well rested the mountain was done in less than 2 hours. Walking on the rocks afforded us great views. We reached Moxie Bald LT by noon but it was such a lovely place we stayed and relaxed. Kathy and I swam to cool off and clean up a bit. The afternoon was spent lounging on the rocks with a good book. Thank heavens all of us were readers. Around 6:00 the crowd started to come in but they all tented. At night we had a nice campfire.

Dave and I walked down to the water to watch the Full Moon rise and make a shimmering path on the water. The water sparkled someone had spilled a bucket of diamonds.

Our last destination was Horseshoe Canyon LT when we crossed the West Branch of the Piscataquis River the temp. was 30 degrees. Most of the day we hiked on the hillside along the river. When we reached the LT Kathy claimed her tent site. Dave and I were sleeping in the LT however someone has left garbage and old under garments behind. Dave and I gathered wood since a BOXER campfire was in order to burn what we could.

Dinner finished and dusk upon us the match was struck and flames danced screaming to be fed. Each pair of boxers was gently hung on a stick and then waved over the fire till they were ashes. Now who from the GMC would do such a thing. A thru hiker watched in amazement and has probably shared this story many a time on the trail.

We woke to a chilly morning with still another river to cross. Returning to Phil's we showered had lunch retrieved Dave's car at RT. 201 and we parted to start our journeys home.

There are more miles in Maine some of which are planned for 2016. Hope you can join me. Stay tuned for more adventures.

If any content of this report is incorrect or confusing to you I am sorry but I am not responsible for this aging process that I am experiencing!

Hikers: Joe Kekacs, Dave Wells, Kathy Astraukas, Carol Langley



JOIN THE CONNECTICUT SECTION OF THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB

The Connecticut Section offers a wide range of outdoor activities all year around: Hiking, backpacking, canoeing, snowshoeing and work parties in VT to maintain our section of the Long Trail. Members will receive Trail Talk our section newsletter and The Long Trail News, a quarterly publication of the Green Mountain Club, published four times a year, and discounts on GMC items such as books and shirts, etc.

ANNUAL DUES		NAME: _____
Individual	\$45.00	ADDRESS: _____
Family	\$60.00	_____
Senior/Student/ Limited Income	\$25.00	PHONE: _____
Lifetime Membership	\$1000	E-MAIL: _____

Please make checks payable to the Green Mountain Club. Mail your payment with form to:
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