



Connecticut Section of the Green Mountain Club

Volume LV, Issue I

January to March 2023

President's Message Winter 2022

Connecticut Section Annual Meeting Highlights

After a long hiatus, we returned to the Cheshire Grange Hall on September 24 for our annual dinner and meeting. It was good to see everyone who attended. The Grange served its usual delicious and plentiful dinner, and expressed thanks to the Connecticut Section for resuming in-person gatherings there. Jane Miller of the Grange told Dennis Himes and me that we were the first group they'd hosted in their building since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. Thanks to Dennis for organizing the event and arranging our guest speaker Joan Nichols, executive director of the Connecticut Farm Bureau, who made an interesting presentation on the history, content and condition of our state's forests. Joan, by the way, recently joined the Connecticut Section. Welcome!

We were joined by GMC Executive Director Mike Debonis who, along with Director Andy Hood, presented the Club honorary life membership to Carol Langley. As mentioned in the previous Trail Talk, Carol was honored for her long, untiring and incredibly active leadership in our section and in the GMC overall. Congratulations, Carol!

During the meeting the Section officers listed on page 2 of this newsletter were re-elected to serve into 2023.

Trail Maintenance

Mike Shaw led crews from our Section on work weekends to Kid Gore Shelter (September 16-18) and Story Spring Shelter (October 14-16). The primary focus was on repainting and refreshing the trail blazes which had not been done in five to ten years. Kevin Burke and Barb Kelly were featured in an Instagram post by AT thru hiker Timber the Sobo Hobo during the Kid Gore weekend. The video can be found at: <https://www.instagram.com/p/Cinl-D3PIEH/>. An Instagram account is not required to view the video.

As we head into the major holidays, I'd to thank all of you for your support of the Green Mountain Club over the past year. Best wishes for a healthy and happy 2023!

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

860-643-6867

dennis@cookhimes.us

Director:

Andrew J. Hood

860-646-2753

andrew.hood@snet.net

Alternate Director:

James Fritz

860-221-9173

james_fritz@sbcglobal.net

Secretary:

Kevin T. Burke

203-729-1603

burke-kevin@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer:

Tom Adams

860-535-0525

tradams121@gmail.com

Editor, Trail Talk:

Fred Clark

860-788-6212

fpclark1@comcast.net

Inquiries: Please direct all inquiries regarding the Connecticut Section to the President.

New Members: The Connecticut Section welcomes these new members who recently joined:

John McGuire

Joan Nichols

Douglas and Elizabeth Walker

Kurt Schultz

We look forward to meeting you at upcoming events.

Publication Schedule: *Trail Talk* is published four times a year in March, June, September, and December. Please e-mail your activity report as a Word document to the Editor at fpclark1@comcast.net no later than the fifth day of the publication month.

Membership: When filling out an application to join or renew your membership in the Green Mountain Club, circle **Connecticut Section** on the application. You will receive, at no extra charge, the Connecticut Section's newsletter and activity schedule.

Dues:

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

Send annual dues to:
Green Mountain Club
4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road
Waterbury Center, VT 05677-9904

You may also join or renew online at:

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

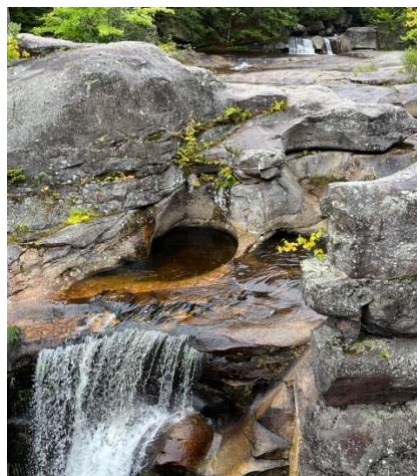
Special Thanks to member Charlotte Hitchcock. Each issue she facilitates the e-mailing of *Trail Talk* by formatting the layout and reducing the file size.

Want to help the Connecticut Section reduce expenses and save trees? Just send an e-mail to the Editor, requesting that you be e-mailed *Trail Talk*, rather than having it mailed to you. You'll receive *Trail Talk* sooner, too.

Calendar of Events:

Upcoming events are listed here:

<http://www.conngmc.com/newwiki/doku.php?id=start>



Screw Auger Falls – see p. 3

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Sleeping Giant State Park Harvest Full Moon September 9, 2022 By Carol A. Langley

A beautiful warm late summer evening. My great-granddaughter Ewelina was with me for this Full Moon hike. As I pulled into the parking lot another car parked alongside. Well, what a wonderful surprise. My son Brian and my Grandson Brian plus a friend Robin and her two sons Robert and Ryan. The kids were ready to hit the trail. Hey, let Grandma tie her boots!

The quick pace and enthusiasm continued until the Tower Path started its incline. Just after the Red Circle Dot Trail, there is a seat and soon it was occupied by the children with water bottles open. The question of the evening was, how much longer. The best answer for young children is not too much further; you are doing a great job. Soon, the Tower was in sight and all the youngsters received a shot of energy and were at the top of the tower calling down to us. The voices of excitement and joy for reaching the top were music to my ears. Now time for the food. Appetites satisfied, it was time to watch the beautiful sunset. Once again, Mother Nature showed off her colors of pink, orange, red and plum. I stood watch in the east for the Harvest Moon to make her appearance. There is a group of trees that, when you use your imagination, you can see an Indian lying down and usually, closer to the feet, the Moon makes its appearance. As soon as I announced that the Moon was rising, the excitement rose also with oohs and aahs. As the Moon rose and the sunset dusk was moving in, we headed down the tower path with flashlights and headlamps. As in the past we had views of the Moon changing color as it rose in the sky. When we reached the parking lot, it was a pale yellow. Much to my surprise there was a ranger riding around the parking lot to help people exit the park. Apparently, Sleeping Giant has a reputation for Full Moon viewing. Now it was time to go to Wentworth's for the well-deserved ice cream promised by the hike leader.

Mattabesett Trail September 17, 2022 by Sarah O'Hare

It had been many years since **Carol Langley, Dave Wells** and I hiked this section the Mattabesett Trail. This section traverses the ridge along Beseck Mountain and crosses through the Powder Hill Ski area. Changes had been made at Powder Hill and there was interest in learning how the changes had affected the hiking trail. Dave brought along fellow Massachusetts residents and AMC members Debi Garlick and Barbara Pitoniak. Debi and Barb have been making it their mission to hike the New England Trail and this hike was their first on the Connecticut portion.

We began at Reed Gap, crossed the railroad tracks and immediately began the ascent up to the long ridge along Beseck Mountain. Below, Tilcon was actively working the quarry, which disturbed the quiet of the woodlands. We eventually left that behind us and began to enjoy the views to the west and south of Talcott Mountain, Meriden, New Haven and Long Island Sound. As we neared the ski area, we found numerous mountain bike trails, all blazed and with names posted. As it was a Saturday, the trails were very much in use, with cyclists pedaling everywhere. At the ski lift, it was a sight to observe the cyclists riding the lift with their bikes. Then, with the assistance of an employee, they would step off with their bikes while the lift was still in motion. Definitely a young person's maneuver! For Powder Ridge, it appeared to be a profitable way of using the ski area in the off-season. Unfortunately, these cyclists were unaware of the Leave No Trace principle, as trash was everywhere, especially bottles and cans. Carol filled a large trash bag with the recyclables and managed to carry them for the rest of our hike. We found that the Mattabesett Trail is still there but for over a mile it is criss-crossed with mountain bike trails.

We eventually left the busy bike trails behind and continued along. Black Pond came into view, alas, the pair of swans that had lived there years ago appeared to have moved elsewhere. And during those years, the trail leading down to the pond and its parking lot had been relocated east and out to Rte. 147. Carol, Dave and I were glad to have revisited this six-mile section and Debi and Barb were pleased as well, as they put a section of the NET behind them.

Maine Appalachian Trail September 18-20, 2022 by Jim Robertson

In a quest to complete more of the Appalachian Trail in Maine, **Mandy Brink** and I met **Linda** and **Don Hagstrom** at the Grafton Notch Campground on Sunday the 18th. Mandy's and Jim's objective was to complete at least a ten-mile section of the trail, and maybe more. Don and Linda graciously offered to help with car staging and shuttles to trailheads, while also initiating the sale of some real estate they own in the same area. As always, the weather put a bit of a damper on our plans and aspirations.

Arriving at the campground, we set up on two adjacent sites we'd reserved, had dinner and turned in for the evening. Overnight it poured, driving Mandy from her tent to her car and soaking the area. With a break from rain in the morning but with more forecast for Monday afternoon, we opted to explore some short trails in nearby Grafton Notch State Park, including Screw Auger Falls, Mother Walker Falls

and Moose Cave. With the overnight rain, the rivers and falls were spectacular. We headed back to the campground for lunch then walked back up Maine Route 26 to a local graveyard with an interesting mix of historic and newer burial sites and markers. Back to the campground and the rain resumed once again.

After another heavy overnight downpour, Tuesday morning looked to be a better day for hiking, albeit cool and damp. We spotted my car at the AT crossing on East B Hill Road, then Don and Linda shuttled Mandy and me to the northern end on South Arm Road. Upon exiting the car, we noted the fast-flowing and fairly deep Black Brook but also saw a trail that ran along the bank, which I figured must lead downstream to an easy stream crossing. The Hagstroms drove off and Mandy and I started down the “trail,” only to find that it ended abruptly. No bridge, no crossing. We walked back to the road and went in the opposite direction for a bit but found no relief. In a state of pathetic semi-panic I pulled out my cell phone and held it up to the sky, hoping to contact Linda or Don to come back and rescue us. Alas, there was absolutely NO cell signal or service so we were on our own. On the opposite side of Black Brook was a small sand beach but no obvious signs of a footpath or blazes so I dropped my pack, took off my pants and shoes and forded the stream, finding it thigh-deep in places. After wandering up the trail for several yards I finally found a white blaze, as well as an impressive wheelchair-accessible moldering privy at the top of a rocky trail section. By the time I returned to the brook, Mandy had already started wading across. I crossed to the road, shouldered my pack and forded the brook for a third time. Thirty minutes elapsed, maybe twenty trail yards completed, ten miles remaining.

From Black Brook the AT gains 1,000 feet in elevation to the summit of Moody Mountain then drops 1,300 feet to Sawyer Brook. This brook was supposed to be a more difficult ford, but turned out to be easier than our first one. From there, the trail rapidly ascends 1,500 feet in elevation up Hall Mountain. About half way up I was struggling so Mandy became our pacesetter and plowed ahead. At one point my legs started to cramp up. Accepting that there was no easy escape route I sat down, drank some electrolytes, ate some trail mix and pressed upward. Around 2 pm, after passing several wet bedraggled northbound thru-hikers, I dragged my sorry self into Hall Mountain Shelter where Mandy had been relaxing and snacking for a while. Fortunately, the trail gets easier from that point, as we summited Wyman Mountain and started a long gradual downhill. Met a young guy who had been bear hunting and was looking for one of his hounds who had taken off after a bear. Near the base of Wyman we met two older gentlemen in the same hunting party and a couple more northbound thru-hikers. Hopefully the hunters were able to retrieve their wandering pup. After a few more miles, we reached my car at dusk.



It was a relief to be back at the campground where Don and Linda cooked up cheeseburgers for us as we shared stories of our respective adventures that day. On Wednesday morning the skies finally started to clear just in time to pack up our soaking wet tents, canopies, clothes, etc., for the drive home. Mandy has less than 30 miles of the Maine AT remaining to complete, which we hope to do next summer. Thanks to Linda and Don for being great companions, cooks and shuttle drivers.

CT Appalachian Trail September 29-30, 2022 by Sarah O'Hare

With summer losing its grip and autumn settling in, it was a perfect time to visit western Connecticut. The focus was to hike the newly rerouted trail of the Schaghticoke Mountain section of the Appalachian Trail where it had been moved off private land. Preferring to hike these eight miles as a day hike, I arranged to meet **Fred Clark** early in the morning at Rt. 341 and assist in shuttling him to the start at the trailhead on Schaghticoke Road. With a few hours before the backpackers were due to arrive, I accompanied Fred for the first mile or so. At the NY/CT border, he continued on his way and I turned back to meet **Don Hagstrom** and **Jim Robertson**. We then drove the four-mile picturesque Schaghticoke Road as it followed the Housatonic River, passed by impressive rock cliffs and the Schaghticoke Burial Ground. After **Kevin Burke** arrived, we all saddled up and began our hike. The trail gradually ascended to a spectacular vista, the view to the east, of Kent and the verdant green hills and valleys beyond.

Our night's destination was the Schaghticoke Mountain Campsite, a large site for tents only as there was no shelter. There was no outhouse either, just an open-air privy called a chum that was, fortunately, situated some distance away. Quiet settled over the campsite as we all set to work establishing our own tenting spaces. Known for his outrageous nightwear, Kevin emerged from his tent and modeled his new Thai-patterned cozy pants. Unfortunately, there was no matching shirt to complete the ensemble. As the late afternoon faded into evening, the stoves came out and we prepared our suppers. The warmth of glowing embers from a campfire was replaced by a lantern hung from a tree limb, as open fires are not permitted in Connecticut. As darkness settled over us, a distant owl bade us goodnight.

We took our time over the morning ritual of coffee, breakfast and packing up our gear. Back on the trail, we thoroughly enjoyed the woodlands and the new path of the rerouted trail as it was hardly broken in, which meant that erosion hadn't yet exposed roots and rocks. Signs were posted at the two junctions with the former trail, now obscured with branches and brush. We came across a blue-blazed side trail that led to a vista. Thoughts were that this may have been a portion of the old section of trail. Further along, the Mt. Algo Shelter was just a short walk off the trail. We ambled over to reminisce about previous nights spent there. The campsite, behind the shelter, seemed huge, definitely a popular stopping place. This morning, however, there was only one lone tent. From here it was but a short descent to Rt. 341. Fred's car was gone, a good sign that he successfully accomplished his day hike. We then began our drive along Schaghticoke Road to retrieve our cars. We came upon an accident where a car had gone into a gully below a massive rock cliff. Apparently, the driver had been distracted by the river scene and made a slight error. Assured that a tow truck was on its way, we continued on. Intrigued by the Burial Ground, we stopped and walked through. There were recent burials as well as old ones, the oldest recorded from 1756. Rows of plain rocks marked unidentified resting places of many from unknown years or centuries.

Arriving at our cars, we all parted for home. Jim made a detour to check on parking for an upcoming overnighiter and I stopped at the Dorothy Maier Preserve in Warren. The easy 1.5 mile woodland walk in my sandals and without the burden of a heavy pack was a good way to stretch my legs before the long drive home. Thank you, Fred, Jim, Don and Kevin for accompanying me on the AT hike and making it an enjoyable success.

**Salmon River Trail
October 1, 2022
by Dennis Himes**

On Saturday the first of October, **Mandy Brink** and I hiked the Salmon River Trail in the rain. This trail starts by crossing a covered bridge, follows the Salmon River for a

while, and climbs up to the ridges above the river. Then it comes to a loop, which we hiked clockwise. We took a short spur trail to Day Pond Brook Falls, and took a break at Day Pond. The fall colors were just starting at that time. In spite of the rain, we saw a number of other hikers, including a large group gathering mushrooms, and a guy with a weighted vest who was cycling the loop multiple times in training for a big hike.

**NY Appalachian Trail
Backpack to Wiley Shelter
October 9-10, 2022
by Jim Robertson**

Don Hagstrom joined me at the A.T. crossing on Route 22 in Pawling, NY, while **Kevin Burke, Kevin Breton** and **Eric Breton** met at the A.T. parking lot on Route 55 in Sherman, CT, with Wiley Shelter as our common destination. Because the handle has been removed from the well pump at the shelter, it's now a dry site, so we stashed some bottled water just off Duell Hollow Road a few hundred yards downhill.

Don and I started up from Route 22, following the trail through several pastures that are still actively grazed. About a dozen Hereford cattle were enjoying the bright morning sunshine, while we hikers had to watch where we stepped as the cows had no regard for the location of their deposits. We puzzled over a structure that may be some type of tank or silo located at a high point in the middle of one of the fields. Continuing up to the ridgeline we began to intersect with several trails of the 980-acre Pawling Nature Reserve. Met a family with a couple of kids out for a day hike and a southbound section hiker headed for the Hudson River. There was one section of dozens of older pine puncheon, some of which were quite slick underfoot, even in the dry sunny conditions. Foliage was starting to brighten with mostly yellows and light greens filling the forest.



Two Kevins, Eric and Don enjoy their time at Wiley Shelter

After 5.7 miles, we arrived at Wiley Shelter, pleased to find that the Kevin, Kevin and Eric had already collected a substantial amount of firewood, hauled up the drinking

water and set up camp. Don and I set our tents on an empty platform and everyone gathered around the picnic table for some warm drinks and conversation. Drink time evolved to snack time that flowed into suppertime. Seemingly quickly, it was 6 o'clock, the sun was setting behind the hills and it was time to build and start the fire in the beautiful stone fireplace in front of the shelter. The full Hunter's Moon rose through the trees, providing adequate light for those who wandered away from the fire. After three hours of levity (and maybe one or two serious conversations), we turned in for the night.

Kevin Burke arose in the early morning darkness and slipped out of camp for another appointment, while the remaining four of us enjoyed a leisurely breakfast before packing up and hiking the 1.5 miles back to CT Route 55 where we loaded into Kevin Breton's truck for a shuttle back to Don's and my cars in Pawling. Thanks to all for another great adventure.

Cranberry Bog Hike October 11, 2022 by Mandy Brink

I was a bit miffed when I had to cancel the original date for this hike, due to rain, but it really worked out in the end. The day we went out was a gorgeous fall day. The water level at the bog was as high as I've ever seen it. **Tom and Patty Adams, Ellie Morano** and I immediately spotted cranberries and started picking. Basking in the sun while we picked were Arlo and Bella. I thought the crop seemed a bit scant at first and we'd be working hard to get a good crop but, in the end, there were plenty of berries to pick. We found the mother lode bush just as we were finishing up. After grabbing all the berries that we could in that spot, we headed back to the cars, each of us with a few containers full. At the end of the hike was a real bonus.

It was my birthday, and Patty surprised us with fresh-baked pumpkin chocolate chip muffins! They were delicious.

Nehantic Trail Hike October 19, 2022 by Mandy Brink

It was a beautiful fall day. **Barb Kelly, Don and Linda Hagstrom, Tom and Patty Adams, Jim Robertson**, and I started at the Green Falls area of Pachaug State Forest in Voluntown. We were delighted to welcome two friends of Barb Kelly's on our hike, **Diane Lucas and Sue Proctor**. Our four-legged friends, Arlo and Bella, were also there. The woods were an array of varying colors of yellows, orange and red with a good amount of green pine in the mix. There was one area where the pines were like walking through a magical green tunnel. The trail starts with a bit of an uphill but then flattens out to be a lovely hike. We met the new park ranger for the Pachaug State Forest, Mark Sulik, who happened to be passing on one of the roads we intersected. Tom knew him from Boy Scouts and even was

able to pull up a picture of him as a young lad with his dad. It was nice to see that his career matched up with his passion for the outdoors. As we hiked along, we spotted wintergreen, some with berries, some without. We also spotted what we learned was rattlesnake plantain, thanks to the app on Diane's phone that identified it for us. After about 4 miles we were all hungry, so we stopped for a lunch break. We found some of the cutest painted rocks on the trail. The artwork was really good and, on the back of the rocks, we learned they had been placed by the Friends of Pachaug Forest, whom we were to eventually meet down the trail.

About halfway through our hike we came upon a crew of trail maintainers. They are a group with the Friends of Pachaug Forest and said that they are out every week working on the trails. We have their card; they said to send them a message anytime we see a problem with the trails, and they will go out promptly to fix it. They also told us they were responsible for raising the money for the CCC monument that is at Pachaug Forest, right in the center of the section where the road splits to go to Mt Misery and the youth area. We decided to do our group shot there after the hike was completed.



With the CCC Worker: from left to right: Tom Adams, Patty Adams, Linda Hagstrom, Sue Proctor, Barb Kelly, Don Hagstrom and Jim Robertson. Front, left to right, Mandy Brink and Diane Lucas.

Towards the final stretch of the trail, we passed the beaver dam. It was beautiful and the beavers have been clearly at work. The water was flowing all around after the rain.

After our group photo, it was off to the cars, just around the corner. We stopped at Buttonwoods for ice cream. They had trick or treat ice cream to celebrate the holidays. We couldn't resist. After that we picked up the cars we had left at the beginning, chatted a bit more and then everyone headed for home. Mileage for the day was 6 miles.

Heublein Tower Halloween Hike
October 29, 2022
by Jim Robertson

We had another good turnout for this year's hike, continuing a Connecticut Section tradition that Dick Krompegal started in the mid-1990s. I was joined by **Tom and Patty Adams** with **Arlo, Don Hagstrom, Carol Langley, and Bob and Mel Michaud**. We followed our typical route along the northeast corner of West Hartford Reservoir Number 6 to the Metacomet Connector Trail then to the blue-blazed Metacomet Trail. At the junction, some in the peanut gallery insisted on reminding the leader to turn left on the Metacomet, dredging up some old tale in which he was rumored to have led the group to the right, the incorrect direction...more than once.

On the open ridge we paused to enjoy views to the west, noting a large new apartment complex along Route 10 in Simsbury. Upon reaching Heublein Tower, some of the group climbed the ten flights of stairs to the observation deck. We continued over to some picnic tables in the sun for lunch, which included many Halloween baked goods that people had brought along. After feasting, we started down the Metacomet Trail back to the reservoir, returning to the parking lot about 1:30. Another beautiful day and a great hike with a great group.

Sleeping Giant State Park
Beaver Full Moon
November 8, 2022
by Carol A. Langley

It was a beautiful day with a clear blue sky. When I reached the tower, there was one cirrus cloud that was in the shape of a ribbon around the sun as it set. As the sun sank, the whole sky became a beautiful rose ring.

There were photography students at the top and they were in awe as the rose ring appeared and then suddenly the beautiful Beaver Full Moon came over the horizon in the eastern sky and it was so rosy red one person thought it was the sun coming up. I shared some Moon lore that I have learned over the years. The moon had only risen a short distance when it became orange like a pumpkin, in keeping with the season. As I traveled back down, there were still people coming up to see the moon.

West Mountain Trails
November 12, 2022
by Dave Wells

Bob and Mel Michaud, Mandy Brink, Joe Conaci and I met at the Master's School parking lot for a hike traversing a system of north-south trails on West Mountain in West Simsbury. The land is part of the Simsbury Land Trust and Town Open Space. The hike started later than is typical for day hikes

due to rain in the morning, remnants of Hurricane Nicole as it brushed the western part of our area on its path to Canada. Weather forecasters predicted the rain would stop by 11 am and this time they were correct. As we started the hike, the sky cleared and produced a beautiful, warm sunny day. Very soon we found the footing to be exceedingly slippery due to new fallen leaves and the wet ground underneath. Mel was well prepared with traction devices and she was the envy of many of us. Our lunch break at an overlook provided expansive views north and south, up and down the Farmington River Valley. Clearly visible on the northern horizon was Mount Monadnock. Some fall color remained in the valley. Due to the late start of the hike, we enjoyed the mid-afternoon sunshine with its horizontal rays and lighting in the forest, quite different than on a morning to early afternoon hike.

Trolley Bed Preserve Trail, Woodbury
November 20, 2022
by Carol A. Langley

I had 5 people interested in a Mattabesett Trail hike, but, much to my surprise, by 8:00 am Sunday, everyone had backed out. I remembered an article that I had read in the *Waterbury Republican* newspaper about the Trolley Bed Preserve in Woodbury. It turned out to be a very easy trail and soon I was enjoying a beautiful day in this preserve. Timewise, I felt like I had covered 4 plus miles and never did any loops. This is a nice place for a snowshoe walk sometime this winter.

McLean Game Refuge
10th Annual Turkey Trot, November 26, 2022
by Carol A. Langley

The McLean Game Refuge is a privately owned Wildlife Sanctuary established in 1932 by the will of Senator George P. McLean. It consists of more than 4,200 acres of forests, fields, streams and includes the easternmost traprock ridge summit of the Barndoor Hills.



Left to right: Mandy Brink, Sarah O'Hare, Dave Amidon, Carol Langley, George Papagelis, Barb Kelly, Jim Robertson, and Joe Conaci at McLean Game Refuge

At 9:00 am, **Mandy Brink, Joe Conaci, Barbara Kelly, Sarah O’Hare, Jim Robertson,** and I started our hike. We reached the first sign which should have had a purple blaze and should have been marked “North Trail;” it had a white blaze and nothing else. We thought about it for a minute and decided to continue on. We were on the right trail, but all the blazes had been painted white.

We were about ¼ mile in when I had a BRAIN FLASH that **Dave Amidon** and his son-in-law, **George Papagelis,** were supposed to be meeting us also but I gave them the wrong time. Joe volunteered to go back and meet up with Dave and George.

All together, we continued on the North Trail until I missed a white blaze which George had seen and had said, “I think we need to turn here,” but we continued on. My apologies, George, we should have listened to you. Returning, we found the white blaze going by Spring Pond and then the site of the old farm machinery. At this point Sarah glanced down and on the side of the trail was a stone marker but there was not any noticeable carving so we are not sure what it represents.

Soon the trail ended and we took a left turn onto an old fire road which would lead us to the side trail down to the pond where we planned to have lunch. A beautiful sunny day, dry logs by a pond, what more could a hiker ask for.

After lunch, we followed the trail alongside the pond and reached an old cabin which, if my memory is good, was a camping and fishing area for the McLean family many years ago. Photos were taken. One hiker took an outdoor break and most of us moved on.

When Jim, Joe, Dave, George and I reached the second bridge crossing the stream, we stopped and waited. After a bit, we became concerned since the ladies were not showing up. Joe again performed his SEARCH and RESCUE and took off up the hill. Now, he was gone for a while. Looks like we all need to go back and see what we can find. Just as we reached our last hill, there at the bottom were our missing hikers. The group made it safely to their cars and Jim announced that we had done 7 miles.



GMC Executive Director Mike Debonis & Director Andy Hood present the GMC honorary life membership to Carol Langley.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Upcoming events are listed here: <http://www.conngmc.com/newwiki/doku.php?id=start>.