

## Club Information

<http://www.conngmc.com>

### Officers & Executive Committee

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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

Douglas Clark  
Christopher & Tammy Stemen

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Hiking Hints

**Changing socks at lunch time can add miles to your tired feet!!!!. Many Steps**

**Old eye glass case will hold a small tube of toothpaste, floss and brush. Many Steps**

### Thank You

**Sherrill & Ruth Collins and David Cullen for your donations to the CT. Section!!!**

## **McLean Refuge Annual Turkey Trot Nov. 29, 2014**

The parking lot was ice and crusty snow so crampons were needed. Starting on time we followed the Horse Trail which led us to the Spring Pond Trail. Now things got dicey! What is this, an icy plank with cold running water. Determined to find another way to cross the stream Dave and I walk through brush downed trees but finally gave up and returned to the plank. Bob & Mel had danced across the plank and were waiting on the other side. Dave slowly and very carefully side stepping made it. Finally after a few tries and turning back I decided to put my THINKING CAP on. Finally I extended my hiking poles so they could be placed in the water and used to help me do the balancing act. High and dry I reached the other side!!!

As we reached the first woods road we saw where crushed rock had been dropped to help with erosion, making the hiking much better. A short break was taken at the pond which is always a lovely peaceful spot in any season.

On top of the ridge we connected with the North Purple Trail. We did not have any of the OLD FARM BOYS with us today so a stop was not made at the OLD TRACTOR. The trail winds its way through a lovely young nursery of white pine, when the rocks and hillside appeared we took a left turn which would lead us to the Summit.

We had a very short walk on an old dirt road then the climb started and never stopped until we reached the summit for lunch. Even though there were pine trees to shelter us the days' gray, windy day hustled us along. The group felt this would be a nice lunch spot on a sunny autumn day. Looks like we will once again return to this spot!!

Now here is where the leader didn't follow the rules of hiking the planned route. Instead of returning back down to the North Trail we used another route, hence Jim Robertson hiked and searched but did not find the other GMC hikers.

Reaching the parking lot I found a note that Jim left on my windshield. Let's get on the old cell and see where this boy is. Right to voicemail not a good thing. Leave another note. Paper and pencil still work!! Bob thought we should go to Starbucks for coffee to warm up. As we are pulling into the parking lot Jim calls, with good directions he joins us. All hikers accounted for we end our day!! Another great hike at McLean Refuge

Hikers: Bob & Mel Michaud, Dave Wells, Jim Roberston. L. Carol A. Langley

## **Nipmuck Trail Sat. Nov. 22, 2014**

It must have been the promise of a visit to the UCONN Dairy Bar after the hike that brought so many hikers to this outing. We came from near and far, including Massachusetts and New Hampshire. We met at the Mansfield Historical Society then drove to the start of our hike at the North Windham DEEP. Looking resplendent in our blaze orange vests and hats (it's hunting season), we stepped onto the East Branch of the Nipmuck Trail.

The trail wound through open fields, along woods roads, by Mansfield Hollow Lake, over the Fenton River, along a glacial esker and a climb to 50-Foot Rock. Once reaching North/South Junction we turned onto the West Branch of the Nipmuck where it was a short walk to our parking at the Mansfield Historical Society. All eager for that assurance of ice cream, we drove to the UCONN Dairy Bar to indulge in the excellent sweet treats that are made there. It was a fine way to end a delightful day on the trail.

Hikers: Fred Riotte, Melanie and Bob Michaud, Dave Wells, Mark Blanchard, Jim Robertson, Mandy Brink, Patty Adams and her pup, Arlo.

Leader: Sarah O'Hare

## **People's State Forest Sun. Sept. 14, 2014**

People's State Forest in Barkhamstead offers more than 14 miles of trails of varying terrain. On this warm Sunday morning we began our hike on the Agnes Bowen Trail, which began at the Stone Museum, just inside the entrance to the park. Regina was on a mission to photograph as many mushroom species as she could find. This was a fine day for a fungi hunt as they were plentiful. We turned onto the Charles Pack Trail. The cable bridge, remembered from years ago, was still there, making for a fun alternate way to cross Beaver Brook.

The two mile Charles Pack Trail ended at Greenwood Road where we then picked up the Jesse Gerard Trail. As noontime was upon us the plan was to stop at Chaugham Lookout for lunch. Too many people at this small rock outcropping had us continue a little further along the ridge to Grand Vista. Here it was a fine place for a rest, with views of the Farmington River Valley.

The 2.2 mile Robert Ross Trail was the final leg of our 7 mile circuit hike. Along this portion Regina found what she thought was the most toxic of all wild mushrooms, the Destroying Angel. The name alone could convince anyone that harvesting wild mushroom is to be left to the mycology experts. We all enjoyed our hike with the search for wild mushrooms making it more interesting.

Hikers: Regina Chatel, Judy Taylor  
Leader: Sarah O'Hare

## **Northwest Cabin Full Moon Deep-Freeze Dec. 5-7, 2014**

This was our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Backpacking trip. In years past we had driven to Upper Goose Pond and slept outside in tents on platforms. Well the Old Gal had enough so this year we retreated to the warmth of Northwest Cabin. Bunks, stove, wood sound good to me!!! I had several inquiries but only Old Faithful Kevin Burke who has attended 3 of the 4 and Mandy Brink joined me for this snowy and rainy weekend,

Kevin and I arrived within minutes of each other at the Under Mountain Trail parking lot. As we approached Riga Junction the sky released tiny snowflakes a true winter day. We had ice and snow underfoot and snow

falling from the sky, what more could one ask for!!! At this point we headed north on a mostly flat old woods road until we reached the Bog Trail, which led us to our cabin in the woods.

The cabin was colder inside then outside so building a fire was our first chore. The wood is supplied by the Northwest Cabin committee. Because of the prediction of nasty weather on Sat. Kevin and I did our wood resupply after lunch. Hustling wood across a brook and carrying it up 8-10 stone steps warmed us up fast. Darkness descended quickly.

No full moon in the sky just a cloud cover with snow falling but what is a camping weekend without an outdoor campfire. Kevin chopped I sawed but after an hour of sputtering fire and no heat to warm our cold bones we retreated to the cabin and it was lights out. The sleet and rain beat on the roof all night.

We woke up to a gray day. Plans were that we would meet Mandy at Riga Junction around 11:00. Dressed for the worst we hiked back out to meet Mandy. Well we didn't find Mandy but we found the eyeglasses that I had dropped on the way in. Standing around for a few minutes we decided that no one was out in this weather except us and returned to the cabin. We were not inside more than ten minutes and the door opens with "HI" There is Mandy smiling as always with her dog Cooper. Get in here and dry those bones. I guess if this girl will hike in the dark, she will hike in bad weather.

Those of you who had spent a weekend with Mandy know she is the "Queen of Trivia!" Yes we played a couple of rounds of Christmas Trivia which Kevin won. I won the first 5 hands then the tables turned and with Mandy & Kevin scoring big once again the winner was KEVIN. A great way to spend a cold Saturday night.

Sat. evening the wind blew and snow and sleet fell. Sunday morning we woke to beautiful blue skies. After making the cabin ready for the next occupants we packed up and were headed out by 9:30. The cold wind kept us moving and we reached our cars by 11:15. Thanks for a great weekend Kevin & Mandy. Save the date Dec. 4-6, 2015 Northwest Cabin.

Leader: Carol A. Langley  
Hikers: Kevin Burke & Mandy Brink

## **Hike in Pachaug Forest Narragansett Trail Jan. 10, 2015**

I've done this hike several times now in January. I've had extreme cold and extreme warm and this hike turned out to be right down the middle. It was before all the big snow started to happen. We actually had no snow at all although the leaves were slippery enough that they felt like slick snow at times. We staged cars and then left from the Wyassup Lake Boat launch. Our first heart thumping hill was the section before reaching High Ledges. There we stopped for a view of the lake and a group picture. The hike was a nice walk with gentle ups and downs. Don was having back problems so he went and did some research on trailheads while we hiked but he did hike in the last mile from the church and then hiked out with us. Ending at the 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist church which is the end of section 2 of this 3 section trail, we had clocked in at around 6 miles and then headed for some pizza. It was a great turn out for the middle of January. Thanks all for coming.

Leader: Mandy Brink. Hikers Sarah O'Hare, Tom and Patty Adams, Linda and Don Hagstorm, Gary Griffin and Ed Shyloski

## **Great Bear Cabin Snowshoe Trip Jan. 23-25, 2015**

Mike and Mandy met Woody and I at the trailhead parking lot of the AT Friday afternoon. After hiking into the cabin, we made a fire, unpacked and settled in.

We played Acey Deucey both nights and a raucous game of Outdoor Trivia on Saturday night. Friday night was cold and clear with plenty of bright shiny stars. Saturday night however was cloudy and snowy.

Saturday morning we drove around to the other end of Tunnel Road. Hurricane Irene wreaked so much damage that the road is still closed due to washouts. This required a 1 ½ mile walk to reach the trailhead. Given the amount of construction equipment on site so I presume the work will be completed some time next summer.

Off we went on Benton Trail southeast toward Mt Moosilauke. There was not enough snow to warrant putting on our snowshoes for the entire trip. Bareboots and micro spikes were the order of the day. The trail

was not broken out but it wasn't hard hiking. As we gained elevation, however, there were some icy patches to deal with. It snowed the midday and then cleared up and was even sunny. Thankfully, it cleared just prior to reaching the outlook into the Little Tunnel Brook ravine – steep and beautiful! We turned back so as not to finish the hike in the dark.

On Friday and Saturday morning we had to melt snow for water because the stream was frozen. This wasn't as easy as on past trips when the snow was much deeper. We did stop for some bottled water on the way back to the cabin Saturday afternoon.

As usual, we enjoyed plenty of good eats and camaraderie. On the way home, we stopped in Northampton for breakfast at Sylvester's Restaurant for some great food. It is easy to see why it is repeatedly voted Best Breakfast and Best Brunch.

Snowshoers: Mandy Brink, Mike Shaw and Woody Woodbridge  
Leader: Dick Hart

## **Hike at Whitaker Woods & McCann Family Farm Jan. 25, 2015**

Four people came out for this hike which was sandwiched between snow storms. Four inches of new powder snow covered the ground with some icy areas underneath. It turned out we were okay hiking without snowshoes or microspikes. These two adjacent properties are located in Somers, CT, and are part of the Northern CT Land Trust. The trails pass through nice areas of forest, over and around hills and along several brooks. A number of beautiful stone walls wind across the landscape.

We stopped for lunch at Walt's Bench in a sunny warm spot out of the cold wind. The bench is situated on the edge of a field in the middle of the woods. Several people remarked at how quiet the woods were – no bird songs were heard. We saw a number of animal tracks, evidence of the presence of critters in the forest, although we did not see who the makers were.

Leader: Dave Wells, Hikers: Sarah O'Hare, Carol Langley, Mark Blanchard, Maria Baiulescu

## Stratton Pond Feb. 28 – March 1

It's been several years since we had a Connecticut Section trip to Stratton Pond in winter, so it seemed like a good destination for this year. Kevin Burke, Mike Shaw and Jim met at a commuter lot in Windsor and drove to Greenfield to rendezvous with Kevin Breton and his son Eric. From there we drove north to the Arlington-Stratton Road parking area at the LT/AT crossing. There were several snowmobilers riding the road, and two state police officers with their machine, but plenty of empty parking spaces. Considering our options of taking the LT up and over Stratton Mountain or taking the road and Stratton Pond Trail, we decided to take the shorter flatter route, in order to get to Stratton Pond Shelter earlier, set up camp, and prepare a campfire. Kept our eyes on the snowmobilers along the road, most of whom slowed as they passed up but a few who had to brake hard to control their sleds, as we made the one mile walk up to the blue-blazed Stratton Pond Trail.

Entering the Stratton Pond Trail, we proceeded cautiously as there were multiple snowshoe tracks in some places, and the blue blazes were difficult to see. The snowpack is about four feet deep there, so the trail markers normally at eye level were below our knees. Fortunately someone had broken the trail to Stratton Pond before us, so as long as we stayed in the track we were fine. But venture off the trail, and it was bye-bye. I buried two 50-inch ski poles up to the grips when I did one ungraceful face plant. When we arrived at the junction of the Catamount cross-country ski trail we met a group who were skiing into the Pond for the day. We leap-frogged with them for the remainder of the hike.

Upon arriving at the shelter and having lunch, Kevin Breton set about digging an awesome fire pit in the snow, Kevin Burke set up his tent after packing down an area with his snowshoes and allowing the snow to *sinter* for a while. He explained that sintering was the snow's natural firming after it has been packed down. (I'm not sure if sintering was confirmed but Kevin said his tent site was relatively warm overnight.) We all spent a few hours collecting and cutting downed wood for what turned out to be a welcome fire on Saturday evening. A few of us explored the ice and snow covered Stratton Pond before returning to the shelter at dusk for dinner. Kevin Breton got the fire started, and Kevin Burke and I took another snowshoe down to the

pond to get our blood circulating and check for stars – unfortunately the waxing gibbous moon washed out many of the dimmer constellations. Stories around the fire included tales of hiking, military experiences, and who knows what else. It was chilly overnight with a low of about 5 degrees F inside the shelter, but all survived, although with a few cold fingers and toes by morning.

The snow on the LT/AT had not been broken from the pond up to the summit of Stratton Mountain, the skies were cloudy, and we had all been up the mountain before, so we opted to snowshoe out via the Pond Trail and Catamount Trail Sunday morning. Good timing, as snow flurries started about 10 am, much earlier than forecast. After packing our gear in the cars and a stop at the West Wardsboro General Store for coffee and snacks, we were on our way home to Connecticut. Five started; five finished – a successful and enjoyable trip.

Kevin and Eric Breton, Kevin Burke, Mike Shaw and leader Jim Robertson



## **New Hampshire Winter Trip Feb 6-8, 2015**

Talk about coming from near and far. We had hikers coming from New York, PA, CT and MA to all congregate on Friday night for dinner. It was off to the Chalet that we had rented to hover over maps and decide on hikes for Saturday. We had stopped at the Visitor Center in Lincoln to learn that they were not recommending the Franconia Ridge due to the expected winds and cold. After some debate, we decided to try it and see how far we'd be able to get before the elements turned us back. Different groups had different goals for hiking so we settled into three groups of hikers for the day

Mike headed out to meet Dave with their goal being Mt Liberty and Mt Flume. Jim Moore decided to nab the Wildcats since he still needed them for his winter list and he had already done Mt Lincoln. The rest of us headed out to do Little Haystack Mt and possibly Mt Lincoln. It was snowing and cold. Not knowing the details of everyone's hike, I think it is safe to say that everyone worked hard to achieve some or all of their hiking goals. Everyone had in a good day hike, a big work out, lots of play in the snow, lots of time on the snow shoes and beauty all around. I know for those of us on the Franconia Ridge, the wind was whipping and we stopped to protect every bit of our face so that it was hard to tell who was who behind the goggles and face masks.

Back at the Chalet that evening, we had a great dinner together followed by a game of America Trivia and Smart Ass. There were great snacks and good laughs before we all drifted to bed. We woke up Sunday morning to snow. It was snowing at a decent clip. Dave decided to try for Mt Lafayette. We learned later that the wind forced him back and he did Mt Cannon instead. Jim Moore and Jim Fritz hit the road for home before the conditions became too slick. The rest of us headed up to Crawford Notch to hike out to Arethusa Falls. The snow was falling in a good clip and the woods were so beautiful. The falls were impressive. They were frozen solid and had several ice climbers hanging off their ropes. We stayed for a while and watched a few of them climb their way to the top. Back at the cars, we noticed that the roads were getting quite slippery. At the top of a hill, traffic came to a halt as a van was stuck in the snow. We stopped to help him out as we were in Matt's big truck and he had all the proper equipment to give the guy a tow out of

the snow. Successful at our good deed for the day, we headed off for lunch. The wind was whipping by now, it was freezing and after pushing Scott's car which was stuck at the parking lot, we were happy for a hot lunch. After dinner everyone headed out for the long journey home.

It was a great weekend. We had a fun bunch and definitely a blast of a winter weekend. Thanks to all for making it so much fun.

Co-leaders: Mandy Brink, Jim Fritz. Hikers Jim Moore, Mark Stone, Scott Black, Matt Pfliger, Mike Shaw and David Kwiatkowski

## **NEW YEAR'S DAY HIKE JAN. 1, 2015**

This year only Jim Robertson showed for the hike. As we hiked along on this beautiful day with plenty of sunshine and good trail under foot we couldn't imagine why no one else showed. In the past this has been a very popular hiking day in our section.

When we reached the stream just before Southgate it had grown into a river of ice because of a large tree laid across. The ice did not look safe so we followed footsteps which brought us around the ice dam. Plans were to eat at Southgate but the wind had picked up. Jim did some rock hopping across the stream on the way back, but I took the safe route, we returned to Stewart Hollow Shelter for lunch. After lunch Jim started to read the log book and we soon found out why no one was on this New Year's hike. Another hike leader had taken in a group of hiker's just days before.

I personally was very hurt by this leader's actions and hope that in the future this type of incident is not repeated.

New Year's Hikers, Jim Robertson, Carol A. Langlely