



Connecticut Section of the Green Mountain Club

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President's Message Fall 2016

We recently learned of the passing of two great Connecticut trail champions, Norm Sills and Herb van Winkelen.

Norm Sills passed away at the age of 94 at the Noble Horizons facility in Salisbury on August 28. Norm was a long-time member and active volunteer with the AMC and GMC. His love of the Appalachian Trail in particular started when he and his late wife Nancy moved to a farm on Prospect Mountain, close by the AT, and culminated in his AT thru-hike in the mid-1980's. As a coordinator of the Connecticut Appalachian Trail Committee, Norm was instrumental in ensuring the Trail between Cornwall Bridge and Falls Village remained in Connecticut when it was re-routed from east of the Housatonic River to the west side in the late 80's, and was responsible for laying out and building much of the new route. I recall him mentioning once, as we were participating in a GMC workshop on building rock stairs near Story Spring Shelter, that he had installed over 75 stone steps going up St. John's Ledges in a week, mostly by himself (our whole crew in Vermont had managed to locate all of *two* steps in a weekend.) Norm continued to work on trail crews and backpacked with us past his 80th birthday. In addition to his trail volunteerism, he was active in Salisbury town governance for many years. I think Sarah O'Hare said it best about Norm: "He was a remarkable and personable man."

Herb van Winkelen died at the age of 89 in January in Florida, where he had moved to be closer to his family. Herb was one of the founding members of the Connecticut Section, serving as a vice president of activities, vice president of trails and shelters, and finally as president from 1975 to 1977. He later represented us as our director to the GMC. In 1992 at the age of 66, Herb hiked two thousand miles of the Appalachian Trail, getting off the trail only when Fall weather and shortened days began to limit the number of people on the AT. Herb enjoyed having other hikers around him, and found that their absence in late Fall made the trek tedious. He gave me some valuable advice once, while we were on a maintenance trip to Kid Gore Shelter on a cold Spring weekend and my legs were aching from lack of exercise. Herb said: "Jim, the best conditioning for backpacking *is*.....backpacking. So just go out there and do it." At the time he was exactly twice my age.

I can't think of a better way to honor the legacies of Norm and Herb than by getting out and enjoying the trails and byways of the Northeast that they loved so much, and especially by volunteering to publicize, maintain and protect the trails. Fall in New England is a great time to get outside, taking appropriate note of hunting seasons and areas, of course. Our Section has some great activities planned. I hope you can join us.

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>

**Thank you for your donation to the
Connecticut Section**

**Ann V. Bogucki
Richard Souza**

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**

Recycling on the trail!!!

Saving plastic packages from items that you buy can be used on the trail for your dinners. I generally break down my freeze dried into two separate bags, (not Ziploc) bags from other food items. They can also be used for items that need to be discarded. You will need a bowl to rehydrate your meal there are collapsible ones which work fine.

The plastic containers from Crystal Lite will hold a block of cheese, three packages of oatmeal, etc.

An 16oz jar from your peanut butter will hold crackers, cookies, etc. and no messy crumbs in your pack.

A 17oz. container from Hummus will hold two sandwich rounds, a container of peanut butter and a stinger of honey. Anything sticky is in the container.

Do you have an idea to share, let me hear from you!!!

Windsor Locks Canal July 16, 2016

We had an early start and were glad when we returned in the noon time sun. Leslie & Richard Chandler were the brave hikers who joined me. There was a pleasant breeze from the CT, River as we headed south. Gold finches sang and flew from tree to tree. Somewhere in the woods a cardinal called to his mate. A wood thrush sang it's melodiously song sounding like a flute.

We were very impressed that every biker passing by announced themselves however, one hit a chipmunk. Another hiker raced to the scene and stroked the chipmunk till it passed then moved it into the grass off the path.

In the canal we counted four families of mergansers with their babies, it was quite a site as they formed a single line behind the mother and followed her every move.

Reaching the benches near the other parking lot we decided to have lunch and watched two huge snapping turtles rolling around in the water. Another walker told us of her being able to get a photo of a mother eagle and her baby just a few days ago.

Time to start back, the heat of the day brought out the swallowtail butterfly who danced from the milkweed to thistle, fleabane, flox and the black eyed susan.

On the shore line we heard quite a racket after some searching we found two Great Blue Heron fighting over a fish. One last cry and off flew a great blue with the fish in his/her mouth to the opposite shore to enjoy their dinner in peace.

Our last wildlife sighting was just as we reached the bridge to cross through the gate, Richard saw a group of turtles sunny themselves.

We finished around 1:15 and completed 9 miles on a very lovely path. The colors of the different trees must be something to see in the fall. This is a real CT. gem if you have not walked or rode your bike here you might want to plan to do so.

Hikers: Carol A. Langley, Leslie & Richard Chandler

New Hampshire Weekend Aug. 19-21, 2016

Everyone had different goals in the same area of hiking for this weekend. Some were looking to nab some 4 K peaks, others looking to complete some sections of the AT. In the end it was a modge podge of hiking but I think everyone was able to accomplish their goals for the weekend. We hiked in the Mt Lafayette Range. Jim Fritz started up the Falling Waters Trail to grab Mt Lincoln while Jim Moore, Mandy and Mark headed up the Greenleaf Trail to the Greenleaf Hut and then onward to Mt Lafayette. Carol and Jim Robertson were hiking up the Liberty Spring trail, with Carol doing an overnight at the Liberty Spring campground and Jim R joining her on Saturday morning.

Mark hung around the Greenleaf Hut doing some photography while the rest met at the summit of Mt Lafayette. Jim Moore headed back down to the hut, working on his 4 K peak in his 70's list. From their Mandy finished a 3.9 mile missing section of the AT that she needed. Jim Fritz hiked along to nab Mt Garfield on his quest to finish his high peaks list. After nabbing Mt Garfield we began our last 5 miles out to the car. Jim R and Carol also crossed the AT to Mt Garfield and camped Saturday night.

On Sun. Carol & Jim took the Gale River Trail out. Reaching the parking we found out we had missed the shuttle by 2 hours. A 1.6 mile walk on a dirt road led us out to Rte. 3. Jim & I looked both ways and all we saw was the road and trees, looks like it's time to use those thumbs. Two minutes and a car with CT, plates stopped and we were on our way to Liberty Spring where our cars were parked. A dinner in town and we headed south. The rest of us hiked out to a shower and well deserved dinner, camping at the Twins KOA. It was early to bed as we were all pretty tired.

It was a beautiful weekend to hike. It was hot but oh the views were so incredible. There were lots of people and doggies out this weekend. The cars were parked for miles at the trailhead. We debated about a hike on Sunday in the end our bodies were happy with the 12-14 miles we had done the day before. We called it a weekend and headed for home after a nice breakfast.

Hikers for the weekend: Mandy Brink, Jim Robertson, Jim Moore, Carol Langley, Jim Fritz and Mark Russell.

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:
Green Mountain Club, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Rd., Waterbury Center, VT. 05677

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