

JANUARY 2018

Fri Jan 5-Sun Jan 7 - Winter weekend in the Adirondacks. Plans to stay at Heart Lake Adirondack Loj. Day hikes from hut. Reservations for hut are required and are \$70/night per person. Level: Difficult. Leader: Mandy Brink: trekeragb56@gmail.com or cell 860-237-7426

Sat. Jan. 6, Celebration of Dave Hardy's life at the Zen Barn 2 miles south of GMC headquarters in Waterbury Center, VT. Time 2:00 – 4:00. Later potluck, music, beer, bonfire at GMC Headquarters. If you would like to attend contact Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449

Sun. 14 Jan. - White Memorial -Litchfield, CT. Hike/Snowshoe Meet 10:00 Museum Parking Lot approx. 5-6 miles. L. Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449 cosmical14@yahoo.com L. Easy

Sat. 20 Jan. - Sun. 21 Jan. - Snowshoe Backpack. Probably Stratton Pond Shelter or Spruce Peak Shelter, depending on weather. Call for details. Jim Robertson, 860-633-7279 home, 860-519-8310 cell, jrobert685@aol.com, rober2je@westinghouse.com L: Difficult

Sun. 21 Jan. -Northwest Park - Windsor, CT. Meet 10:00 Main Entrance. Hike/Snowshoe 5-6 miles. L. Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449 cosmical14@yahoo.com L. Easy

Friday Jan 26- Sun Jan 28 - Winter weekend in the Catskills. Plans to stay at the farmhouse and day hike various Catskill peaks. Cost of cabin to be split among participants. In past years this has been a really fun weekend. Come one come all. We hope to see you there. Level can be easy to difficult depending on different hikes offered. Leaders: Jim Moore: jmoore@acentech.com or Mandy Brink: trekeragb56@gmail.com

Wed. 31 Jan. Blue Full Moon Meet at Savin Rock West Haven, Jimmie's Parking lot 3:45 walk along the ocean Sun will be setting at approx. 5:17 and Moon Rise will follow. We can have dinner at Jimmie's and avoid the drive time traffic. Bad weather cancels. Call if in doubt. L. Carol A. Langley 860-866-4449 cosmical14@yahoo.com L. Easy

FEBRUARY 2018

Sat. 3 Feb. -Day Hike/Snowshoe Chatfield Trail in Killingworth. Meet at the Route 80 trailhead at 9 am. Hike out to the Deer Lake Camp for lunch than hike back, about 7 miles. We did this hike last year in Jan and it was warm with no snow. Maybe this year we will get to use snowshoes. L: Mandy Brink: trekeragb56@gmail.com or cell phone 860-237-7426 L. Easy

Sat. 10 Feb. - Sleeping Giant Hike/Snowshoe Meet 10:00 Tuttle Rd. at bridge crossing, off Rte/10 Hamden. Miles and trails will depend on weather conditions. Ice Cream at Wentworth's after hike. L. Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449 cosmical14@yahoo.com L. Easy-Moderate

Wed. 14 Feb. Valentine's Day Walk & Talk Hammonasett S.P. Meet 10:00 West End Parking lot. 5-6 miles to keep the Old Heart Pumping. Dogs welcome. L Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449 cosmical14@yahoo.com L. Easy

Sat. 17 Feb. - Day hike/snowshoe. Nipmuck Trail, Willington and Ashford. Rt. 44 to Perry Hill Road. 6.0 miles. L. Sarah O'Hare seohare7@yahoo.com. L. Easy

Sat. 24 Feb. - Sun. 25 Feb. - Snowshoe Backpack. Stratton Pond Shelter if we don't go there in January, or maybe Bourne Pond. Call for details. Jim Robertson, 860-633-7279 home, 860-519-8310 cell, jrobert685@aol.com, rober2je@westinghouse.com L: Difficult

MARCH 2018

Sat. 3 Mar. East Rock Park-East Haven Meet 10:00 Parking Lot off Farnam Rd. Exit 6 off I-91 Hike 5-6 miles. L. Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449 cosmical14@yahoo.com L. Easy

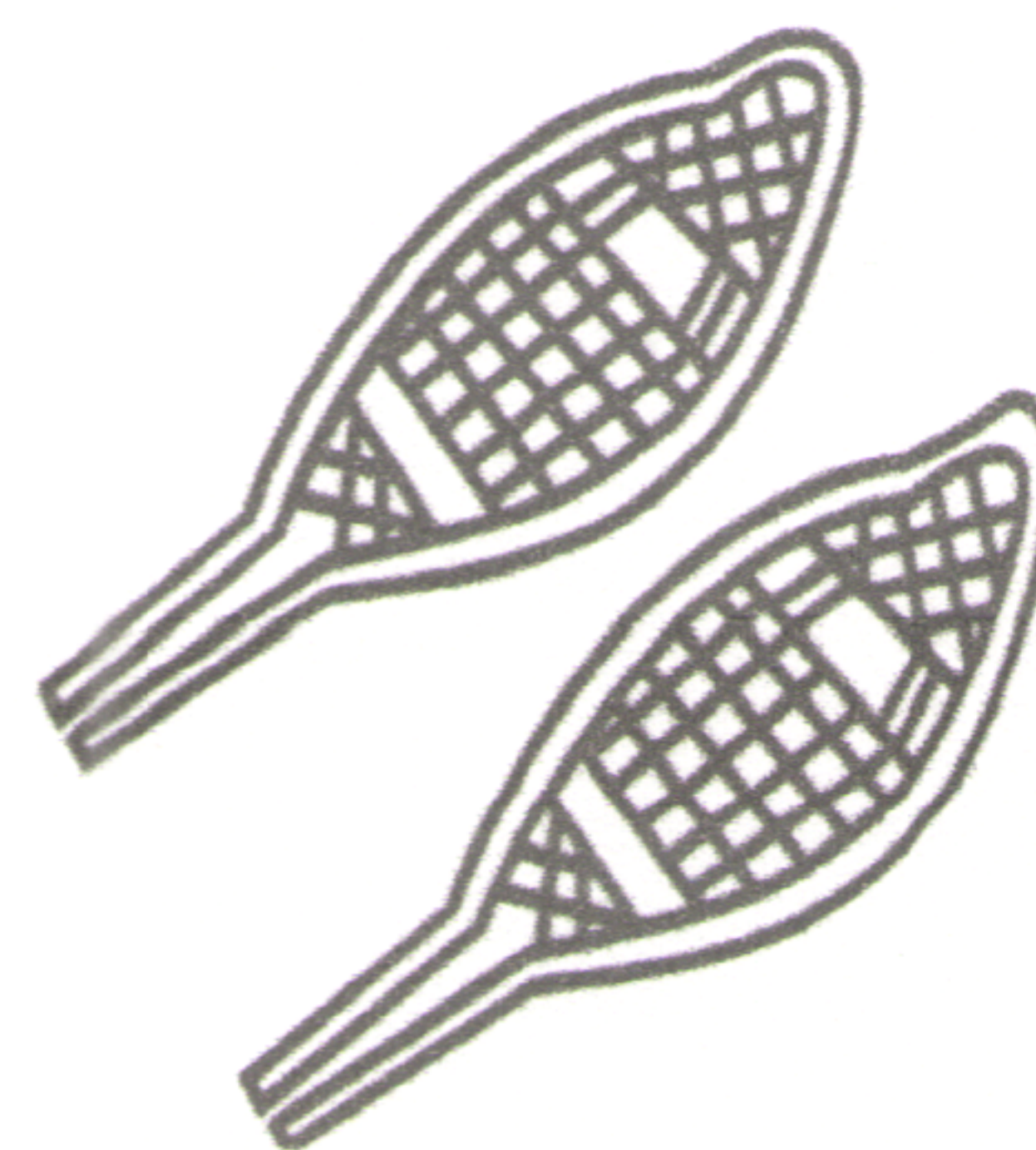
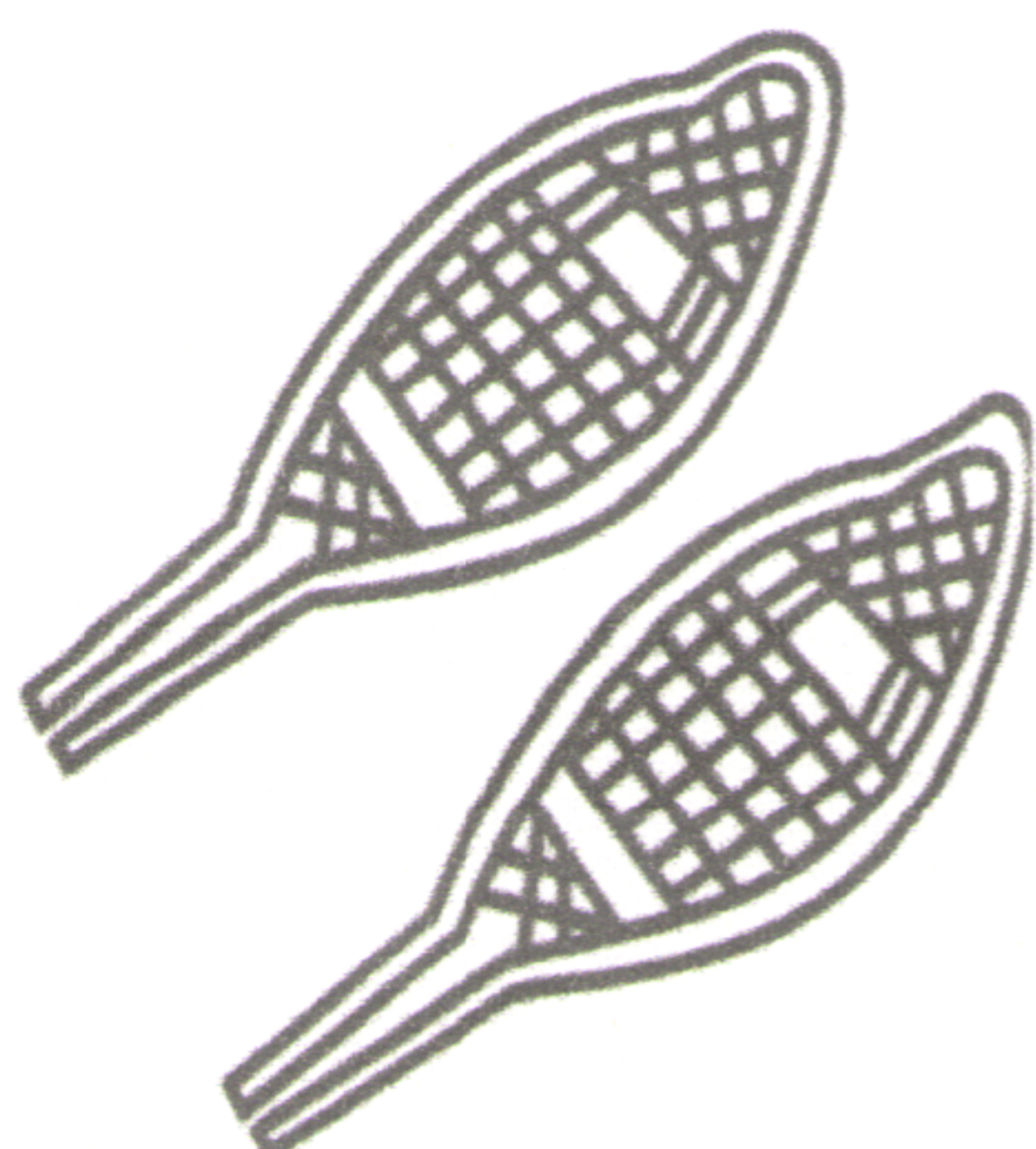
Tues. 6 Mar. McLean Refuge Tues.Trot/Snowshoe Meet 10:00 Main Entrance off Rte. 10/202 Simsbury. Weather conditions will dictate activity and miles. L. Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449 cosmical14@yahoo.com L. Easy

Sat. 17 Mar. - Day hike. Meet at Wyassup Lake boat launch at 9 am with plans to have donuts and pastries at the shelter for a St Patty Days celebration, leaders treat. Rejoin trail from shelter to hike over High Ledges, Bullet Ledges with plans to end at Johnson Road end of trail. Hope to recruit a car for staging at this end. Mileage about 7.5. L. Mandy Brink L. Easy

Sat. 24 Mar. - Annual meeting of the Connecticut Section of the GMC. Cheshire Grange. Details forthcoming.

Sun. 25 Mar. - Post-Annual Meeting Hike. A chance to use some of that energy stored up from the Grange's delicious dinner the night before. Location TBD. Call for details. Jim Robertson, 860-633-7279 home, 860-519-8310 cell, jrobert685@aol.com, rober2je@westinghouse.com Level: Easy/Moderate

SNOW SNOW SNOW SNOW



Presidential Backpacking Trip Aug 13-15, 2017, New Hampshire

We altered our plans a bit for the original. The June backpacking trip was a healthy reminder of how many miles are really a decent amount to hike in the White Mountains before it becomes a dead march. We decided to shorten our days to more reasonable mileage so we could enjoy the journey.

They were calling for rain all three days we were hiking. Slowly the forecast changed and it ended up being so beautiful all three days. It was the perfect temperature for backpacking and the views were incredible. Check out Jim Fritz's pictures on Facebook . Anyway we met at Pinkham Notch and headed to the trailhead for the AT at Webster's Cliffs. We were happy to meet Lucinda from Vermont who joined us for the backpacking. She was delightful. Our goal was to hike up Webster Cliffs to Mizpah Hut and that worked well. It was a clear day and we were able to enjoy the views. This section took us over our first 4000 footer for the trip, Mt Jackson at 4052 ft. It was an easy walk over to Mizpah Hut where we met up with Mary, a friend of Mandy's, who had hiked in from the Crawford Path. We enjoyed dinner together. Then we went to a presentation on the history of the huts. After which we retired to bed, well except for Lucinda and Mary who stayed up to watch for the meteor shower.

After a hardy breakfast, we said goodbye to Mary and headed off to tackle the day. Our first peak was Mt Pierce at 4310 ft. We stopped for a snack and picture at the top of Mt Eisenhower at 4780 ft. The day was clear and bright. You could see the mountain ranges for miles. Our adventure took us over Mt Franklin at 5001 ft and Mt Monroe at 5384 ft before tackling the big one, Mt Washington. We stopped at Lake of the Clouds Hut for a snack and drink before heading up. It really wasn't bad. I guess by then our climbing muscles were in the mode for up. Because it was so beautiful, there were so many people there and I once again experienced the disappointment of reaching a peak only to feel like I just walked into a circus.

There was a decent line for the Mt Washington summit picture. Luckily a large group ahead of us in flip flops and dresses decided to let us go ahead of them because as they said "you really earned the right to a summit picture because you really climbed it". I do have to admit as much as I hated the crowds, but the chocolate milk and popsicles tasted so good. Next was the descent down through Tuckerman's Ravine to the Hermit Crab shelter. It was a long hike down. It was later in the day and we were getting tired. Going down Tuckerman's with a full pack was a challenge. It's impossible to go fast and you must be so careful with your footing. We finally made it down and were so happy to be at the Hermit lake check in station. The set of shelters are quite a gem and the Hermit Lake is a very nice setting. We

had a lovely shelter on the water. We settled in, had dinner and were pretty quick to bed.

On Tuesday it was an easy day out to the cars. Reality and work the next day forced us to leave our wonderful hike and head home. It was a fairly easy hike out. The threat of thunderstorms for the afternoon made it a bit easier to leave. Because I had missed a mile when I did the Wildcats from Pinkham Notch, we drove down to the Glen Fall area and hiked that one missing mile on the AT so I could connect my dots on my map. After we conquered that last mile, we went to Pinkham Notch for showers. There was a gal there, set up with a telescope that allowed us to look at the sun. That was pretty cool. So having done only half of the original range, we hope to go back next summer to finish the section from Mt Washington to Mt Madison, just in case this write up gave you a hankering to join us. Mileage for the 3 days was about 20 miles.

Hikers: Mandy Brink, Jim Fritz, Lucinda Sands and hut friend Mary Hart
backyard shouting "keep out"!

Enders Island Paddle Aug 19, 2017

Rescheduled from a rainy day in July, this day was the perfect day to paddle to Enders Island. There is nothing like being out on the sparkling water on a warm summer day. We paddle first to Enders Island where we stopped for quite a while to enjoy the gardens. The flowers were still in full bloom and luckily Barbara and Marge knew there flowers well. There was a bag piper playing outside the church that added a sense of being special to the gardens. We toured the church, checked out the sea wall and then found a lovely shade tree for lunch. From there we paddle around Mason Island and on towards the Mystic River. Mandy headed back to the YMCA as work was on the calendar for the afternoon but the others were going to head up the Mystic River in search of ice cream. Thanks all for your company on the water.

Paddlers: Mandy Brink, Barbara Kelly, Dave Bakulski, Keith and Marge Wilson.

Hopeville Pond Kayaking Sun. August, 27, 2017

It was just Carol and Mandy for the paddle but what a lovely time we had. It was a perfect day to be on the water, sunny and warm. We paddled first to the end of the pond that passes by the main beach. We turned around and headed towards the other end of the Pond. We passed some swans along the way. They were very graceful on the water but we kept our distance because they can be territorial.

Hopeville Pond is bigger than you would think from looking at a map. We paddled until the pond ended and led into a river. We paddled down the river for quite a ways. It felt like we would have eventually come to another body of water, but not knowing, and having paddle for over 2 hours, we decided to turn around.

We got back to the boat launch in just enough time to have a quick lunch at the camping area before we loaded up the boats for home. We met at 9am and paddled till 1:30 so it was a decent amount of time on the water. It would be fun to go another time to explore where the river would have taken. We talked about doing an overnight at Hopeville Pond next summer on a full moon night so we could go paddle by the light of the silvery moon. Stay tuned for that.

Paddlers: Mandy Brink, Carol Langley

Mattabesett Trail- Sat. Sept. 16, 2017

The section of the Mattabesett Trail, from Brainard Hill Road to Old Blue Hills Road, was new to the majority of the group. The day was foggy and mild, making the woods appear dark and dismal. The scarlet brilliance of late blooming Cardinal Flowers punctuated the course of Bible Rock Brook, giving hope for a brighter day ahead. Careful footing across the brook and an ascent brought us through Mountain Laurel and along a lengthy rock slab known as The Pavement. The woodlands can display wondrous sights, as we discovered this morning. A profusion of small, mist-laden webs clung to the ferns, appearing as blooms of tiny clouds scattered through the undergrowth.

We stopped at Millers Pond, its morning stillness an invitation for a rest. We then continued on through more arbors of Mountain Laurel and over rocky terrain. At times the steep climbs required effort in foot and hand placement. However, we would be rewarded with magnificent views, especially from Bear Rock. After another 2.5 miles, and as we approached Coginchaug Cave, we paused to weigh the option of taking the spur trail up to the Pine Knob Overlook. After a successful attempt to follow the poorly blazed side trail we found ourselves disappointed as there was no view. Perhaps at one time there had been but the years and maturing trees had closed the vista. We should have just continued along the blue-blazed trail as George had. We were to meet up with him above Coginchaug Cave. There, while waiting for us, he heard the calls from a pair of owls. Unfortunately, the owls quieted as we all trudged along on weary feet through the cave and up the rise to where George waited.

It was now but a mere mile to the end of our adventure. This 8.5 mile section of the Mattabesett Trail (also known as the New England Trail) was a fun and challenging woodland walk. It is worth another visit, perhaps in June when the Mountain Laurel will be in bloom.

Hikers: Leslie and Richard Chandler, George Jackson, Don Hagstrom, Dennis Himes
Leader: Sarah O'Hare

Mohawk Trail - Sat. Oct. 14, 2017

Over the many years that I have been hiking with the CTGMC, I have hiked the Mohawk Trail in sections, and on one occasion, as a challenging weekend backpack. I decided to visit it once again by scheduling it in a series of day hikes. This was the third and final section to be hiked. The Mohawk Trail is a 25.4 mile trail that follows over diverse terrain, including the many mountain summits with their vast views, and then down into Dean Ravine with its impressive cascades.

This southern portion is basically an ascent and crossing of Coltsfoot Mountain. We began at Cornwall Bridge, over which we crossed the Housatonic River, and then headed up paved Dark Entry Road to the turn onto the woodland path. The ascent was a gradual one and we watched for the landmarks of Echo Rock and Baldwin Cave. They would have enabled us to learn exactly where we were and how far we had come. But alas, the boulders and rock faces were too numerous, and there was nothing to distinguish them from any other. A rocky outcropping along the ridge allowed us an opportunity for our only view into Cornwall Valley.

With winter approaching many bird species had begun their migration. There were, however, still those who, through their songs, let their presence known. Efts and toads scurried and leapt off the trail as we trudged along. Emerging from rotting stumps and logs, curious chipmunks gave a quick look, only to disappear in a blink. Their warning calls echoed throughout the forest, alerting one another of our passing through their neighborhood.

Descending Coltsfoot Mountain was a challenge, in contrast from our earlier ascent. It was extremely steep and rocky. The trail eventually ended its rocky section, crossed into a boggy area then led us into a pasture. A horse and donkey sauntered over to investigate. The urge to pet them was thwarted by an electric fence. The path came out onto Jewell Street where we had a view to the west of the mountain we had spent the day traversing. A short walk brought us to the end of the section at the Cathedral Pines parking area. After the drive back to Cornwall Bridge we decided to finish that very last half mile of the Mohawk Trail. The trail actually ends atop Breadloaf Mountain, at the Appalachian Trail. The 550' ascent was quite a climb but the views from the summit made it all worthwhile. This extra length of trail gave us 8.0 miles for the day. Upon returning to our cars Leslie shared her homemade goodies, a reward for all our efforts of the day.

Hikers: Leslie & Richard Chandler Leader: Sarah O'Hare

Hueblin Tower Hike – Sat. Oct. 28, 2017

This Fall hike to the Heublein Tower has been a Section tradition for almost 20 years. We've had good weather; we've not-so-good weather (cold rain, sleet), but this year's edition was another nice one. Most of us met at the MDC water treatment plant at Reservoir Number 6 and started out. As we turned up the Metacomet Trail toward the Talcott Mountain ridge, I received two attempted cell phone calls. The caller's number wasn't familiar so I didn't answer. When we stopped for a rest, I checked the voice message and found that Dennis had been trying to call, having started from the main parking area on Route 44 and having hiked up the west side of the reservoir, essentially in an opposite direction around the loop we planned to hike. We made arrangements to rendezvous at the Tower and continued along, enjoying views to the west on this clear day. Score of other people and dogs were taking advantage of the warm sunny day as well.

Upon reaching the Heublein Tower, we learned that the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection had instituted limits on the maximum number of people in the tower and on the top observation floor this year, to comply with local fire regulations. The population is now controlled using laminated cards, so we had to wait for visitors to come down from the tower's upper floors and return a card before we could start up the ten flights of stairs. Dennis had arrived shortly before the rest of our group and was just coming down as some of us were waiting to go up. The view from the observation level was worth the walk, as it has been for most of the years. Linda kindly stayed in the yard outside the tower with Molson as the leader climbed the tower.

After we regrouped, we found a couple of picnic tables and enjoyed lunch, highlighted by Fall-themed snacks that several folks had brought to share. An easy hike downhill along the Metacomet Trail to the reservoir completed our day. Thanks to everyone who joined our annual sojourn. We'll plan it again next year!

Hikers: Don and Linda Hagstrom, Leslie and Rich Chandler, Jazmine Shepard, Dennis Himes, Dave Wells. Leaders: Jim Robertson & Molson the Alpha Dog

Bromley Mountain, Sun. Oct. 1, 2017

We had a good turnout from the Connecticut Section for this day hike up Bromley Mountain in southern Vermont. This activity served two purposes: to enjoy the outdoors and the Long Trail and also to survey the location for the proposed replacement observation tower at the summit (more on that below). We met GMC Manchester Section president Marge

Fish and her dog Bromley at the large parking area on VT Routes 11 and 30 and began the pleasant three mile hike up the mountain. Bromley Shelter at the two-mile point made a good rest and snack stop, and we admired how well the structure was built and has stood up to plenty of use over the past 14 years. Funding to construct the shelter was provided by Teri Edelstein of our Section, in memory of her daughter.

The Long Trail utilizes one of the ski trails for the final ascent to the summit and the upper station of the ski lift. The broad open summit offered decent vistas in most directions on this warm sunny Fall day, although some views are blocked by trees. Notably there was hardly any change in color of the leaves, as foliage season occurred later than usual this year. The ski lift was operating to bring "leaf-peepers" to the top, but the gentleman staffing the upper station said that ridership had been sparse that day.

Marge and her husband Bob lead a committee that is spearheading the fundraising effort to replace the fire/observation tower at the Bromley summit that was condemned and torn down in 2012. The committee has erected a large display with information on the previous tower and plans for a replacement, which would allow hikers to have an unobstructed 360 degree view of the southern Green Mountains, similar to the observation tower on Stratton Mountain. In the coming months, we'll communicate more on initiatives in the Connecticut Section to support the tower replacement.

After lunch on the summit, we made the easy three mile descent back to our cars.

Hikers: Bob and Mel Michaud, Leslie and Rich Chandler, Jazmine Shepard, Mark Blanchard, Dick Hart, Marge Fish & Bromley
Leader: Jim Robertson

Pachaug SF Hike – Beach Pond to Porter Pond Sat. Nov. 4, 2017

We were off to a later start due to a miscommunication about car staging. Once we all congregated at the right parking lot at Beach Pond, we were off on this lovely sunny warm fall day. We had hiked about a mile when Leslie got a phone call from home that required some attention. Leslie and Richard had to turn around but the rest of us continued on our way. The beginning of the hike was a bit challenging with a decent up and down rock area that included a squeezer area that was fun. Sarah had been on a hike in this area a couple of years ago and pointed out the Stone gardens. The history of the gardens included that they were built by Indians as a religious ceremonial rite. It is okay to walk on them but not to dismantle them.

One sad moment to the day is that we stumbled upon some poachers. As we were walking down a section of trail by the road, some fellows saw us coming, hopped in their trucks and took off. We came upon 2 freshly killed deer that were partially dismantled. We called it into the poaching hotline but still it added a degree of sadness to our hike.

We got on the subject of ceremonies that then lead into the topic of cremation. This led to an education from Don of what not to do if you want to be cremated. What we learned is not to die drunk if you want to be cremated. You'll have to contact Don if you want to get details. We all had a good laugh, as we usually do when Don is hiking with us.

We continued onto Great Meadow Pond where we stopped at the shelter for lunch. The shelter will sleep four in case anyone ever wanted to spend the night there. It's a nice spot with the shelter right by the water. After lunch it was off to Porter Pond. Once arriving there we debated the next dilemma of one car and 7 people and one dog that needed to get back to Beach Pond. We decided we'd all squeeze in. Gary tied his day pack to the top of the car which worked well for awhile until he almost lost it. Patty and Mandy hopped in the back of the Volvo and Gary drove the very cozy group of crammed in hikers. Really the biggest annoyance of the whole ride was the fly buzzing around the people in the front and middle seat. They were too crammed in to do anything about it.

Aw, back at Beach Pond we piled out of the car where everyone could stretch again. It was a delightful day to be out. We did 6.4 miles.

Hikers: Mandy Brink, Gary Griffin, Don Hagstrom, George Jackson, Tom and Patty Adams, Leslie and Richard Chandler, Sarah O'Hare and Arlo the dog.

N.H.-A.T. Day Hikes & Backpacking Nov. 10-14, 2017 Fri. – Tues.

Fri. Nov. 10 – Dave Wells and I met in the Dartmouth College parking lot A at 10:15 leaving my car in the lot I rode with Dave to the Etna-Hanover Rd. where we started our hike. A bright sunny day but winds were at 20 miles per hour temp. 22 degrees and the wind chill was between 5-15 degrees. The pace was fast, the trail easy. Dave spotted a flat spot near a stone fence and big tree where we sat and had lunch. Needing to move around I spotted a couple of stone foundations and a small pond that was probably the water source for these homes.

The trail was very pleasant with gentle ups and downs that took us through lovely Pine Tree Forests. Some of the streams that we crossed and past by were starting to develop White Lacey Edges, a sure sign of the snow soon to come. At 2:45 we reached my car at Dartmouth 5.9 miles. Retrieving Dave's car we then drove to White River Inn &

Suites which would be our residence for the next 3 nights. Dinner was at a local Pizza Rest. that Dave had remember from years past.

Sat. Nov. 11 – Another sunny but bitter cold day. Leaving a car at Goose Pond Rd. which is a difficult spot to find we then drove to Etna-Hanover Rd. and started our hike. The first part was a steep steady climb over Moose Mt, Because of the cold temp we did not take time to visit the shelters but kept moving. There was a great view from the South Peak but the wind kept us moving. On the west side of the mountain we found a sunny spot with protection from the wind. After lunch we met a trail maintainer carrying a chain saw to remove blow downs. 8.3 miles hiked today.

Sun. Nov. 12 – Things are heating up 39 degrees today and more sunshine. Our last day hike Lyme-Dorchester Rd. to Goose Pond 5.6 miles. Since this was the weekend and the temp was a bit more pleasant we met a few people. Lunch was at Holts Ledge which is where the sun decided to take a siesta behind some clouds. From this point on it was down, down on slippery oak leaves. We finished at 1:55 so we drove Dave's car to 25A. This would be our end point for the backpack. We drove to Lebanon N.H. and had a very nice dinner at Lui-Lui Rest.

Mon. Nov. 13 – Up at the crack of dawn, while we had breakfast we listened to the weather forecast, good to go 45 degrees, cloudy with a 20% chance of a shower. At 8:15 we were on the trail. We had only gone a short distance when I saw some white flakes. Dave said it is probably the 20% they spoke of on the weather channel. We continued on climbing up the side of Smarts Mt. over rocks, ice, wet leaves and more snow now covering the ground. In some places we could not use the trail but held onto trees alongside the trail. Our plans were to hike to Hexacuba Shelter 9.1 miles. At 11:15 we reach a rock covered with ice and snow not even crampons and poles would help here. We had hiked 3 hours and did not reach the top of Smarts Mt. which was only 4 miles. We chose to turn around since we would never make the shelter by day light and did not know how much snow was projected to fall. Looks like the weatherman did not get the Memo from MOTHER NATURE and if he did it was not read,

Returning was very slippery and took us another 3 hours. Just as we could see my car in the parking lot a snowplow went up the road. Lordy, Lordy, this is not good. It was a slow go down the dirt road, when we reached the paved road it was just wet. I then drove to 25A to retrieve Dave's car. The highway dept. was working on the bridge so we had to park and wait, finally they waved us on. The snow was still falling, by the time we reached White River Junction it was just wet roads and no snow. In Brattleboro, VT. the sun was shining and the day ended with a beautiful sunset.

Thanks for a great hiking experience Dave, looks like we will go back in 2018 to finish up.

JOIN THE CONNECTICUT SECTION OF THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB

The Connecticut Section offers a wide range of outdoor activities year-round: hiking, backpacking, canoeing, snowshoeing and work parties in Vermont to maintain our section of the Long Trail. Members will receive Trail Talk, the Connecticut Section's quarterly newsletter, and The Long Trail News, a quarterly publication of the Green Mountain Club, and discounts on GMC items, such as books, shirts, etc.

ANNUAL DUES

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