



President's Message Fall 2018

In early August, Carol Langley organized and led an overnight backpacking trip to Little Rock Pond on the Long Trail in memory of Bob Poole, who was one of the founding members of the Connecticut Section. When Bob and his family were on vacation at Little Rock Pond in the summer of 1968, they met some GMC members and started up a conversation about the Club. After returning home, Bob and other Connecticut hikers who had an interest in Vermont and the Long Trail got together and took the initial steps to apply for recognition as a new section of the GMC.

There is a record book with hand-written notes from the first ten years of Connecticut Section annual meetings. I had forgotten about its existence, but at our 2018 annual meeting Ken Williamson returned it to me. Apparently I had turned it over to Ken as part of the briefcase or “football” of Club material when we changed command and he took the reins as section president back in March 2000. The Section record provides some details about our official start: the first organizational/annual meeting took place on April 17, 1969 with 27 members present; GMC President Bob Attenborough attended and presented the aspects of being a chartered section of the GMC, after which the members voted to apply to become a section and be called the Connecticut Section. Alan Mead was elected president, Bob Poole first vice president, and George Bragdon second vice-president. For anyone who the opportunity to know and meet Bob, you'll remember him as a gracious and humble person who always gave credit for our formation to Alan Mead and others, but Bob played several major roles, especially in getting our trails and shelters maintenance efforts working. Our trip to Little Rock Pond this year celebrated not only Bob but all of those early organizers and the volunteers who followed in their footsteps.

On trails and shelters maintenance, VP Mike Shaw has our final two work weekends planned: September 14-16 based at Kid Gore Shelter and September 28-30 based at Story Spring Shelter. Fall is a great season in Vermont, and these weekends are great opportunities to give some time back to the Long Trail.

On August 11 in conjunction with the GMC Long Trail Day, Dennis Himes organized a group of Connecticut GMCers to provide trail magic at the Long Trail/Appalachian Trail crossing on the Arlington-Stratton/West Wardsboro Road in Vermont. As we've done for the past few years, we provided snacks, baked goods, fruit, vegetables, drinks and a chance to sit and rest to several hikers, whether they were thru-hiking the AT or just out for a weekend trek. Despite a bit of afternoon rain, all who stopped seemed to enjoy and appreciate the hospitality, and it's always interesting to hear their stories and perceptions of their trail experiences.

See you on the trail,
Jim Robertson

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

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE: *Trail Talk* is published four times a year in March, June, September, and December. Activity schedules are included in each issue. Articles and activity reports must be sent to the editor no later than the tenth day of the month of the publication. Article and activity reports must be sent in a Word Document in Times New Roman, font size 10. Reports sent from iPhones or iPads will be returned

Send articles and activity reports to:

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MEMBERSHIP: When filling out an application to join or renew your membership in the Green Mountain Club, circle **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:

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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.

SPECIAL THANKS to member Charlotte Hitchcock. Each issue she facilitates the e-mailing of *Trail Talk* by reducing the file size of the attachment

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2018

Sun. 9 Sep. – Thu. 13 Sep. Five-day backpacking trip on the A.T. in Maine. South Arm Rd. to Rte. 4. Plans are to drive up on Sunday, stay at The Hiker Hut, and start hiking on Monday. Long days. Contact leader for itinerary. L: Carol A. Langley, 860-877-4449, cosmical42@gmail.com. Level: Difficult.

Fri. 14 Sep. – Sun. 16 Sep. Trail Maintenance Weekend at Kid Gore Shelter. Contact: Mike Shaw, 860-381-9130 call or text, msshaw2@mail.com. Level: Moderate.

Fri. 28 Sep. – Sun. 30 Sep. Trail Maintenance Weekend at Story Spring Shelter. Contact: Mike Shaw, 860-381-9130 call or text, msshaw2@mail.com. Level: Moderate.

OCTOBER 2018

Sun. 7 Oct. (Columbus Day Weekend) - Early autumn paddle at Bluff Point SP. Meet at Bluff Point at 9am. I have an extra kayak if anyone would like to come and doesn't have a kayak. Leader: Mandy Brink: trekeragb@sbcglobal.net. Level: Easy.

Sat. 13 Oct. - Sun. 14 Oct. - Backpack. Bourn Pond, VT. An easy 3.0 mile into the camping area. After setting up camp we'll do a hike over to Stratton Pond. This overnighter is a good one for a beginner backpacker. Sarah O'Hare, seohare7@yahoo.com.

Sun. 28 Oct. - Annual Heublein Tower Pre-Halloween Hike, West Hartford/Bloomfield. Wear orange if you have it. Fall-themed snacks are always a hit. Meet at parking lot to northeast of Reservoir Number 6 off Route 44 in W Hartford near water pumping station at 9:30 am. Hike 5-6 miles. Easy / moderate terrain. Dogs on leashes welcome. Last weekend that the Tower and observation floor are open for the season. Jim Robertson, jrobert685@aol.com, rober2je@westinghouse.com, 860-633-7279 home, 860-519-8310 mobile.

NOVEMBER 2018

Sat. 3 Nov. - Day Hike at Tefftwald Land Preserve in North Stonington. Meet at Mandy's at 10am. Level Easy. Hike 4-5 miles. Bring a lunch to eat at the Pavilion. Sadly this land trust does not allow dogs. Leader: Mandy Brink- trekeragb@sbcglobal.net or trekeragb56@gmail.com.

Sun. 11 Nov. -Day Hike at Devil's Hopyard State Park in East Haddam. Meet at the parking area on Foxtown Road near the bridge and waterfall at 9:30. We'll hike loop trails for approx. 6-7 miles. Easy/moderate. Contact leader for more details. Jim Robertson, jrobert685@aol.com, rober2je@westinghouse.com, 860-633-7279 home, 860-519-8310 mobile

Sun. 18 Nov. - Day Hike. Mattatuck and Branch Brook Trails, Watertown. 6.5 miles. Moderate. Sarah O'Hare seohare7@yahoo.com.

Sat. 24 Nov. (Thanksgiving Weekend) -Annual Turkey Trot - McLean Refuge - Meet 9:30 Main Entrance of Rte. 10/202 Plan to hike 6-7 miles. L. Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449 cosmical42@gmail.com L. Easy/Moderate

DECEMBER 2018

Sat. 1 Dec. - Day Hike. Metacomet Trail. Rt. 20 to Rising Corner (MA border). 7.5 miles. Level: moderate. Sarah O'Hare. seohare7@yahoo.com.

Sun. 9 Dec. -Mattabesett Trail & Bear Hill Loop Meet 9:30 Bear Hill Rd. Middletown. Hike 6-7 miles. Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449 cosmical42@gmail.com L. Easy/Moderate

Sat. 15 Dec. - Day Hike, Tri-Town Ridgeline Preserve, North Stonington. Meet at trailhead at 91 Miller Road at 8:30 am. Hike 5-6 miles. Easy/moderate. Bad weather postpones to Sunday, Dec. 16. Contact

leader for more details. Jim Robertson, jrobert685@aol.com, rober2je@westinghouse.com, 860-633-7279 home, 860-519-8310 mobile

Sat. 22 Dec. American Legion/People's Forest-Meet 10:00 Mathies Grove Parking on East River Rd. Hike/Snowshoe weather conditions will dictate active and miles. L. Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449 cosmical42@gmail.com

Tues. 1 Jan. 29th Annual New Year's Day Hike-Meet West Beach Parking at Hammonasett Beach 10:00 Plan to hike 5-6 miles. L. Carol A. Langley 860-877-4449 cosmical42@gmail.com

Save the Date High Adventure trip: Trip to Hebrides/Skye Islands, Scotland May 2019. Plans are to hike 4 days on each island and have a day on each island for seeing highlight places. If you are interested in being on the information list for this trip please email either leader. Leaders: Mandy Brink at trekeragb@sbcglobal.net or Mike Shaw at msshaw@mail.com

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Sleeping Giant S.P. Hike - April 8, 2018 in memory of Dave Hardy

We had a great turnout for this hike in memory of Connecticut native and long-time GMC Director of Trail Programs Dave Hardy, who passed away in November. Sleeping Giant is one of the Hardy family's favorite hiking spots in the state and the destination for an annual family Thanksgiving hike, so it was a fitting venue for this special event. We met in the parking area at the main entrance off Mount Carmel Avenue and hiked up the Tower Path. Upon reaching the tower, we all assembled in the inner main area for a brief reflection on Dave's life. Members of Dave's family and others shared memories and testimonials to his character and dedication to making the outdoor experience better for so many people. After a short while at the top we took the red and violet blazed trails back down to the parking area. Thanks to everyone who participated in this event, part of our Section's way of saying thanks to Dave for all the support and friendship he gave to us over so many years.

Leader: Jim Robertson

Hikers: Sarah O'Hare, Carol Langley, Jim Moore, Joe Conaci, Cathryn Dolan, Janet Ainsworth, Don Hagstrom, George Jackson, Gary Griffin, Elizabeth Fiorillo, Maryanne Hardy, Phil Bujalski, Ross Lanius, Darry Ruiter, Richard and Leslie Chandler, Patty and George Hayes

Race Brook Falls Trail and Race Mountain - June 16, 2018

The Race Brook Falls Trail is a two-mile rocky climb, connecting with the MA Appalachian Trail between Race Mountain and Mt. Everett. It was scheduled for this particular time in June as the mountain laurel was to be in bloom. Two other highlights were the waterfalls and a view of the Housatonic Valley from Race Mountain. The day was gloriously sunny with a cooling breeze and we began our hike with heightened enthusiasm. But, alas, all of our anticipated points of interest were lackluster.

It was an off year for the mountain laurel and the falls were less impressive than expected. Even so, the sun-lit trickle produced an enchanting effect. After the climb up to the junction with the AT, we

turned south to ascend Race Mountain. Here, at 2,365 feet, there was to be a vista. However, the vegetation had grown and obscured the view. Not to be deterred from our enjoyment of our efforts, we instead focused on our surroundings. Up here the scrub pines thrived, their twisted trunks and branches giving an appearance of large bonsai trees. Bob explained that this effect on the small pines is called *krummholz*, a German word for the twisted and deformed result of the fierce winds above tree line. *Krummholz* became the word of the day. After lunch we retraced our steps to the junction with the Race Brook Falls Trail. We headed down, enjoying one last view of the falls. Despite missing the full effect of the features that drew us here, we had a wonderful hike.

Hikers: Bob and Melanie Michaud
Leader: Sarah O'Hare

NH AT backpacking trip - June 30-July 1, 2018

I never thought I'd use the terms delightful and the NH AT in one sentence but truly this was a delightful little section of trail. It was the perfect trial run for my post-surgery knee. Jim and I met on Saturday morning, staged cars and headed in on the Zealand trail. The only concern for the weekend was the extreme heat that was expected. It was hot, low 90s but we had enough of a light breeze going here and there to make it tolerable. It was a flat easy walk of only 8 miles. I thought I was pushing it being out there with my newly repaired knee when we stumbled upon a gentleman who was backpacking with section with a broken foot. He had quite a nice foot contraption.

We had a relaxing pace into the Ethan Pond Campsite. It was a good thing we got there by early afternoon because by evening the place was filled to capacity and all the overflow areas were filled also. The caretaker said she had over 40 people there that night. We enjoyed the later afternoon sitting by the pond, snacking and chatting with several through hikers. The evening ended with a couple games of Acey Ducey, with each of us winning a game.

It was suppose to be even hotter and more humid on Sunday so we were up early and were on the trail by 7:30. By the time we got to the car at 9 am we were both hot and sweaty. It was 3 miles out to the car with a downhill for the last stretch but even then the heat felt oppressive. Jim had considered doing another day hike but given the weather decided against it. I was just so happy to get this little piece of trail finished. Many thanks to Jim for helping me to complete this section of trail and connect yet another section of the puzzle of doing the AT in NH.

Hikers: Mandy Brink, Jim Robertson

Barn Island Paddle – July 20,2018

Since it ended up just Mike and I, Mike decided to try paddle boarding. I was the kayak support team and photographer. It was quite a windy day and I thought he was brave for even trying. After battling the wind in the open space, we headed more to the cove area thinking it might be calmer. Not so. He was able to stand up and paddle several times but the paddle board and wind seem to be in control of the helm. After battling the wind and tide for two

hours, we packed up the boats and decided to try a local lake. We headed off to Wyassup Lake. While the wind was not as bad there, there still was a wind. Yet it made for easier practicing the paddle board.

While we were setting up at the boat launch, a beagle named Caper hopped in my boat. I knew he was a local dog because he had gone on a hike with me the year before. He was an independent little fellow and quite determined to go for a kayak ride. After several attempts to leave him behind, I finally took him along after he swam out to my kayak and tried to get in. He clearly had kayaking experience because he stood in on the top of the front of my kayak, free with his ears flapping in the wind. I learned later from his owner that the boat launch is his favorite hang out joint and he loves to kayak. We paddled to an island in the middle of the lake for lunch. Caper quickly hopped off and started to explore the island. It is quite thick with brush so Mike and I had no choice but to wait for him to come back out from his exploration. In the meantime, we learned that paddle boards make a great couch in the water. We sat down, ate our snacks and waited for Caper to return.

Once the doggie returned, we loaded up and returned to shore. I think this part was the best part of the paddle boarding for Mike. The wind was pushing us in and he finally got to stand the whole time and have some ease with the paddle board as he rowed to shore. Watching him having to concentrate so hard on balancing made me realize that I think I will stick with kayaking. It was a beautiful day to be out on the water. The sky was a blue as could be, the sun was out and the water temperatures were nice. It was the first time I've paddled this season and it felt so wonderful to be out on the water. We packed it up mid-afternoon, returned Caper to his owner and headed out for ice cream.

Paddlers: Mandy Brink, Mike Shaw

AT/NH Rte. 2 – Mahoosuc Notch Trail - July 8-12, 2018

Dave Wells and I met at the visitor center in Vermont on Sunday. After a short break and map consulting we were on our way, Gorham, N.H. our destination. Arriving before lunch, we decided to spot Dave's car on Success Pond Rd. for the end of

the hike. The dirt road was a whole lot worse than we remembered as we drove and drove and did not come to the end. After tearing the heat shield off the bottom of my car, we suddenly saw before us that the road was washed out. We had no choice but to turn around get out of there.

Arriving in Gorham 1 ½ hours later, we decided to have lunch on the town green. We spent the night at the Town and Country Inn which was very nice. Up at the crack of dawn and on the trail before 8:00 a.m. The first 1 ½ mile was a road walk then the climb started and was our challenge of the day. We arrived at the Trident Campsite around 3:30—6.9 miles in 7 ½ hours. Good job! With the heat and rocks our speed limit was 1 mile per hour. After a quiet night we were up early and back on the trail.

Trident Campsite- Gentian Pond Shelter 4.9 miles, 8:00-3:00 The trail was in very poor condition, not brushed, blow downs, etc. As we passed by Dream Lake, a gentle breeze encouraged us on. When we reached Moss Pond, we sat and had our lunch. This day was not a lot of miles but we got a good workout. We were at the shelter, sweeping it out when we were greeted by a large group of boys who lucky for us moved on to the group platform and tenting site on the hill. Staking our claims to the bottom platform and side spaces, Dave and I were ready to pump water. The water source was Gentian Pond but there was an active beaver pond. Remembering crossing a stream a ways back I hiked a short distance to the stream and pumped nice clear cold water. In a short time the shelter started to fill. One of the guys I think had new Eveready batteries as he chattered until dusk. Clouds moved in and we had one crack of thunder, one flash of lighting and a light rain.

Gentian Pond – Carlo Col Shelter, 5.4 miles, 7:00 – 3:30. This would be a day to remember with all the rocks and steep ascents and descents. Just before we reached the trail to the shelter, we needed to remove our packs and really pick our way through rocks.

Dave was a blessing to have on this trip because I could not have done this part of the trail on my own. There were great views from Mt. Success; we could see the Presidential Sky line. Many wild pink flowers were growing in the mossy areas.



Reaching the Maine/New Hampshire state line, it was time for a photo. Reaching the side trail was a disappointment since it was down hill on a rock-strewn path. Arriving at the site we were greeted with loud talking, laughing, etc. A large group of girls were in for the night. Dave and I took the last platform, each taking a side. A warbler moved in and sang sweetly to relax us for the evening. Just as we climbed into our tents a young man (40s) and his Dad asked if they could set up in the middle. Be my guest was my reply. Little did they know we would be up at the crack of dawn—5:00. Even if you don't talk there is no quiet way to set up or break down when camping.

Carlo Col Shelter-Full Goose Shelter, 4.9 miles, 6:00 - 2:30. Goose Eye Mountain East & North Peaks gave us some grand views and for some time we walked above tree line. The AMC has installed several puncheons and stairs, which made the descents more relaxing. However they did put in some re-bars just to keep the hiker on their toes. After a short break at the shelter, we moved on. Just as we climbed over some rocks, the sky became black and threatening, Dave looked at me and said I

think we should return to the shelter, which we did. Upon arrival we had an elderly gentleman in for the evening, then another joined us. I was really beat and want a good night's rest so I decided to designate the shelter as a Geriatric Ward with the age limit 65 or older. A few minutes after we agreed on this designation, a young couple arrived and I inquired as to whether they were staying for the night. There must have been something in my voice because his response was Why? They moved on and must have spread the word because no one came to the shelter. The three boys staying there were sawing wood at 7:30 p.m.

Up once again at the crack of dawn: 4:30. The birds were singing. Leaving the shelter at 6:00 a.m, we reached Dave's car at 10:00. The first part of the trail out was re-bars and plenty of rocks until we reached the Mahoosuc Trail. This was a cake walk, with a brook singing most of the way down. We took the time to clean up a bit in the clear cool water. Reaching Dave's car we had a 1 ½ hour drive out. My thoughts on the ride were "Will I finish this trail or is it going to finish me first?"

A big thanks to Dave Wells for joining me on this hike and for all his help climbing over and under rocks. Without his help I could still be out there. More adventures to come and stories to tell!!!.

Hikers: Dave Wells & Carol A. Langley

New Hampshire AT trip – August 16-20, 2018

Oh wise ones are the GMC members who chose not to go on this trip. It was really a hard 4 days of hiking. It started easy enough with meeting Thursday at the Moose Brook State Park. It was just Jim and I for the first stretch of the hike. We were up early Friday as we knew we had a tough 11-mile day. We headed in at the 19 mile Trail and hiked into the Carter Notch Hut where we stopped for a snack before heading over our first 4000-footer for the day, Carter Dome. It was the usual grind up over rocks, roots and steep inclines. After bagging that summit, we headed over and bagged Mt Hight before moving to South Carter. It was just up one mountain and down the other. At one point on some false summit, which I thought was Middle Carter, I asked Jim to take a picture of me and he informed me that this wasn't the summit, that the summit was the one way off in the distance. I got a bit whiney

and said are you sure this isn't Middle Carter and that is Moriah. He said he was certain. I was very sad. By the time we got over Middle Carter, we were both exhausted. We got into the Imp Shelter just as it was getting dark. We were both too tired to eat dinner. We put our food in the bear box and headed straight for our sleeping bags. When we left CT the weather forecast for this day had been 80% chance for rain. In the morning it had dropped to 60% chance. Luckily for us it didn't start to rain till we were all tucked in at the shelter.

On Saturday morning we woke up to pouring rain. We headed out as it seemed to be slowing down but spent this day hiking in the on and off again rain. The day started with a hike up and over Mt Moriah. From there it was a hike down over wet rocks until we got to the Rattle River Shelter. We stopped there briefly for a rest before doing the final piece out to the car and on to the Rattle River Hostel. This hostel was great because the first requirement is that you shower before entering the bunk area. We were wet to the bones and a muddy mess so a hot shower was a wonderful thing. We met up with Carol here, had dinner and then to bed early.

On Sunday we dropped Jim off at the trailhead to Mt Jefferson. Carol and I had reservations to take the cog railway to the top of Mt Washington to join the AT where I had left off last year. That was a fun experience and we learned a lot about the history of the Railway. Once at the top, we found the AT and headed out over what was to be a day of boulder hopping. It is a pretty miserable hike from Mt Washington to the Madison Spring Hut because it is literally 6 miles of boulders. It was a slow hike but luckily for us it was a beautiful sunny clear day and the views were amazing. We got into the hut just as they were serving dinner. We joined Jim there. He had had a successful day of summiting Mt Jefferson and Mt Adams. We had a beautiful sunset that evening. After going to the presentation on "Ghosts of the AMC Huts", we hit the bunks as we were all pretty beat.

Monday was a long hike out. It's 7 miles, doesn't sound bad but up and over Mt Madison and then a long rocky descent down to Osgood Campground. The humidity had picked up and once we were off the summit of Mt Madison, it was quite warm and muggy. We were really happy to finally reach Osgood Campground where we took a lunch break

before hiking the rest of the miles out to Pinkham Notch. It has been a hard four days of hiking about 32 miles and we were all pretty beat by the time we were back to the car at Pinkham Notch. Carol was very happy to have this part of the AT off her list. Jim was very happy to have bagged 4 more peaks on his quest to finish the 48 peaks of NH and I was VERY VERY happy to be done with the AT in NH which just about kicked my butt. I'm looking forward to the section of Maine that I have left to do that is somewhat flat. Now I have to find some recruits to come along. My death marches in NH has had just about everyone drop off the backpacking list. Any takers??????????

Hikers: Mandy Brink, Jim Fritz, Carol Langley

Little Rock Pond, Danby VT - Aug. 4 and 5, 2018

We had decided that everyone would hike in when they got there and we would meet at Little Rock Pond. Kevin & Eric were ahead of me so when I reached the "little brook crossing" I was amazed to see a raging river. Reason again not to hike alone!!!. Knowing that Sarah and Jim were behind me I took off my pack had lunch and cleared some water off the trail.

Both Sarah and Jim were very surprised when they saw the water level and the force of it rushing over rocks down the hill. Jim took off his pack and walked across very cautiously hoping to scout out a better place to cross. Jim returned with the news that this was where we would have to cross, so this was the plan. Jim put on his backpack and took it to the other side then returned to assist Sarah safely across then returned and assisted me across. This boy earned his wings.

The steady climb to the pond was ahead of us so we each set our pace. Reaching Little Rock Pond we were greeted by Kevin & Eric who were doing the Loop Trail around the pond. We all hiked in to the tent platforms and set up for the night. I had not been here since the construction of the shelter in 2009 and was amazed how much the area had grown in. Jim & Sarah needed more hiking so they did the loop also. Kevin and I were at the pond and he was playing his flute when they returned. Just as they arrived, I looked in the northwestern sky and saw dark nimbus-cumulus that were moving our way.

Thunder could be heard—not a good thing for a camping trip.

We scattered to get our food for dinner and Kevin found two ponchos to cover the wood that he had split for our planned campfire. The picnic table was under a tarp. After a flash of lightning and a few claps of thunder, the storm moved northeast. We dined and stayed dry. Jim brought fresh veggies from his garden to share.

Kevin started the fire. I brought fixings for s'mores. Jim traveled in style and packed in a chair to sit on, something to think about for future trips. Food hung – twilight was upon us. Sarah and Kevin both play the flute and each took a turn serenading us. This was the best part of the trip. Sarah and I turned in early and the boys kept the home fires burning until???

We had decided that in the morning to hike out to Forest Service Rd. 10 but fell just short as there was another river crossing that we turned around at. Back at the site where we had camped, packs were hoisted on our backs to start the return trip. At this time an announcement was made by the President: "The snail will be the tail." Now who could that be???

When we reached the water, it had once again become a brook and the crossing was pleasant. Reaching our cars, we said our goodbyes. Thanks for a great weekend everyone. Plans are for another pond next year. Hope you can join us.

Hikers/Campers: Kevin & Eric Breton, Sarah O'Hare, Jim Robertson & Carol A. Langley

Lyme – Dorchester Rd. – NH 25C - Aug. 21 –24, 2018

Dave and I met at 25C, leaving his car and driving to Lyme-Dorchester Rd. for our 3.8 mile hike into the Fire Warden's Cabin. The day was beautiful with a gentle breeze, however the trail soon became a muddy, rocky challenge.

Arriving at the cabin, we found a mess of papers, discarded clothes, etc. so Susie Spotless and her partner went to work sweeping and cleaning. Many of the items were burnable so then were put in the fireplace. Just as I started to read a note concerning a gentleman who had fallen and need medical

attention, the real live person stepped on the porch and asked what I was reading so I showed him the paper. It was his vitals that were written by a medic from the army who found him lying on the ground with a head wound. The gentlemen had to walk a mile with assistance, then was put on an ATV and rode to a waiting ambulance which took him to a nearby hospital 3:30 hours later. He is no longer backpacking the trail but slack packing. Quite a story! Makes you realize how important it is to never hike alone!!! This person had 33 stitches on the side of his head and when found his skull was exposed.

Next day we woke to blowing torrential rains so Dave and I decided it was best to stay put instead of risking an injury. Time to read, take a nap. Then

clean out water bars during an afternoon break in the weather. Blue skies greeted us in the morning so we were on the trail before 8:00.

The trail was easy and had a gradual descent but lots of mud. Reaching a high point with a scenic view, I made a phone call to Kathy A. of the O Section of the GMC and asked if she or Bob could pick us up at 25A because we knew that we could not hike any farther. Arriving at 25A, we were greeted by Kathy's smiling face and were relieved after 10 miles. She very graciously drove Dave to his car, then me to my car. I spent the night at their home and am very grateful for such a kind friend.

Hikers: Carol A. Langley & Dave Wells

In Memoriam

Sadly, we lost two Connecticut Green Mountain Club members and lovers of the outdoors during the past months.

Gerard "Gerry" Hardy of Manchester passed away in April. Gerry, his wife Sue and their family are well-known in the state for authoring the guide book *50 Hikes in Connecticut* starting with the original in 1978 and continuing through several updated editions as the featured trails changed. Gerry was very active in the Appalachian Mountain Club, serving as Connecticut Chapter Chairman in 1979-80 and Chairman of the AMC's Major Excursions Committee for many years. Along with Sue, daughters Mary Anne and Patty, sons Charles and Dave, and their families, Gerry hiked, camped and traveled extensively.

Robert M. "Bob" Schoff of Ashford passed away in June. Bob earned the well-deserved nickname of "A Trail Worker Extraordinaire" that was cited in his obituary, have worked tirelessly as a volunteer trail maintainer for decades for the GMC, AMC, Connecticut Forest and Parks Association, Connecticut Audubon and several other organizations. For several summers, we held a family backpacking trip to the Ten Mile River site in western Connecticut. Bob was responsible for arranging to mow the fields at the campsite and shelter and would always wait until the young nesting birds had grown and flown so they wouldn't be displaced or injured. I always confirmed the mowing dates with Bob and scheduled the trip for a later date so we wouldn't be walking through tall grass and stepping on young birds.

The Connecticut Section extends its condolences to Gerry's and Bob's families on their loss.

Jim Robertson
