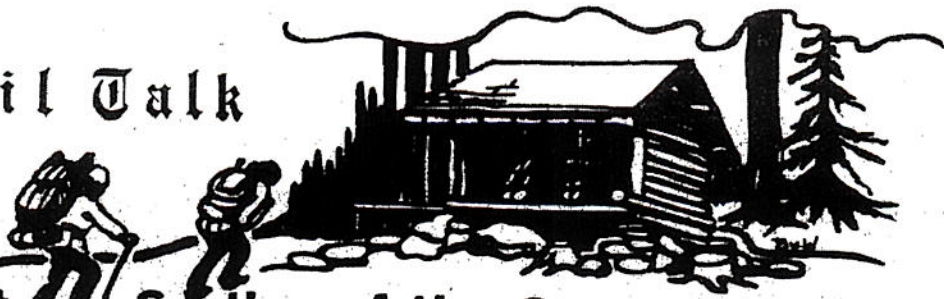




Trail Talk



Connecticut Section of the Green Mountain Club

Volume XLII No. II

Editor: Carol A. Langley

August 2011

ANNUAL MEETING CAMP PLYMOUTH JUNE 10 – 12, 2011

On Fri. morning Kevin Vann and I drove to Ludlow VT. The sun shining and the forecast was for temps in the 90's. We were the first to arrive and had choice spot for setting up our tents and screen house. The black flies and mosquitoes were in full force. After setting up we walked down to the lake.

Jim arrived around dinner time and left his tent stakes home – however he had four pens from a stay at the Sheraton that he drove into the ground. Kevin & I had extra stakes so his tent was standing straight before retired for the evening.

The evening program was on the Crown Point Rd. which was constructed in the revolutionary days from Lake Champlain to the CT. River. Jim Moore gave an excellent presentation with new and old photos and his knowledge of its' history. This spiked the interested of many GMCer's and on Sat. morning in the pouring rain 33 hikers joined Jim on a 3.5 mile hike along this road.

The mosquito's swarmed around us and the mud sucked in our boots, rain drenched us even with rain gear and pack covers. We hiked along like revolutionary soldier's listening to Jim share the history of the road and land surrounding it. If you stayed home you missed this GREAT DAY! Sat. night we joined other section GMCer's for dinner in the warm and dry pavilion. Jim Robertson had had attended Camp Plymouth when it was a Boy Scout Camp and in college he worked for 6 years at the camp. Jim is still involved with the Boy Scouts in his home town of Glastonbury.

Next year's annual meeting will be held farther north around the Jay Peak area. This is a nice way to get some miles in on the Long Trail. Save the date JUNE 8 – 10, 2012. Look forward to seeing you there.

Carol A. Langley
President

Club Information
<http://www.conngmc.com>
Officers & Executive Committee

Welcome New Members

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Please direct all inquiries regarding the Club to the President.

The Trail Talk is published four times a year in January, April, July and October. 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	\$40.00
Family	\$50.00
Senior (70 or older) or Limited Income	\$22.00
Nonprofit or Youth Group	\$50.00
Business or Corporation	\$150.00

Send annual dues to:
The Green Mountain Club
4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road
Waterbury Center, VT 05677-9904
(802) 244-7037, <http://www.greenmountainclub.org>

Connecticut Section Of The GMC

Post & Receive Messages, Photos, Other Activities
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ct_green_mountain_club/

Paula Kulpa

Deborah Lewis

Paul & Sue Ives

The CT. Section's Newsletter has a new look, thanks to Jack Sagna who set up our new activities calendar. Mandy Brink who is now in charge of activities did a fantastic job of monitoring the new calendar as well as inputting for those who did not feel comfortable using the Wiki Page.

Our mailer to Trail Talk now has a membership application to join the Ct. Section. This should make it easier for prospective new members.

I would like to express special thanks to my daughter Paula A. Drivdahl who helped me get this issue of Trail Talk completed.

Comments or suggestions concerning the Trail Talk are welcome.

President,
Carol A. Langley



Work Party May 13 – 15, 2011 at Story Spring Shelter on LT

Greenmount Farms
Underhill Center, Mt Mansfield:
Jan 28-30, 2011

Weekends don't get much better than this one. The company, the ambiance and the hike were all outstanding. We would all like to put in a plug for John Connell and his hostel at Greenmount Farms in Underhill Center, VT. John is a member of the GMC in Vermont and was thrilled that we stayed at the hostel. We were the first GMC members to ever do so. The hostel is located inside a beautiful Vermont barn. It has a small sitting area, kitchen and several lofts for sleeping. It was perfect for us. John also had a shop where he works with youth at the local tech school to restore canoes. He takes donations if anyone has a canoe that needs some work to donate. When standing outside, you could just look into that rafters of that barn and boy, it didn't get any more quaint New England than that. Another fun part was a big rope swing inside the barn. You could swing so high and feel just like a kid all over. It was the best.

We met at the barn around dinnertime on Friday night. Dick knew of a quaint restaurant in an adjoining town so after unloading the car, we headed there for dinner. After a wonderful dinner, we headed back to the hostel for an evening of games and hike discussions. We opted for the Sunset Ridge Trail in the morning. It was snowing which made the evening feel complete.

After a pancake breakfast, we headed out to the trailhead in Underhill State Park. As the road was closed off, we had to hike into the park. We put our snowshoes on at the trailhead and started our slow steady climb up Mt Mansfield. It was a cloudy gray day and it was snowing so we knew we wouldn't get many views. It didn't matter though because the woods with the newly falling snow were beautiful. A good part of the Sunset Ridge trail is above tree line. We hiked slow and steady, heading for the cairns through the wind and snow. About 500 ft from the summit, we were in white out conditions with ice covered rocks. After some major slipping and sliding, we

decided the safest thing to do at this point was to turn around. The descent was just as challenging as the ascent. At places we all got to be kids again when we had to just sit and slide down the really steep sections. Two girls had passed us on the descent and happened to have their car stuck in the snow at the parking area. Our good deed for the day was to help them get unstuck before we headed back to the hostel. Our mileage for the day was about 8 miles.

Back at the hostel, we showered and settle in with some appetizers followed by soup, salad and bread for dinner. As is usual, we did not lack for food and could have stayed several more days for the pantry we had piled on top of the refrigerator. We took an evening walk into the town which was just down from the barn. By then the snow had stopped and the stars were brightly shining. It felt quite magical. After more eating of snacks and a boys beat the girls game of Trivia, we headed to our bunks for a well-earned night of sleep.

On Sunday we decided to hike to a few of the area waterfall. The first one was a half mile hike into the Moss Glen Falls. They were frozen in hues of whites and blues and quite beautiful. You could see in spots where the water was still rushing through under the frozen ice. The second fall, Bingham Falls, was incredible. It was a short hike in and then it opened up into a circular rock formation with frozen falls all around. These too were shades of blues, white and orange. Even the size and formations of the icicles were beautiful. We hiked back up to the car and had to finely face the reality of going home. After a nice lunch at another quaint diner, we parted ways and headed back to MA and CT. We hope to repeat this trip again next year and try again for Mt Mansfield in the winter.

Leaders: Jim Moore and Mandy Brink, Hikers:
Pam Wolfe, Mike Shaw and Dick Hart

Cockaponset Trail
Thursday, April 28, 2011

April showers bring May Flowers and they also bring retirement and a birthday! George wanted to celebrate both milestones by hiking the 7.4 mile Cockaponset Trail. We began at the northern trailhead on Beaver Meadow Road. Heading south, we stayed true to the blue blazes and avoided the red-blazed side trails. As showers were expected on this overcast day, the plan was to hike five miles, then veer off onto the yellow dot trail. This trail follows the eastern shore of the Pataconk Reservoir. Here we stopped for lunch at one of the many shelters. No birthday or retirement is complete without recognition. George was presented with the trail book, 50 Hikes in CT. Now he and Shirley can spend their retirement exploring the many trails of our beautiful state.

Rather than retracing our steps to pick up where we left the Cockaponset Trail, we continued around the reservoir, eventually reconnecting with the main trail. We then hiked the last portion, arriving at our cars on Rt.148 before the rains came.

Hikers: Mandy Brink, George Jackson, Bill Falconer

Leader: Sarah O'Hare

Menunkatuck Trail
Sunday, June 26, 2011

Last January we explored the southern portion of the Menunkatuck Trail. Now the northern half has been hiked to complete the existing 11 mile trail. We learned that another three miles or so will be completed by the end of the year to extend the

New England National Scenic Trail to Long Island Sound.

It was a delightful morning to hike. As we stepped onto the Mattabesett Trail from Rt. 77 and began our climb up and over the rocky ledges, we were immediately drawn into the beauty of the woods. The sun showered through the trees, illuminating the lush greens of the moss and ferns of the ledges. The birds were happily greeting this new day as we hiked through their territory. Our start on the Mattabesett Trail was to take us a bit over a mile to reach the northern trailhead of the Menunkatuck. The junction was clearly marked. We left the path of the more rugged Mattabesett and turned onto the Menunkatuck. This blue blazed trail was level and mostly followed old woods roads. The gentle terrain showed signs of recent horse travel.

As the sun neared its zenith, the birds became silent to give the mosquitos center stage. They certainly had our attention as they were fierce and determined. Lunch time became a short break as we became somewhat anxious to be finished with our hike for relief from the biting irritants. An Eagle Scout project of a newly erected and very substantial foot bridge distracted us momentarily. Soon after, we found our refuge in our cars at Rt. 80.

Hikers: Kevin Vann, George Jackson, Bill Falconer
Leader: Sarah O'Hare

Connecticut Trails Day
Mattabesett Trail
June 5, 2011

Due to circumstances beyond her control, Sarah O'Hare turned the hike leadership over to Bill "Mr. Capp" Falconer. It's a surprise on these hikes who will show up. The meeting point at Black Pond was set for 9AM. Quickly eleven enthusiastic hikers were signed in, read the required rules and were anxious to hit the trail. Carol, Bill and Mr. Capp volunteered to transport

the hikers to the starting trailhead at Reed Gap. George, Don and Carol volunteered to rotate as the sweeps.

The trail starts by crossing an in use train track before it ascends Beseck MT. For some unknown reason when Mr. Capp is leading a hike all trails must go up hill strenuously. Once on top the basalt ridge is an easy walk with a few ups and downs. There was plenty of opportunity to stop for water and identify the spring flowers and occasional feathered friend.

About an hour and a half in we reached a huge power line with views of the valley including Talcott Mt, Meriden and Long Island. A sharp descent leads to another gradual climb to the Powder Ridge Ski area. Sadly it's being vandalized since it went out of operation. Time for lunch and a way for the four GMCers to become acquainted with the seven CT hikers who had many questions about the trail and the GMC.

Back on the trail it crosses the old Middlefield Mountain Stage Road before ascending to spectacular western views from the top of Beseck Ridge.

Along the way a garter snake and a ribbon snake were identified along with the sounds of a dozen birds. With Black Pond in view the pace quickened in anticipation of the final reward.

Sad goodbyes were exchanged at Guida's Ice Cream Shop. But then it turned to joy as an extraordinary miracle came forth to pay for all the tasty delights.

Thanks to all who made the day enjoyable: to George who returned us to our cars, to Don the miracle worker and to Sarah for entrusting Mr. Capp with leading the hike.

Hikers: George Jackson, Don Hagstrom, Carol Langley, Elise Denabedian, Joyce Clark, Shirley Pripstein, Bill Wheeler, Cheng Fang, Ruben Flores, Maria Lianos

Leader: Bill Falconer

Maintenance Trail
May 13-15, 2011

The first trail maintenance weekend of the year was based at the Story Spring Shelter. Other than a few evening sprinkles, the weather cooperated very nicely. One aspect of the weather that was most appreciated was the low temperatures of the weekend and the preceding week or so. This had the effect of keeping the usual hoards of dreaded black flies down to the point of almost being nonexistent. This was not our usual annual blood donation weekend.

Most of the people arrived Friday afternoon, Frank went up on Thursday afternoon and Mandy, who had a slight delay, didn't get to the shelter until Saturday morning. When all was said and done, the eight of us worked an estimated 76 hours in the woods.

Like the black flies, there were not many blow-downs to deal with. This enabled us to spend most of our time on other trail work. And work we did. We were able to do brush and water bar work from the Kelly Stand Road, past Story Spring and on to Kid Gore Shelter. We also reblazed the trail in both northbound and southbound directions from the Kelly Stand Road, to just south of Story Spring Shelter. It was a very productive and enjoyable weekend. Thanks for everyone's efforts (especially the person in charge of black flies – you should get a raise).

Work crew: Mandy Brink, Sven Englund, Dennis Himes, Larry Keckler, Frank Maine, Mark Schofield, and Kevin Vann
Leader: Dick Hart