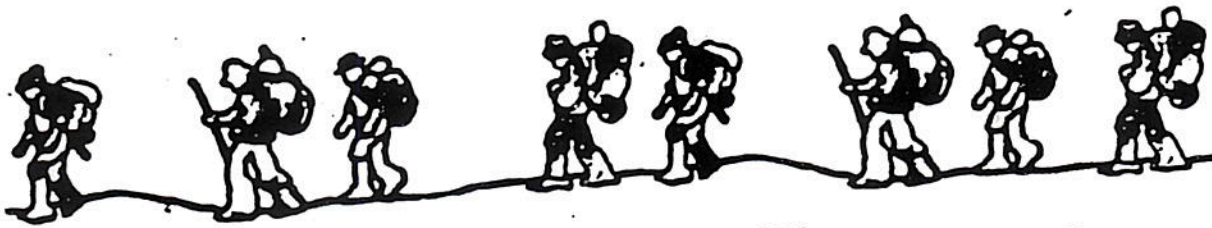


# Trail Talk



## Seasons Greetings

VOLUME XXXV ISSUE I EDITOR: CAROL A. LANGLEY JAN. – MAR. 2014

The Connecticut Section has a long time member who has been with us since 1963, Ross M. Lanus. Thank you for your 50 years of continued support. Our second long time member is Rosemary Miller 1971. Thank you for your 42 years of continued support.

### 30 Years Plus

Sherrill & Ruth Collins 1980  
Peter G. Dabbs  
Joseph J. Kekacs  
Robert M. Schoff  
Thomas A. & Rita Weidman  
Carol A. Langley 1981  
Richard A. Krompegal 1984  
Kevin & Jennifer Breton 1987  
Christopher D. Gordon  
James E. Robertson  
Frank Maine 1988  
Fred & Lisa Clark 1989  
David Roth

### 20 Years Plus

David Marti 1990  
Harvey Backmender 1991  
Allen Freeman  
Ken & Donna Marti 1992  
Roger & Ann Phillips 1993  
Alexander D. Walker  
Harold & Debra Anderson 1994  
John H. Bensenhaver  
Terry Edelstein 1995  
Sarah O'Hare 1997  
David & Janice Amidon 1998  
Amanda Brink  
Kathleen R. Hennessey  
David J. Schweighofer

David Cullen, Edward T. Myers, Brain J. Zawodniak 1999

**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>

**Connecticut Section of the GMC**

Post & Receive Messages, Photos, Other Activities  
[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ct\\_green\\_mountain\\_club/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ct_green_mountain_club/)

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**Lawrence P. Baxter**  
**Cathryn L. Dolan**  
**Christopher Howe**  
**Benjamin T. Lewis**  
**Daniel B. Rosenthal**

**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)

**Newsletter – Trail Talk,**

Still looking for someone to help me with producing your newsletter, with option to take over. Position is for 3 year term. Four issues in a year.

**Please contact Carol if you can help!!!**

**THANK YOU**

## **Baxter State Park – August 22-August 25, 2013**

Most of the group descended on Baxter State Park on Thursday, Aug 22. It was a day of traveling and getting settled in our sites. We had members from both the CT, MA and VT joining us for the weekend. We had a nice relaxing community fire that evening and reviewed our hiking plans for the next few days.

On Friday, the group split into two with some hiking the 10 miles AT from Abol Bridge to the base of Katahdin. This is a beautiful section of trail. There are ponds and waterfalls along the way that make it a delightful section to hike. The second group started at the Marston Trail for a 9 mile loop hike. We hiked North Brothers at 4151 ft, South Brothers at 3970 feet and Mt Coe at 3795 ft. It was cold and windy at the top of North Brothers. We didn't stay there very long. South Brothers was much nicer as the wind had settled down. We were able to enjoy beautiful views while eating lunch at the summit. From there we continued on the loop trail over Mt Coe. The rockslide coming down after Mt Coe was quite challenging. We were certainly glad that the rock was dry. It was a slow go down but pretty and we were all up for the challenge. Everyone congregated back at Abol Campground for a community dinner of Italian meatballs. At this time Frank Black and Kevin Heath joined us for the remainder of the weekend. We had a group game of Maine/Baxter Jeopardy where we learned all about the park, the mountains and Percival Baxter, the founder of the park. Beth and Dan were particularly good at the questions on Percival Baxter and nailed that category without problems. An interesting fact we learned was that Percival Baxter fought to keep Baxter from becoming a National Park because he did not trust the federal government. Today it is a state park with its own governing board.

On Saturday, again the group split up into several directions pending the goals for the day. Dan, Beth and Jim M did a combination of hiking and boating. Some headed towards Baxter Peak via the Hunt Trail. Jim M was kind enough to transport all the Knife Edge hikers to Roaring Brook early in the morning. The Knives Edge crew started at the Helon Taylor Trailhead. After hiking over Mt Palumbo, they started out and over the Knife Edge. It could not have been a better day for this hike. It was clear, sunny, no wind and the views were incredible. After making it to Baxter Peak, Mike headed towards Hamlin Peak while

the rest of us headed down the Abol Trail. It was again, a rock slide scramble down and a slow descent. Going up the Abol Trail is a challenge but I wouldn't recommend going down it. It was quite the challenge with all the loose rock. Once again the group gathered for a community dinner and campfire and shared the hikes of the day. We celebrated with a cake for Mike who had finished his 48 peaks in NH in July.

Sunday started with a pancake breakfast together before everyone packed up and headed for home. It was another sunny day and most of us would rather had stayed and hiked more but the long drive home forced us to pack it up fairly early. This was our third trip up to Baxter as a club and we were lucky to once again have a great weekend with great hiking, great people and great weather.

Dave Wells, Don Hagstrom and Carol Langley drove over to Katahdin Lake parking. The connector trail followed an old woods road. They met a few people coming off the trail. In the group there was a young lady with a GMC shirt. She saw Carol and said "you were at the annual meeting." The young lady was Jocelyn Hebert, the editor for the Long Trail News. The two gentlemen accompany her were Tom who does photography and Mike, the computer systems expert. On their advice we hiked into Katahdin Lake.

There was a beautiful post with a recently built shelter with room for 6. A canoe, two paddles and lifejackets come with the fee of \$20/night. The view of the lake was like a postcard, with a sandy beach for swimming and paddling. This went onto the bucket list with priority.

Back on the trail, we spotted a mother moose. She smelled us and snorted to let us know she knew we were there. We took some pictures and moved on. The trail to Martin Ponds had some ups and downs. There was another new shelter but not with the view of Katahdin Lake. We reached the connector trail and hiked the 1.6 miles back to the car. Our total mileage was 6.5 miles. In the future it would be a great overnight to hike and paddle on in the Katahdin Lake area.

Leaders: Mandy Brink and Jim Moore. Hikers: Mike Shaw, Jim Fritz, Angela Emerson, Carol Langley, Don Hagstrom, Dan Zelterman, Beth Nichols, Dave Wells, Kathy Astraukas, Kevin Heath, Frank Black, Jim Robertson

**Cathedral Pines and Mohawk Mountain**  
**Sept. 7, 2013**

Our hike began at the base of the hillside of Cathedral Pines. After stepping onto the Mohawk Trail, we immediately began climbing steeply into the forest of white pines and hemlocks. A tornado in 1989 had destroyed this area. We passed over and around the fallen trees, they slowly being reclaimed by the forest. Descending into a neighborhood of country estates, we then turned into a private driveway, gesturing a 'thank you' to the homeowner riding his tractor. It was most generous of him to allow a blazed trail to pass through his property. The path took us by pastures and ski slopes. At the junction of the Mohawk and Mattatuck Trails, we took a short spur trail to the top of the Mohawk Ski area. Here we had a view west of the Riga Plateau.

Returning to the trail junction, we turned onto the Mohawk Trail. Following it a ways on the park road, we eventually turned off into the woods. Here we came across the ruins of a stone tower, built in 1915. We noticed a huge paper wasp nest clinging to the tower's wall. We eventually arrived at the top of Mohawk Mountain. The lookout tower, remembered from years ago, was no longer there. No matter, for the view was tremendous. We could see a long way off, of Mts. Everett, Race, Bear, the Catskills and Canaan Mtn. We had our lunch at one of the many picnic tables. Our peaceful noontime break was disrupted by a sputtering from above. As we stared in silent disbelief, a small plane was stalling and spiraling downward. We then breathed a sigh of relief when the engine restarted and the plane regained altitude. Woody, having earned his pilot's license some years ago, explained that it was merely a training exercise. Whew!

With our packs a little lighter and our hunger diminished, we descended the park's paved road. It looped down and once back in the woods we rejoined the Mattatuck Trail and retraced our steps back to the Mohawk Trail. We then returned the way we had come, up and over Cathedral Pines and finally back to our cars. This six mile hike was most enjoyable.

Hikers: George Jackson, Donald "Woody"  
Woodbridge, Melanie & Bob Michaud

Leader: Sarah O'Hare

**CT A/T Rte. 4 – Rte.55**  
**Oct. 10-12, 2013**

Whether to continue on with this trek was what we pondered over lunch from the swing at the Silver Hill Campsite. Those that canceled out may have shown better judgment, for one to three inches of rain was expected in nearby Kent. It was decided that to continue on this 23 mile backpacking trek was a decision to be made in the morning. At the very least we would have had an eight mile, one-nighter on CT's Appalachian Trail. We arrived at the Stewart Hollow Brook Lean-to and Campsite early and spent the remainder of the afternoon weighing our options.

The next day's section was Don's least favorite portion of the entire CT AT and he wasn't keen on hiking it in a downpour. The power of suggestion had me reconsidering, also. But after passing a dry and quiet night, the local owl the only sound, we decided to continue along the two mile flat and easy section that parallels the Housatonic River. And then, at the base of St. John's Ledges, we would make our final decision whether to continue or turn back. Although the sky was heavily clouded it had not yet begun to rain. With our spirits at a low we decided to bail. No sooner had we turned back to retrace our steps, a trail manager happened by. He told us that the storm had veered west and it was to be dry for the next few days. With renewed enthusiasm, we turned south once again and stayed the course.

Climbing St. John's Ledges proved to be quite the challenge. We were rewarded at the top with a view of the Housatonic Valley. Along the trail to Caleb's Peak, Don and I became separated. With newly fallen leaves obscuring the trail and the blazes few and far between, I lost the path. I had ended up going back in a northern direction. Recognizing that I had been by here before, I turned around. Alas, Don had left his resting spot at Caleb's Peak and came looking for me. We were in step once again.

The trail became a routine of ups and downs, again and again and I understood why Don disliked this area. A few wildlife sightings of a deer, a snake, toads and a praying mantis distracted us momentarily. After 7.3 miles we arrived at the side trail to the Mt. Algo Lean-to. It would have been a fine place for an extended rest stop but we couldn't bring ourselves to walk the extra distance. With three miles left to go we eventually arrived at the Schaghticoke Mountain Campsite. A

small group of hikers, out for their yearly backpacking trek, had already claimed their space. We set up our tents some distance away, made supper and turned in early.

Anyone who has backpacked with Don knows that the rattling of Don's stove and pot is always the first sign of life in the early morning. It is generally the wake up call to everyone. This day, however, Don was the quiet one and was roused by the sound of my breakfast beginnings. We arose, cooked breakfast in the dark and broke camp as the sun was just beginning to rise. Today was to be an easier day. The Schaghticoke Mountain area, crossing the CT and NY border twice, was a picturesque section. The view from Indian Rocks was glorious! The river glistened below, verdant farm fields alongside, with the hills beyond, and the hills beyond them.... so nice. We then descended gradually to the Bulls Bridge area. Taking a detour that Don had discovered previously, we turned off the AT and came around to the Ten Mile River and the narrow foot bridge across. After a break at the shelter we began the final leg of our trek. We ascended Ten Mile Hill up a newly constructed rock staircase, the impressive stonework allowing for an easier climb. We arrived at Rte. 55 in the early afternoon, drove north and stopped in Kent for an ice cream before parting at our start on Rt. 4. It turned out to be a most enjoyable and successful hike.

Trekkers: Don Hagstrom, Sarah O'Hare

### **Mount Monadnock October 19, 2013**

On a beautiful, fall day three of us drove up to southern New Hampshire to hike Mount Monadnock. According to the *AMC White Mountain Guide*, this is the most hiked mountain in the world after Mt Fuji in Japan. It also says an estimated 10,000 people summited it on a Columbus Day in the late '70's. Given the limited parking at the various trailheads, this last statement is questionable.

The trails from the east and south are the most popular routes so we took the Marlboro Trail up the west side of the mountain. This enabled us to hike in relative solitude until we reached the peak. The guide book says the trail is 2.2 miles long but Larry's GPS clocked it at a little over 3 miles. It is an aggressive, but not really difficult hike.

There were 75-100 people on the top when we got up there. It didn't seem crowded because the hikers were spread across the broad expanse of the peak. The windy conditions made it feel quite chilly until we started back down to the car. The views were very good. We clearly saw Mt Ascutney, 44 miles away. But hazy and cloudy conditions prevented us from seeing more distant places like Boston at 62 miles or Mt Washington at 105.

Hikers: Larry Keckler and Kevin Vann  
Leader: Dick Hart

### **TACONIC CREST TRAIL DAY HIKE OCTOBER 22, 2013**

Leader: Donald Woodbridge, Hikers: Sarah O'Hare, Carol Langley, Donald Hagstrom

We all met at Stewart's in New Lebanon, NY at about 9:00 AM. Having placed an exit vehicle in Hancock, Massachusetts, we drove to the trailhead of the Lebanon Springs Access Trail where we left our 2 other cars.

We then commenced ascending up to the Taconic Crest Trail (TCT) via the New Lebanon Springs Access Trail. The sky was overcast, but we were indomitable in our quest to achieve Berry Pond in time for a warm, sunny lunch.

We then junctioned with the TCT and headed north upon it. The hiking on the TCT is quite moderate, once you have achieved the ridge. And so we meandered our way through hard wood forest with fallen leaves littering the forest floor.

We passed a large pond with an extremely large beaver lodge upon it. Donald Hagstrom opined that it appeared that the beavers must have abandoned the pond or had been trapped out, since there was no recent evidence of beaver activity i.e no recently downed trees.

As we approached Berry Pond from the south, it commenced drizzling. By the time we arrived at our picnic table by the pond, it was actually raining. So we all sat down to enjoy our warm, sunny lunch in the rain.

Soon, people were getting cold and restless, so, the hike leader made the management decision to

re-commence our northerly ambulatory endeavor. About 15 minutes after we left Berry Pond the rain stopped.

We continued along the TCT north towards Hancock. The walking was easy and comfortable. Finally, about 3 miles north of Berry Pond, we made the moderately steep descent down into the valley where Hancock, Massachusetts is located. The last mile was a road walk, first downhill and then flat past farm land, cows, fields, and a tomb where some local gentleman is taking a long rest.

After approximately 9 total miles, we arrived at the exit vehicle, returned to the Lebanon Springs Access Trail, and made the trip to our respective homes.

Carol Langley did not undertake any civil engineering project upon the trail, Don Hagstrom, did not locate any porcupines along the trail, and Sarah O'Hare failed in her normal desire to encounter a grumpy bear walking towards her from the opposite direction.

The trip leader did not weasel out from writing this trip narrative.

### **Tunxis Trail November 10, 2013**

We hiked the trail from Rt 219 northward to Old Route 20. On the southern end we crossed land owned by the MDC (water district property.) Prominent signs at several points warned us not to stray from the trail. The fresh and clear trail blazes would make for a hard sell in the event a hiker got off the trail and was confronted by an MDC police ranger. Our walk went fine with everyone staying on the trail and we saw no policing authorities.

Farther north the trail drops steeply and passes among large boulders forming the Indian Caves. Several in the group visited a couple of the rock slab caves. At this point Sarah shared her experience of seeing a moose here once. She was alone that day hiking into the caves. Suddenly a large moose with a full rack appeared. She stood still watching. It walked toward her, passing only a few feet away. It looked her in the eye as it passed and continued by. As suddenly as it had appeared it vanished into the woods, its color camouflaging its

presence. Others in the group shared their similar experiences of seeing a moose appear as if from nowhere and then equally mysteriously disappearing from view!

Continuing northward we crossed over Pine Mountain, taking in for a few minutes the view to the east as we passed over its high point, and then descended into forest and continued on through woods, getting rained on by some passing light showers, we reached the trail crossing at Old Route 20. A short walk on the now forest road brought us to our cars parked at the trail access point.

Hikers: Carol Langley, Mel and Bob Michaud, Don Hagstrom, Sarah O'Hare, George Jackson and Karen Foss. Leader: Dave Wells

### **Macedonia Brook Ridge Trail November 23, 2013**

A crisp autumn day greeted 5 GMC hikers. Heading north we followed a well maintained trail and had one gradual climb after another, crossing old woods roads the old AT and the back side of the campgrounds in the state park.

Upon reaching a paved park road alongside a babbling brook Bob Michaud made a request for a TEA BREAK, what a great idea, request was granted. A few minutes later we crossed the road and started climbing again. Then without any warning the trail dropped down a slippery leaf path.

For a short distance we walked along an old CC road then the fun began. Don leapt over the rocks like a mountain goat. Kein went ahead and Bob stayed below helping Mel and I over rocks where we then had the assurance of Kevin's hand to pull us safely the rest of the way. Turning around we saw that Bob had left his poles at the bottom so he had to go back.

When we reached the top Don was waiting so we had lunch with great views of the Taconic Range. We moved on quickly, back to the cars as Pizza awaited us in Kent.

L. Carol A. Langley

Hikers: Don Hagstrom, Mel & Bob Michaud, Kevin Burke

# The Connecticut Section of the GMC Annual Dinner

Date: March 22, 2014

Place: Cheshire Grange  
44 Wallingford Road  
Cheshire, CT

Cost: \$15 per person



## Schedule of Events:

5pm – Social hour and appetizers

6 pm – Dinner

7 pm – Annual business meeting

7:30 pm – The GMC Leprechauns present

“Blarney and Killarney:  
Adventures in Ireland and the Kerry Way”

RSVP by March 15<sup>th</sup> to:

Marianne Valley

300 Granite Road

Guilford, CT 06437

Email: [m\\_valley@att.net](mailto:m_valley@att.net)

Please request vegetarian or roast beef dinner



**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	
Individual	\$45.00
Family	\$60.00
Senior/Student/ Limited Income	\$25.00
Lifetime Membership	\$1000

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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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