



Connecticut Section of the Green Mountain Club

VOLUME XXXV ISSUE IV

EDITOR: CAROL A. LANGLEY

Oct. 2014 – Dec. 2014

President's Message

A big thank you to Celia Campbell-Mohn. She will be assisting me in producing your quarterly newsletter. This issue has a lot of good articles written by our hike leaders, who keep you moving. Please take the time to read them

We are entering the time of the year when we will be sharing our forests and woodlands with the hunter. Do not become a target **NO WHITE HATS, GLOVES OR MITTENS**. The safety color is **BRIGHT ORANGE** wear it to protect yourself and those you are hiking with, also staying together as a group which is the **RULE** of the trail. No one person should be left so far behind that they cannot be seen by the hiker in front of them. We all can get caught up in our thoughts when hiking in the peacefulness of the woods and forget we are in a group, please take a moment to turn around and look for any hiker that may be behind you. Waiting a moment till you can see another hiker will save a lot of time instead of having to return and find an injured hiker. No one person should leave the trail by themselves, hike leaders the safety of all in your group is your responsibility.

Let's get out and enjoy the trails!!!!

Carol A. Langley



Club Information
<http://www.conngmc.com>
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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>

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Patrick Drake
Robert & Heidi Esteve
Richard & Geraldine Furlong
Thomas Ford
Leona Harberg
Janelle Joyal
Douglas Langley
Mark A. & Patricia Lorusso
Christopher Smith

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

Allen Freeman will be posting our activities to this site. Please contact him with any questions:

allen@allenf.com

THANK YOU

Anonymous Donor
for your generous donation to the CT. Section

HIKE LEADERS

All reports must be sent in a Word Document in Times Roman 11. Reports sent from I-phones or I Pads will be returned.

Thank you,
Carol A. Langley
Celia Campbell-Mohn

**Chapel Brook Reservation and DAR State
Forest
May 25, 2014**

This late May hike in central Massachusetts was an excellent time to see wildflowers and hear bird songs. Among the 17 wildflowers seen were a couple of lesser common ones: the Fringed Polygala, known also as Gaywings, and Painted Trillium. Most birds remained hidden among the leaves, only their songs announced their presence - the Black Throated Green Warbler, Chestnut Sided Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Prairie Warbler and Ovenbird. Also heard were the Eastern Wood Pewee, Wood Thrush and Red Eyed Vireo.

The hike is a traverse out and back crossing Chapel Brook Reservation into the DAR State Forest and at the far end is a 2 mile loop. Chapel Brook Reservation is one of The Trustees of Reservations properties; the Trustees foundation purchases lands of a unique nature to protect them from development and their properties are open to the public, most at no charge. This is a woodland walk passing stonewalls, a cellar hole or two, a bridged boggy area and a large active beaver dam which backs up a moderate sized pond behind it. The trail crosses several noticeable ascents but mostly it rambles along with comfortable ups and downs to give a reasonable workout and a good day in the outdoors.

Leader: Dave Wells

Hikers: Karen Foss, Carol Langley, Mel and Bob Michaud

**Mystic River Paddle
May 31, 2014**

I only had one taker for my paddle but we had a great time. It was a bit windy and overcast as we headed over to Enders Island. We couldn't resist stopping on the island to see the gardens with their promising new blooms and a reminder that spring was here. After walking through the gardens and studying the magnificent stone wall that surrounds the island, we paddle towards some other islands further out.

We made a second stop on another island with the intent to explore it also. There was a path along the ridge but there was a lot of poison ivy among the overgrowth so we decided it was safest to be in the water. After a quick snack we began our paddle back

towards the car. The sun came out in the early afternoon turning the water into many shades of beautiful blues and greens. The wind had shifted directions so we worked a bit to get back to the beach. After about 4 hours of paddling, we arrived back at our starting point and were very happy to have spent our morning out on the water.

Paddlers : Mandy Brink and Cathryn Dolan

**Maine Peakbagging Weekend
June 13 – 15, 2014**

On Friday we left CT early enough that we would get to NH in time to do a good hike on Friday. Jim Fritz, Jim Robertson and Mandy headed off to do the Wildcats while Mike Shaw headed off to do East Sleeper. It was a gray rainy day, go figure. We hiked up the ski slope. I'm not sure how many of you have done ski slope hiking but it's pretty brutal. We stopped at the ski slope for a quick snack before connecting with Wildcat Ridge Trail. From there we were able to bag Wildcat D, C, B and A. We returned back the same way we came, once again, a brutal walk down the ski slope.

We met up with the rest of the gang at the Dolly Copp Campground. I was very lucky to have such a good support team to help finish my last peak on Sat. Dennis Himes and Jim Moore met us Friday evening. We set up all our gear in the rain, changed into dry clothes and headed off to dinner.

On Saturday we set off to bag Middle Carter, South Carter and Mt Hight. We started the day at the Dodge Camp which is a camp for AMC members who are doing work in the White Mountains. We went up the Imp Trail, North Carter Trail and the Carter-Moriah Trail which led us to my final 48 NH K peak. I was quite excited. Having everyone there made it the most special peak of all. Mike surprised me by baking and carrying up my favorite, wintergreen cupcakes as well as a cooler with ice cream for all. Dennis presented me with the 4000 footer patch and Mike gave me the matching T-shirt. Besides the cupcakes and ice cream, Jim Moore brought chocolates so we had a real sugar high. The clouds cleared while we were at the summit and we were able to get some good views of the Baldfaces.

After our sugar high, Jim R and Jim M headed back down the way we came while the rest of us headed

over to South Carter and Mt Hight. The hike on Mt Hight was straight up but a fun climb. It is very rocky at the top and it was cloudy so we didn't have much for views. I would go back again to this mountain just for a picnic on a clear day.

On Sunday, Mike, Dennis and Mandy headed over to do the Nubble. Mike is working on his 100 highest list, so we decided to join him for this peak. It was a day of true bushwhacking.. We started out the day in some sunshine but by the time we started hiking, it got cloudy. It started raining off and on which is what it did for the rest of the day. Had it not been for Mike and Dennis's superb compass skills and GSP tracking, I'd still be wondering around in those woods looking for the summit.

This description of the day is written by Dennis Himes as he is much better at describing where we hiked. We started on the North Twin Trailhead, crossed back over the bridge and started bushwhacking southwest. Soon we came to a straight trail running north/south. We headed south. What followed was an ascent which mostly followed a herd path, but which occasionally lost it, only to find it again. After a while the way got very steep. Even though we were clearly on the herd path during that section, there were several very difficult rock scrambles to go over, one of which we went around instead. After a while of this we came across a plateau. It was like we were in the Catskills. Soon after this we met two guys coming down, two of the three people we'd meet on the hike. The herd path then went over a false summit and then climbed somewhat steeply again to the true summit. There we signed the log in the canister and headed down.

Soon after we met another Mike, also headed down, who hiked with us most of the rest of the way. We lost the path for longer going down than up, but eventually found it, and our Mike had a waypoint on the straight/north/south trail which told us when to cut down to the bridge.

Hikers for the weekend: Mandy Brink, Mike Shaw, Jim Fritz, Jim Moore, Jim Robertson, Dennis Himes

Canton Land Trust
Sat. June 21, 2014

It was the first day of summer and a glorious morning it was. We began at the parking area on

Breezy Hill Road. We then set out on the red-blazed Tom Perry Trail then turned onto the yellow-blazed Breezy Hill Farms Trail. We walked through its field following the mowed path rather than blazes. After crossing Breezy Hill Road we picked up the yellow-blazed Arthur and Eunice Sweeton Trail. This trail brought us to the blue-blazed Barbour Woods Trail where it ended back on Breezy Hill Road. A short walk up this road took us to the trailhead of the yellow-blazed Ted Wright Trail. The blazing was poor and then nonexistent, we often thought we weren't actually on the trail any longer. We just followed the rocky and eroded old road up the hill in the general direction shown on the hand drawn map. We were looking for our lunch spot at Smith's Lookout, the vista that was designated on the map. It was hoped that the vista hadn't grown in as they sometimes are. Alas, we came across no vista and just ended up in a small clearing. There were still no blazes to guide us. With nothing to lose we walked west to explore the area, hoping to perhaps stumble upon the actual trail.

Within a very short time we walked out of the wooded area and stood awe-struck. Before us was a vast expanse of meadow. Grasses and colorful wild flowers flooded the hill. Could this be Smith's Lookout? In the center of the scene stood what appeared to be a fire tower. Upon closer observation we saw that it was complete with solar panels and a wood stove. It was a private getaway, fenced in all around at ground level so its stairs could not be climbed. It really was unnecessary to need to go up for a better view for we had a 360* view anyway. This was an incredible place. How fortunate that we had stumbled upon it at just the right time of year. The owner's generosity to the public, however, was in the picnic table where we had our lunch. We lingered long and it was hard to pack up to leave. We retraced our steps down the eroded road. George discovered the faint blaze showing us where the actual trail was but it would have to wait for exploring another day.

After arriving back on Breezy Hill Road we picked up the Sun, Wind and Woodland Trail that brought us back to our start. In all we estimated that we hiked 6.5 miles. This was a wonderful hike to start the summer.

Hikers: George Jackson, Jim Robertson, Bill Falconer, Don Hagstrom
Leader: Sarah O'Hare

People's Forest-Austin Hawes
June 25-27, 2014

When I arrived on Fri. late afternoon Kevin Van was all set up tent, screen house and tiki torches. This boy knows how to base camp. After setting up my tent I quickly retreated to his site and joined him in the screen house since the bugs were out in full force. Dinner was eaten leisurely because of the screening keeping the bugs out.

Next on the agenda was to get a fire going and lite the torches. The campground was sold out but quiet Parents walked as children road their bikes and scooters on the gravel road. Years ago I was one of these parents. We had a 7 mile hiked planned for Sat. and weather was supposed to be hot. Wanting to get an early start we had an early night. Hiker's midnight and we were in our tents.

Crack of dawn and we were moving. Jim Robertson was to meet us on the trail. We were on the trail before 8:00 but the air was heavy and not moving. By the time we reached the Grand Vista we were both glistening with steam rising from our heads. A break was called and map looked over, we were on the Jessie Gerard Trail not much farther to Greenwoods Rd. where we would make a decision.

Kevin was dripping before we reached the road so I told him he better dress down or I was getting my scissors out and I was going to cut off his long pants and long sleeve shirt. I must have sounded threatening because we stopped and he took off a shirt, a little better but not much. The heat of the day was suffocating. We opted out to the road and hiked to a picnic table to have our lunch. The road gave us a slight breeze.

Reaching the Museum we walked through the cool building and looked at the many displays. Then we hiked to my car. Back at the campground we took showers and retreated to our tents for the afternoon POWER NAP. This was a day for a comfortable chair and a good book.

Around 5:00 Jim Robertson arrives with a bike on his roof I have a Kayak on mine. What is the game plan for Sun.?

Purchasing more wood we build a nice campfire and enjoyed the evening. Jim and I had S'mores while

Kevin had a beverage from a brown bottle. We planned to walk the Rail-Trails along the Farmington River for about 5 miles on Sun.

Up by the crack of dawn and Jim was off on his bike to ride the East & West Rds. Returning he announced that there were good breakfast sandwiches at the Riverton Country Store, so off the boys went to get a sandwich while I cooked breakfast at the site.

The last time our section did this weekend was in Aug. of 1991. Hope more of you can attend next year. Thanks for joining me Kevin Vann & Jim Robertson. L. Carol A. Langley

Mt. Higby
Aug. 3, 2014

A decision was made to spot Don's car at rte. 147 since the weather was not to promising. We then drove and parked at the Land Trust Property on Mt. Higby Rd. The side trail from there connects with the Mattabesett Trail in about a mile.

Weaving our way through the still and quiet forest was very relaxing. Then we started to climb soon reaching the overlook across from the quarry. We did not visit the crash site since there was a field of tall grass to cross that probably had a bumper crop of ticks.

We had many ups and downs with the steady drone of I-91 to the west. Since we needed room for Ice Cream an early lunch was had on the rocks above the State Police Training Facility. Today all was quiet but sometimes when they are training, you can get a real show with gunshots, officers busting into houses and tires screeching from their high speed chase around the compound. Check it out!!!!

Reaching Guida's by 11:30 we were the first customers to indulge at the Ice Cream window. As always my cone drips so I looked like a little kid with chocolate on my hands and shirt. It sure was good and who is going to see me in the woods. Twenty minutes. later we experienced our sugar rush and off we went the return trip was done in 1 hour less than hiking in. Yes, we did the 9 miles. Sorry you couldn't join us.

Carol A. Langley & Don Hagstrom

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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