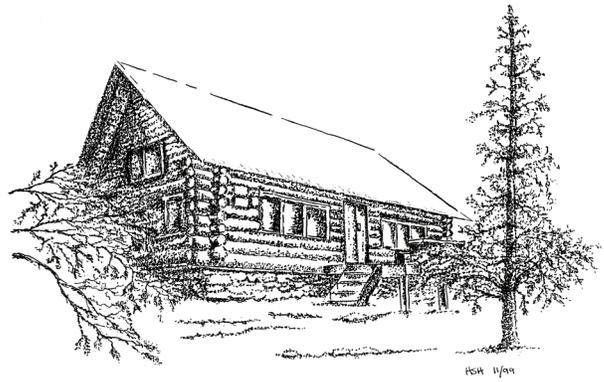


# RIDGE LINES



GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB  
BURLINGTON SECTION

www.gmcburlington.org  
gmc@gmcburlington.org  
802-557-7009

Spring 2014

## TWO EXCITING ADVENTURES IN THE MONTH OF MARCH

March 15 – **Full-Day Field Workshop On Animal Tracking** - Join GMC Burlington Section and Keeping Track for a day outside with internationally recognized wildlife expert Sue Morse on her own property in Jericho. Sue will identify tracks and other wildlife signs and share her vast knowledge of the outdoors. This full-day adventure costs \$35.00 per person. Contact Kelley Christie for details, 999-7839 or kelleychristie@gmail.com. Please RSVP at gmcevents@hotmail.com

### March 21 – **Embrace the Brutality: From the Long Trail to the Triple Crown**

Each year, GMC presents the Taylor Series, evening presentations that bring Vermonters information and inspiration about outdoor adventures in our own backyard and beyond. The series honors James P. Taylor, who sat on a mountaintop over a hundred years ago and imagined the Long Trail.

This year, the Burlington Section invites you to share an evening with Shane “Jester” O’Donnell as he recounts how the Long Trail fostered a hiking addiction that eventually turned him into a Triple Crown Hiker. Featuring photos from four long trails (LT, AT, Pacific Crest Trail, Continental Divide Trail), Jester’s presentation includes stories that are comical and tragic, silly and inspirational. From sea level to 14,000 feet, from shelter mice to grizzlies, from blistered feet to more blistered feet, this program will get you excited about getting out on the trail!

In addition to the trail documentary *Embrace The Brutality: A Continental Divide Trail Adventure*, Jester has produced and directed *Wizards Of The PCT*. He’s a contributor to Yogi Guide Books and a Board Member of ALDHA-West, as well as an Ambassador for KEEN Footwear and a member of the Therm-A-Rest Dreamers Program. When not editing film or writing articles for the hiking humor blog *The O’Mails*, Jester occasionally squeezes in time for actual hiking.

Friday evening 3/21/2014, 7PM, at the St Michaels McCarthy Arts Center Recital Hall, Colchester VT  
Please RSVP at gmcevents@hotmail.com

### Also in this issue - Committee Reports from 2/8/14 Annual Meeting

Outings and Trails - page 2

Director’s Report and Info about Website - page 3

Membership and Treasurer’s Report - page 4

Outings - pages 5-7

Critter Column: Hungry Bears - page 7

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**At the Annual Meeting on 2/8/14, members heard reports about important milestones, events, progress, and challenges from 2013.**



### OUTINGS COMMITTEE

Paul Houchens and Kelley Christie co-chaired this committee for most of 2013. Kelley has now taken over as chair of a new committee in charge of the Young Adventurers Club, which promotes active outdoor activities for children. Rick Manning has joined Paul working on the Section's outings schedule. Paul reported that the recent switch to a Doodle calendar has made it much easier for trip leaders to sign up and schedule their outings.

In 2013, there were over 100 scheduled outings. Fourteen dedicated volunteers led more than four trips each, and a few super-leaders organized many more than that. Dave Hathaway led 18 outings, Daryl Smith led 15 and Kelley Christie led 13. The following people each led four to eight trips during the year: Phil Hazen, Ted Albers, Pete Cottrell, Dot Myer, Sheri Larsen, Robynn Albert, Pam Gillis, John Sharp, Rich Larsen, Pat Nowlan and Carlene Squires.

Kelley reported that there were five Young Adventurers Club outings between September 2013 and February 2014, including winter tracking at Ethan Allen Park and collecting fall leaves on Mt. Philo to discover all the colors of the rainbow. YAC has paired up with the Winooski Valley Parks District and will schedule an outing with WVPD once a quarter.

---

### TRAILS COMMITTEE

Pam Gillis reported that there were four trail work outings in 2013, with an average of 15 volunteers on each outing. On May 18, 25 volunteers turned up to work - an all-time record! John Pennucci and Phil Hazen were present for every work day.

Last spring, many fallen trees had to be cleared, especially in the Bolton area. This may be the case this year also. The club is still assessing damage from the December 2013 ice storm. The Burlington Section will have more miles of trail to maintain once the Winooski Bridge is completed (scheduled for fall 2014).

There will be five trail outings this spring, one on each Saturday in May.

John Sharp was presented with a little toy chainsaw in honor of his twenty years as co-chair of the Trails Committee. (He has actually been going on trail work hikes since 1972, way before he became part of the committee!) After John had a chance to admire the toy saw, he got to hold a brand-new Stihl MS261C-M, the first new chainsaw that the Trails Committee has bought since 1998.

---

### WEBSITE

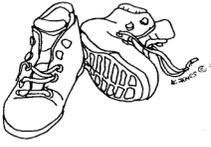
The Burlington Section website continues to be an important way for members to share information and find out what's going on in the club. Use of the website continues to grow. In 2010, the website was getting 32 separate visitors per day; now it's getting 62 visitors per day.

One popular feature is the Trip Report section. Ted thanked trip leaders who have submitted trip reports and/or photos. Go to [www.gmcburlington.org](http://www.gmcburlington.org) and you'll find Trip Reports right on the first page.

---

### WHAT TRAIL, HIKE OR MOUNTAIN IS SPECIAL TO YOU?

Ridge Lines is looking for articles, stories, memories or interview information about places in Vermont that bring delight, solace or peace. If you have a special trail or shelter or lookout or mountain or vista, share your memories of that special place with our readers. You can send a written piece to [maevulus@surfglobal.net](mailto:maevulus@surfglobal.net) – or e-mail or call Maeve (899-4327) to set up a time for a phone interview.

	<b>COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.</b>	
--	----------------------------------	---



## DIRECTOR

Ted Albers reported on several milestones and events taking place at the main club.

- The 2014 GMC Annual Meeting will be held the second weekend in June at Mountain Meadows Lodge, near Kent Pond and near the AT/LT junction, hosted by the Killington Section.
- The *Winter Hiking Guide to Vermont* was completed in early December of 2013. Mike Feiner did an outstanding job compiling the text for each hike. In addition, a contract with W.W. Norton Publishing has been signed and mailed in, so GMC will again be the author of *50 Hikes in Vermont*.
- The club's renewable energy initiative is a big success. Last year, solar collectors at the Waterbury Center site generated 44,000 kilowatt hours, offsetting the club's electricity usage and resulting in a \$5000 check for power sold to the grid.
- Thomas Property: The contract for property in the Bolton area has been signed by Mr. Thomas and GMC, and the GMC attorney is working with Mr. Thomas to make arrangements for a closing – hopefully within the next 3-4 months. Once the property has been acquired, GMC will begin the process of transferring the parcel of land to the state and include the lands in the Mansfield State Forest. This will connect the former Smith, now State parcel, with the rest of the State Forest.
- Deigh Donation: In late December 2013, we received word that Tony Deigh would like to donate 114.7 acres of land, including a section with the Long Trail on it, just east of Notch Road in the town of Bolton and south of Buchanan Shelter. In 2004, Mr. Deigh donated a 30-acre parcel, a 40-acre conservation easement, and a right-of-way easement for the LT across his land. The generous new donation would bring the 40-acre easement containing the LT into public ownership as well as adding additional buffer to the trail corridor in an area with a historically high rate of development.

Ted also reported that the main club membership is over 10,000 and that there are now 102 business members. Many business members (inns, hotels, Eastern Mountain Sports, Outdoor Gear Exchange, etc.) give discounts for GMC-ers. A recent survey of GMC members showed that a large majority prefer doing business with organizations that support the club. (You can find a list of businesses that support Green Mountain Club at [http://gmc.convio.net/site/PageNavigator/Business\\_Supporters](http://gmc.convio.net/site/PageNavigator/Business_Supporters))

---

## TREASURER

Joel Tilley provided a comprehensive summary of the Burlington Section's finances. The printing and mailing of *Ridge Lines* continues to be our largest annual expense. In 2013, we also made sizeable donations to the Winooski Bridge Project and the VT Land Trust Nordic Lands purchase.

In addition, the Burlington Section donated money to be added to a grant from the Vermont Humanities Council and other GMC funds for the purpose of hiring an intern with background in archiving. The intern will work at the main club in Waterbury Center, organizing and archiving historic photos, oral history recordings, old publications and club records. He or she will also set up an educational display at the Visitor Center. The donation from the Burlington Section came from the Holmes Fund, which is earmarked for preserving and archiving GMC memorabilia and historical artifacts.

Joel noted that we are fortunate to have enough income and enough of a "cushion" so we can continue to support projects and initiatives at the main club.



## COMMITTEE REPORTS – cont.

### MEMBERSHIP

Dot Myer reported that the Burlington Section now has 768 memberships. Many of these are families, so the actual number of members is over 1090.

#### ***We have many new members:***

Abair, Christopher	Grossman, Aaron	Seward, Justin
Bean, Tucker	Hallbert, Perry	Siegel, Justin
Bhimani, Sarah	Hayes, Tod	Siegel, Eric
Black, Ian and Brenda	Homans, Emma	Simpson, Richard
Boxall, Jane	Kovaleff, Theodore	Smith, Mark
Bray, Mackenzie	Kraushaar, James	Sproul, Glen and Marga
Burns, Dierdre	Lodkutoff, Todd	Steinbauer, Daniel and Janet
Burrell, Jacquelyn	Macone, Peter	Stevens, Molly
Catalano, Jay	McColgin, David and Eloy	Townsend, Rachael
Connors, Kristin	McCoy, Tim	Turnbull, Barbara
Coonrod, Kathleen	Neville, Wendy	Van Der Vliet, Dann
Corbman, Eric and Karen	Northrup, William	Vassar, Gary
D'Agostino, Michelle	Reynolds, Carollee	Walsh, Jackie
Downing, Jim	Ross, Ryan	Wang, Benjamin
Fall, Laura	Sanberg, Jane	Weischedel, Kristin
Fey, Lisabette	Schubert, Marian	Wiens, Anna
Frank, Donald	Seaton, Max	Williams, Tamra
Freitas, Kim		

We also have one ***new business member***: Vermont Pain Relief in Burlington. (See the Director's Report on page 3 for more information about business memberships.)

### **WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS!!**

Here are the current members of your Executive Committee, along with e-mail addresses. Feel free to contact us at any time! (Find phone numbers on the outings calendar inserted in this issue.)

<b>President</b>	Ted Albers	ted@tedalbers.net	<b>Web Site</b>	Ted Albers	ted@tedalbers.net
<b>Vice-President</b>	Kelley Christie	kelleymchristie@gmail.com	<b>Section Historian</b>	Dot Myer	dotmyer@myfairpoint.net
<b>Secretary</b>	Mary Keenan	keenan158@yahoo.com	<b>Outings</b>	Paul Houchens	houchens@comcast.net
<b>Treasurer</b>	Joel Tilley	jptilley50@gmail.com	<b>Outings</b>	Rick Manning	megmermadrixchx@aol.com
<b>Membership</b>	Dot Myer	dotmyer@myfairpoint.net	<b>YAC</b>	Kelley Christie	kelleymchristie@gmail.com
<b>Ridge Lines</b>	Maeve Kim	maevulus@surfglobal.net	<b>Trails</b>	Pam Gillis	gillis1986@gmail.com
<b>Shelters</b>	Linda Evans	linda.r.evans7@gmail.com	<b>Trails</b>	John Sharp	jsharp@zoo.uvm.edu
<b>Education</b>	Taylor Christie	taylorchristie@hotmail.com	<b>Director</b>	Ted Albers	ted@tedalbers.net

***There are vacancies for the chairs of the Annual Meeting, Marketing and Communications, Special Programs and Taylor Series committees. If you're interested in volunteering in any of these important roles, please contact Ted.***

## **Section Outings**

### **Winter 2013 - 2014**

Unless otherwise specified, call the trip leader to sign up, find out what equipment you'll need, and learn about any changes. Check with trip leader before bringing your pet along. Human guests are always welcome. Trip leaders often arrange carpooling. If you ride along in someone else's car, we recommend reimbursing the driver at the rate of 10 cents a mile.

#### **March**

3/1 (Sat) **YOUNG ADVENTURERS' CLUB OUTING - Red Rocks Park** - Late winter/early spring scavenger hunt at Red Rocks Park. What does your little eye spy? Easy, 1-2 flat miles. 9:00 to approx. 11:00. Contact leader by 2/27/14. Kelley Christie, [kelleymchristie@gmail.com](mailto:kelleymchristie@gmail.com) or 999-7839.

3/1 (Sat) **LaPlatte River Marsh Natural Area** Snowshoe the LaPlatte River Marsh Natural area, the Shelburne Bay Clarke Trail and perhaps some of the Ti-Haul trail, all in Shelburne. Easy hike, leisurely pace. Total distance to be determined by the group depending on the trails we take - between four and six miles, mostly flat. This is a chance to get familiar with the walks around Shelburne Bay. Meet at the public boat launch, Shelburne Bay, on Bay Road at 9:00 AM. On Google Maps, search for *1135 Bay Road, Shelburne, Vermont 05482*. The boat launch is ½ mile east of the entrance to Shelburne farms (at Harbor Road and Bay Road.) Contact Ted Albers [ted@ted-albers.net](mailto:ted@ted-albers.net)

3/2 (Sun) **Taylor Lodge** From the Stevensville trailhead, we'll follow Nebraska Notch Trail and the Long Trail to reach Taylor Lodge, and then return. Easy terrain, moderate to strong pace, 4.4 miles, 600' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 2/28. David Hathaway, 899-9982 or [david.hathaway.78@gmail.com](mailto:david.hathaway.78@gmail.com)

3/8 (Sat) **Camels Hump State Park Bushwack #3** My favorite area for wandering the woods! Mature maple forest with stands of large white pines, crags, huge boulders and rock formations. Awesome views of the Winooski Valley and Camels Hump. We'll take a different route than the past two months, and hopefully we'll encounter more snow and ice formations. Moderate to difficult terrain, moderate pace, 6 miles, 1500' elevation gain. E-mail leader in advance. Darryl Smith, [dsmith.vt.us@gmail.com](mailto:dsmith.vt.us@gmail.com)

3/15 (Sat) **Butler Lodge to Nebraska Notch** Starting from Stevensville, we'll hike or snowshoe the Nebraska Notch Trail to the Long Trail, then follow it to Butler Lodge and return along the Butler Lodge trail. Moderate hike, moderate to strong pace, 6.2 miles, 1700' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 3/13. David Hathaway, 899-9982 or [david.hathaway.78@gmail.com](mailto:david.hathaway.78@gmail.com)

3/16 (Sun) **Mt. Hunger and the Reservoir** Snowshoe up the smooth white carpeted Rocky Trail like it was just an easy stroll. Return via a visit to the Reservoir. Moderate hike, moderate pace, 4.4 miles, 2500' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader for details. Phil Hazen, 355-7181 or [philhazen@comcast.net](mailto:philhazen@comcast.net)

3/22 (Sat) **Mt. Abraham via Battell Trail** Depending on the weather conditions, we'll hike or snowshoe to the top of Mt. Abraham. The views from the top in winter can be really lovely. If it's icy, crampons or microspikes and poles will be necessary. Difficult hike, moderate pace, approx. 6 miles, 2500' elevation gain. Group limit 12. Contact leader by 3/20. Sheri Larsen, 878-6828 or [larsen007@aol.com](mailto:larsen007@aol.com)

3/23 (Sun) **Winter Birding in the Champlain Valley** We'll look for diving ducks on the lake and eagles in the air. Easy, 1-3 miles. Group limit 8. Maeve Kim, 899-4327 or [maevulus@surfglobal.net](mailto:maevulus@surfglobal.net)

3/29 (Sat) **Snake Mountain** This small mountain in Addison gives an excellent view of the Champlain Valley and the new bridge to New York State. It has an interesting history and we can see the remains of an old hotel and "dance pavillion". We go up by a trail and back down by an old carriage road. Easy to moderate, slow pace, 1.8 miles, ascent 900'. Dot Myer, [dotmyer@myfairpoint.net](mailto:dotmyer@myfairpoint.net)

#### **April**

4/6 (Sun) **Mt. Mansfield Chin from East Side** Get out for your last wintry snowshoe adventure before mud season sets in. We'll ascend the Long Trail to Vermont's highest summit, and then continue south to Profanity Trail and from there back to Taft Lodge and down the way we came. Difficult, 5.6 miles, 2800' elevation gain. Contact leader in advance. Wolfgang Hokenmaier, 343-8175 or [hogges@gmx.net](mailto:hogges@gmx.net)

4/12 (Sat) **Camels Hump via Monroe Trail** Starting from the Couching Lion Farm in Duxbury, we'll climb the Monroe Trail to the summit of Camels Hump and return the same way. Difficult, 6.8 mile, 2700' elevation gain, moderate to strong pace. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 4/10. David Hathaway, 899-9982 or [david.hathaway.78@gmail.com](mailto:david.hathaway.78@gmail.com)

### ***April Outings – cont.***

4/13 (Sun) **Falls of Lana and Silver Lake** A half-mile hike brings us to the Falls of Lana, which should be at their best at this time of year. From there, it's an easy hike to Silver Lake. If we have time and interest, we can hike around the lake before returning. Easy hike, slow pace, 3 miles round trip. Dot Myer, 883-2433 or [Dotmyer@myfairpoint.net](mailto:Dotmyer@myfairpoint.net)

4/19 (Sat) **Map and Compass Workshop** Learn the basics of map reading and using a compass to get from Point A to point B. We will then do a little hike and bushwhack near Colchester Pond to test our skills. Moderate hiking at a leisurely pace, 5 miles, insignificant elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader to sign up. Phil Hazen, 355-7181 or [philhazen@comcast.net](mailto:philhazen@comcast.net)

4/26 (Sat) **LaPlatte River Paddle** We'll splash around the LaPlatte River in Shelburne and enjoy the high waters and see if we can spot the braves working on their lodges. Length and duration to be determined by group but we will be finished by 11am. Bring your canoe or kayak and meet at the Shelburne Bay public boat launch on Bay Road at 9am. On Google Maps, search for: 1135 Bay Road, Shelburne, Vermont 05482. The boat launch is ½ mile east of the entrance to Shelburne Farms (at Harbor Road and Bay Road). Contact leader by 4/25. Ted Albers [ted@tedalbers](mailto:ted@tedalbers) or 557-7009

4/27 (Sun) **Wildflower Hike at Niquette Bay State Park** Hike the trails on the perimeter of Niquette Bay State Park while looking for early spring wildflowers. Easy hike, moderate pace, 3.5 miles, relatively gentle ups and downs with some stairs. Group limit 15. Contact leader by 4/25. Sheri Larsen, [larsen007@aol.com](mailto:larsen007@aol.com) or 878-6828.

4/27 (Sun) **Vergennes to Middlebury Bike Loop** My favorite spring bike ride begins at the park in Vergennes, follows low-traffic secondary roads south through Weybridge for lunch in Middlebury (always a highlight of the trip) and loops back to Vergennes via the UVM Morgan Horse Farm, wetlands and a hair-curling downhill. The pace is moderate with time to enjoy the splendor of spring in the Champlain Valley. Helmets required. 25 miles. Group limit 8. Mary Lou Recor, 660-2834, [mlrecor@myfairpoint.net](mailto:mlrecor@myfairpoint.net)

### ***May***

5/3 (Sat) **Long Trail Spring Clearing**, Clear blow downs, clip, clean water bars, etc. No experience needed. Bring work gloves, lunch and water. Meet at UVM at 8am or Richmond Park & Ride at 8:30am. Moderate, 3-10 miles. Leaders: Pam Gillis, 879-1457 or [gillis1986@gmail.com](mailto:gillis1986@gmail.com), and John Sharp, 862-3841.

5/10 (Sat) **Long Trail Spring Clearing**, Clear blow downs, clip, clean water bars, etc. No experience needed. Bring work gloves, lunch and water. Meet at UVM at 8am or Richmond Park & Ride at 8:30am. Moderate, 3-10 miles. Leaders: Pam Gillis, 879-1457 or [gillis1986@gmail.com](mailto:gillis1986@gmail.com), and John Sharp, 862-3841

5/17 (Sat) **Long Trail Spring Clearing**, Clear blow downs, clip, clean water bars, etc. No experience needed. Bring work gloves, lunch and water. Meet at UVM at 8am or Richmond Park & Ride at 8:30am. Moderate, 3-10 miles. Leaders: Pam Gillis, 879-1457 or [gillis1986@gmail.com](mailto:gillis1986@gmail.com), and John Sharp, 862-3841

5/18 (Sun) **Bike the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail** We'll start in St. Albans and bicycle the full 26 miles of the Missisquoi Valley Rail trail to Richford, and then return. Difficult due to distance (52 miles round-trip), mostly flat ground, moderate to strong pace. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 5/16. David Hathaway, 899-9982 or [david.hathaway.78@gmail.com](mailto:david.hathaway.78@gmail.com)

5/24 (Sat) **Long Trail Spring Clearing**, Clear blow downs, clip, clean water bars, etc. No experience needed. Bring work gloves, lunch and water. Meet at UVM at 8am or Richmond Park & Ride at 8:30am. Moderate, 3-10 miles. Leaders: Pam Gillis, 879-1457 or [gillis1986@gmail.com](mailto:gillis1986@gmail.com), and John Sharp, 862-3841

5/26 (Mon) **Loop Hike on Mt. Mansfield** We'll look for wildflowers on the Frost Trail and Maple Ridge Trail, stopping to take pictures if we find some nice lady slippers or trillium. We'll continue onto the Rock Garden Trail and over to Butler Lodge for a lunch break, then down the Butler Lodge Trail. Moderate hike, moderate pace, approx. 4.5 miles. Mary Keenan, 658-2104 or [keenan158@yahoo.com](mailto:keenan158@yahoo.com).

5/31 (Sat) **Long Trail Spring Clearing**, Clear blow downs, clip, clean water bars, etc. No experience needed. Bring work gloves, lunch and water. Meet at UVM at 8am or Richmond Park & Ride at 8:30am. Moderate, 3-10 miles. Leaders: Pam Gillis, 879-1457 or [gillis1986@gmail.com](mailto:gillis1986@gmail.com), and John Sharp, 862-3841

## June

6/1 (Sun) **Duck Brook** A very short hike on a LT section that will soon become a side trail. We will probably see late spring wildflowers, possibly including ladyslippers and lilies. Lunch at Duck Brook shelter with time to hike down to the brook. This shelter was one of Roy Buchanan's last hikes. Moderate hike, slow pace, 2 miles round trip. Dot Myer, 863-2433 or dotmyer@myfairpoint.net

6/7 (Sat) **Paddle Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge** The Refuge is just north of Swanton and it's an ideal place for quiet water paddling and wildlife viewing. Trip will be approximately 3-4 hours at a moderate pace. Bring water, lunch, hat, sunscreen, and wear appropriate clothing. PFD is mandatory. Kayaks and canoes welcome. For meeting time and place, contact Russ Kinaman at russkin34@comcast.net or 879-6666.

6/8 (Sun) **Mount Mansfield Loop** We'll climb to the ridgeline via Halfway House Trail, head north on the ridge to the summit (aka the Chin), and return via Sunset Ridge. Difficult, fast pace, about 8 miles, 3000' of climbing. Contact leader by 6/6. Rich Larsen, larsen007@aol.com or 878-6828.

6/14 (Sat) **Mt. Ethan Allen** Come along and enjoy a hike to the top of this less frequently visited neighbor of Camels Hump. 5.5 miles round trip, 1800' elevation gain. Lee Wrigley at leewrigley@myfairpoint.net (preferred) or 318-6281.

6/15 (Sun) **Battell Trail to Mt Abraham** This hike climbs steadily, meets up with the Long Trail, and soon reaches Battell Shelter. From there, .8 of a mile gets us to the summit of Mt. Abe after a few steep ascents, and we'll be rewarded with a fine panorama of landscapes. We will return the same way. Moderate pace, 6 miles round trip. Group limit 10. Dogs are welcome. Carlene Squires, 434-2533 or carlene@gmavt.net

6/21 (Sat) **Worcester Range, Skyline Trail** We'll climb the Middlesex Trail to the summit of Mt. Hunger, then follow the Skyline Trail to Mt. Worcester, then return on the Worcester Mountain Trail. Difficult, ~ 11 miles, ~ 3000' elevation gain. Contact leader by 6/19. David Hathaway, david.hathaway.78@gmail.com or 899-9982.

6/21 (Sat) **Paddle LaPlatte River Delta and/or Shelburne Bay** Depending on the wind, we'll either paddle up the LaPlatte River for 2-3 hours or paddle from the Shelburne Bay fishing access around Shelburne Point for 3-4 hours. Lots of wildlife on the LaPlatte River. Moderate pace. Bring water, lunch, hat, sunscreen, and wear appropriate clothing. PFD is mandatory. Kayaks and canoes welcome. For details, contact Russ Kinaman at 879-6666 or russkin34@comcast.net

6/22 (Sun) **Mansfield Loop** From Underhill State Park we'll head up Sunset Ridge to the Mansfield Chin, then follow the ridge to the Forehead and return via Maple Ridge and the CCC road. Difficult hike, moderate pace, 9 miles, about 2600' elevation gain. Contact leader in advance. Wes Volk, wesvolk@gmail.com or 355-4135.

6/28 (Sat) **Bamforth Ridge Trail** From the Winooski River, we'll hike up the Bamforth Ridge Trail, go the summit, then head down the Monroe Trail where we left our vehicle(s). Difficult hike, moderate pace, 8.6 miles, 3600' elevation gain. Contact leader in advance. Wes Volk, wesvolk@gmail.com or 355-4135.

### CRITTER COLUMN: BLACK BEAR

#### *Another in our now-and-then feature of facts and stories about Vermonters who walk on four legs, hop, bound, slither, or fly*

Black bears will start coming out of their winter dens in April and May. After months without food, they're REALLY HUNGRY. Chances are you'll never see a bear while hiking - but if you do, stand still and make some noise. *Don't* turn and run.

Black bears are the most common bear in North America. Sows weigh 200-300 pounds, boars 350-600. (Weight varies a lot depending on age, availability of food, and time of year.) Black bears tend to stay close to dense cover. They leave territorial claw marks on smooth-barked trees and tufts of coarse hair attached to rough-barked "scratching posts". They sometimes make "bear nests" when they sit in a nut tree and break branches in toward themselves to get at distant nuts. If you want to learn more about bears, take Sue Morse's tracking workshop! (See page 1.)

*Ridge Lines*

**BURLINGTON SECTION**

Green Mountain Club

4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road

Waterbury Center VT 05677

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**NON-PROFIT ORG.**

**U.S. POSTAGE**

**PAID**

**BURLINGTON, VT**

**PERMIT NO. 41**