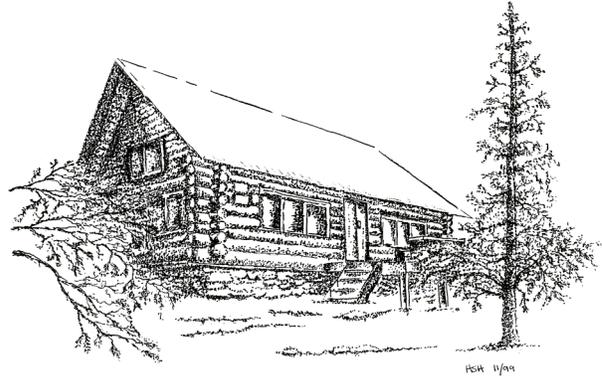


RIDGE LINES



GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB
BURLINGTON SECTION

www.gmcburlington.org

Fall 2011

BE SAFE IN HUNTING SEASON

Vermont's hunters and hikers have co-existed safely for generations because of a combination of common sense, caution, planning and good fortune for both groups. There will be hunters in the woods for much of the fall and winter. *All* the land crossed by the Long Trail is open to hunting, and many other Vermont trails cross prime hunting land. The exact dates of hunting seasons change each year. Here are some of this year's dates:

Black Bear Season – September 1 - November 16

Canada Goose Season – September 6 - 25

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Weekend – September 24 - 25

Bow and Arrow Deer Season – October 1 - 23

Youth Deer Hunting Weekend – November 5 - 6

Deer Rifle Season – November 12 - 27

Bow and Arrow and Muzzleloader Deer Season = December 3 - 11

From October through December, there are also many legal hunting periods for grouse, turkeys, squirrels, rabbits, beaver, otter, mink, raccoons, fishers, fox, skunks, and bobcats. Go to www.vtfishandwildlife.com for details.

Always wear blaze (fluorescent) orange. Never go out into the woods dressed all in brown, tan, or black. Don't wear clothing with patches of white that might be mistaken for the white tail of a deer. Outfit your canine hiking buddies with blaze orange harnesses or "saddle blankets".

For hikers, deer rifle season requires extra caution. One way to stay safe is to plan some or all of your November hikes in places that are closed to legal hunting. Many GMC sections offer road walks during deer season. Go to www.greenmountainclub.org, click on News and Events, then Events Calendar, and then November.

Another safety tip: Think moose! Moose don't usually attack people, but both males and females can be dangerous during rutting (mating) season, which lasts from late August till October. If you see a moose, stay away. Be careful when driving to and from the trailhead, too. Rutting moose aren't thinking about cars when they're crossing a road in search of a mate.

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What Was Your First Hiking Experience? - pages 2 and 3

Cave of the Winds: Another Hiking Adventure by Daan Zwick - page 4

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Critter Column: Snow Goose - page 7

MORE ABOUT TRAIL NAMES

In our June issue, we printed Dave Hathaway's story about how he got his trail name, Peak Geek. Here is Dot Myer's story about her trail name.

My trail name came from how I hike and what I was wearing when I was given the name, but afterward what I wore came from my trail name. I didn't have a trail name when I hiked the LT. (At that time I didn't even know they existed.) I got my trail name when I hiked the AT, which I did in many short sections.

My trail name is Polky Dot. Spelling it with an L and a Y gives the name a double meaning. I was wearing a polka dot hat, and distinctive hats were often associated with specific hikers, so the L had to stay in my trail name. But I was already beginning to become slow and "pokey", so I ended the name with a Y instead of an A.

That first polka dot hat blew off a cliff somewhere in the south. Once I got my trail name, I had to keep wearing polka dot hats whenever I hiked the AT, so if I couldn't find one I liked I just made one. Once I just painted polka dots on a white hat. I also made a sort of sun bonnet. One day I was wearing the bonnet on the street in North Adams, Massachusetts as I walked to the start of the Long Trail. A friend whom I had met some time ago recognized me by the hat.

To go along with my trail name, I even pasted polka dots on my hiking stick!

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST HIKE LIKE?

We asked GMC members to share their early hiking memories. The first is from **Wes Volk**, a relatively new member of the GMC. Wes has gone on many section outings, including the trip to Weizel Cabin in the Adirondacks this winter. Wes is known for being a fabulous person to hike with and for taking superb photos on the trail.

Wes Volk's Early Hiking Memories, as told to Valerie Wilkins

Wes comes from an outdoorsy family. When he was a child, his family vacations often involved camping, and his father has always enjoyed hiking. So it's only natural that Wes would be drawn to the mountains and trails of Vermont.

One of Wes's earliest hiking memories is a trip he took to the top of Lincoln Peak with his fifth or sixth grade class from Hinesburg Elementary School. His teacher, Mr. Dayton, was an avid hiker and would often tell the kids how he loaded his backpack with cinder blocks to train. There were no cinder blocks in the kids' backpacks that day, just snack foods and drinks! The hike featured lots of energetic kids and their teachers and parents; great views of the ski trails in the Mad River Valley; and exposure to the Vermont wilderness, a first for many of the kids on the trip.

Wes was a member of the Boy Scouts for many years. One of his earliest camping memories is going with his troop to the Mt. Norris Scout Reservation in Eden Mills in the early '90s. A flash flood occurred while they were there, covering the road into the camp. The young campers had to be evacuated by boat – a memorable event for the young scouts!

Wes also remembers an early backpacking trip with the Boy Scouts to the Breadloaf Wilderness. He had his Dad's aluminum frame backpack loaded up with lots of gorp and pepperoni for the trail. The first meal of the trip was dehydrated spaghetti. Although Wes was quite hungry from the day's hike, he left quite a bit of the spaghetti (tasteless and gross) on his plate. His first night of sleep on the trail was quite fitful. At the end of the second day, he was famished. He cleaned his plate this time and slept much better. The Cooley Glen Trail remains one of Wes's favorite places to hike.

Wes will be graduating from UVM with a degree in mechanical engineering after one more semester. His early hiking experiences have left a lasting impression on him. He loves being out in the wilderness. He's found that when he's hiking, he – and everyone he meets on the trail – is always in a good mood. When Wes starts looking for jobs after graduation, he knows that he wants to find a place with mountains nearby, so he can keep on smiling!

First Hikes - continued

Ridge Lines editor Maeve Kim didn't get an early start with hiking. In fact, she never hiked at all until she was in her late forties. Here's her story:

I play music with a group of friends, and we'd gotten into the habit of having a yearly "retreat" in some beautiful outdoors spot. We'd take short nature walks, swim, canoe, sing, talk and eat wonderful shared meals. One year, Beth suggested a hike to one of the AMC's "Friendly Huts" in New Hampshire. I had no idea what was involved, so I thought that was a great idea! Beth said we wouldn't have to carry heavy food or cooking supplies and assured us that she'd chosen an "easy mountain."

I still have the picture of us at the trailhead for Wildcat Mountain, every one of us smiling and relaxed. Poor innocent me – I had no idea what I was in for!

I'd been lifting weights for years so I thought I was in shape - but my stamina was rotten. All of the other women were in better overall shape than I was. Beth, our leader, was a very fast hiker. If the guidebook said two hours, she was going to make it in two hours come hell or high water. I was gasping after the first two-tenths of a mile. My old, borrowed external frame pack was much too big for me and dug into my hips and shoulder blades. The frame stuck up at a slight angle behind my head, forcing me to keep my neck bent. No one was stopping to admire flowers or listen for birds. Sweat started pouring down my face and chest. And I started complaining.

Ohhhh, nooooo. This is awww-ful. I can't dooooo this. I have to stooooop. I'm getting ti-i-i-ired! Waaaait. Slow downwwwwn.

I tried everything to make the others slow down or stop. I had to pee. There was a stone in my hiking boot. I had a leg cramp. I needed some water. I had to pee again. WEREN'T WE THERE YET?????

We reached Carter Notch Hut only about a half an hour behind schedule – and it was spectacular! I had no idea how wonderful it would feel to have conquered a mountain, even a relatively small one. My friends still remember my whining – but they also remember the first thing out of my mouth once I caught my breath: **I have GOT to do this again!**

Maeve asked her daughter Sheila for her earliest hiking memories.

Sheila's first hikes were overnights with her grandfather, Taze Huntley, starting when she was 11 years old. Taze was a native Vermonter who grew up in Morrisville, Jeffersonville, and Elmore. He loved the mountains, was a Long Trail End-to-End, and was delighted to be able to share some of his favorite places with his granddaughter.

On one hike, Sheila and her grandfather stopped at the old visitors' information booth in Smugglers Notch. There she was introduced to Leon Safford, who manned the booth for many years. Mr. Safford greeted hikers and other visitors, sharing facts, folklore and local history. Sheila still remembers her strong impression that Mr. Safford was a true celebrity whom she was very lucky to meet!

One of Sheila's most enduring memories is her Papa telling her not to stop to rest on an up-slope. He always said it would be easier in the end if she just powered through the up-slope and then rested at the top. Sheila still follows this advice when she's hiking.

Sheila also remembers her amazement when, years later, she hiked wearing boots that were designed for hiking and provided so much more support and security than the little leather "carpenter's boots" she wore when she was a child. "I realized that hiking wasn't step – turn ankle – step – turn ankle. I often regret that Papa didn't live long enough to see the technological revolution in fabrics and hiking gear that started in the 90s!"

CAVE OF THE WINDS

By Daan Zwick

Another exciting story from Daan's memories of decades on Vermont's hiking trails...

"They're stuck! They are stuck in the cave, all three of them!"

Gasping for breath with tears streaming down his face, little Andy Buchanan came running into the cabin where his father Roy and I were getting supper ready. Andy had a reputation for playing tricks, so our first reaction was, "Ha ha, that's too bad." But his tears and concern were too real to be acting. He got our full attention.

The Long Trail Patrol had been at Taft Lodge for a few days, putting a new floor and bunks in the old log cabin. The three young men, who with Roy formed the Patrol, had decided to top off their work day by exploring the nearby Cave of the Winds, just off the Cliff Trail high on the east side of Mount Mansfield. They allowed Andy to tag along with them.

Back then (this was 1939), the mouth of that cave usually was so filled with winter ice that it was not accessible until well into July. After the ice melted enough to reveal the cave opening, there were two ways to get into the cave. Sometimes the ice was melted enough to expose a long, slanting log that had been placed there years ago, so one could use notches that had been cut into the log and climb down into the cave. If the log was still ice-covered, one could negotiate the fifteen-foot drop to the floor of the cave by chopping steps into the pillar of ice that covered the log. Once on the floor, an explorer could travel an ice-free fifty feet to the end of the cave, crawling the last few feet to a glass jar containing a notebook in which one could sign one's name.

After Andy's alarming arriva, I supper was put aside while Roy and I gathered up a hatchet, the first-aid kit, a blanket and such pieces of rope as we could find. We hurried back over the Fern Trail with Andy running ahead. (There was no gondola facility on the mountain then. The Fern Trail was maintained as the bad-weather alternative route from Taft Lodge to the Mansfield Hotel, with the Cliff Trail joining it about where the gondola station is now.)

We arrived at the big crack that forms the cave to find that the youngest and smallest of the three explorers had just then managed to climb out of the cave. He was exhausted by that effort. The other two still in the cave were also very tired from their vain attempts to scale the slippery ice pillar. The ropes we had brought were not strong enough to haul the others up, but I lowered my hatchet to them so they could hack out steps in the ice column.

With the help of those steps and a little pulling from above, the rescue was completed in about twenty minutes. After the three rescued explorers had rested for a while, they gave Andy a big hug, and we all went back to Taft Lodge for a late supper and a long rehash of the recent adventure.

That night I heard one of the young men talking in his sleep, over and over. "It's deep and dark and cold down there."

Daan's story *Tragedy on the Lake*, which we printed in the June issue, prompted this note from Dot Myer:

My attempt at skating across Lake Champlain was not as dramatic as Daan's but it could have been tragic. One year in the late 1950s or early 1960s many people skated across the lake. I thought, "If they can do it, I can do it". So I started off from Burlington. The ice was smooth and great skating.

I think I was about 3/4 of the way across when I fell in a big crack. For a moment I was terrified. The ice was two feet thick on both sides of me so I quickly pulled myself out. Then I was afraid I might freeze to death. It was a cold and windy day. My pants immediately froze to ice. They protected me from the wind and I was warm all the way home. I never tried that again!

Section Outings

Fall 2011

September

9/5 (Mon) **Honey Hollow Botany Walk** We'll try to identify all the late-season wildflowers, ferns, and fungi, while moving along at a decent pace. (We'll identify the flora but not 'stop to smell them'.) Moderate hike, moderate pace, 5 miles, 1000' elevation gain. Group limit 15. Contact leader by 9/3. Richard Larsen, 878-6828 or larsen007@aol.com

9/10 (Sat) **Mt. Ethan Allen** Up Forest City trail to Montclair Glen Lodge then Long Trail to Mt. Ethan Allen. Moderate pace, 5 miles, 1700' elevation gain. Lee Wrigley, 318-6281 or leegwrigley@myfairpoint.net

9/11 (Sun) **Sterling Pond Shelter** From the parking lot on Rt. 108 in Stowe, we'll walk up the Long Trail 2 miles to Elephant's Head then 1.2 miles to Sterling Pond and the shelter. Several wonderful views, a few steep spots. Moderate, 8 miles, 1200' elevation gain. Expect to begin hike about 9:45 AM. Group limit 5. Car pool details and times upon request. Contact leader for details: ted@ted-albers.net.

9/17 (Sat) **Lincoln Gap LT South to Cooley Glen Shelter, Cooley Glen Trail (Dogs Welcome)** Hike out of Lincoln Gap to Sunset Ledge with beautiful western vistas, then to Mt. Grant and descend to Cooley Glen Shelter and out on the Cooley Glen Trail. Moderate to difficult hike, moderate pace, 7.9 miles. Group limit 10. Carlene Squires: home 434-2533, cell 318-5806, or carlene@gmavt.net

9/18 (Sun) **Sunset Ridge Trail to the Chin** This Mount Mansfield hike offers great views and the opportunity (in good weather) to hike from the Chin to the Forehead and back. If we choose this option, the total distance is ten miles. Difficult, 6.6 miles, 2500' elevation gain. Contact leader by 9/15. Kathy Adams, 399-8687 or hikeradams@hotmail.com

9/24 (Sat) **Stowe Pinnacle, Hogback Mountain and Mount Hunger** Stowe Pinnacle and Mount Hunger offer spectacular views of Mansfield, Camels Hump, Stowe, the Lamoille Valley, and the White Mountains. We'll hike to the top of Stowe Pinnacle, then on to Hogback Mountain, south along the Skyline Trail to Mount Hunger, and descend via the Waterbury Trail. The hike will start at the Stowe Pinnacle parking lot near Stowe and end at the Waterbury Trail parking lot. Moderate hike, moderate pace, 8.2 miles, 3000' elevation gain. Group limit 12. Peter Cottrell, 879-0755 or pcottrel@myfairpoint.net

9/25 (Sun) **Cantilever Rock and Cookout** Cantilever Rock is an amazing blade of rock that extends horizontally for 30 feet out from a cliff. We'll follow this short hike with a cookout at Underhill State Park. Please bring something to roast for your main dish and something to share with the group. There is a park fee unless you have a Green Mountain Pass. Moderate hike, slow pace, 3.4 miles. Dot Myer, 863-2433 or dotmyer@myfairpoint.net

October

10/1 (Sat) **To Be Determined** Contact leader for details. Kelley Christie, kelleychristie@gmail.com or 999-7839.

10/2 (Sun) **Snake Mountain Loop** Take an easy to moderate hike up 1287' Snake Mountain in Addison (about 9 miles south of Vergennes). We'll follow a trail to an old access road to the summit. Moderate hike, easy to moderate pace, 4 miles, 900' elevation gain. Group limit 6. Hope for clear weather as the views can be nice. E-mail trip leader for directions. ted@ted-albers.net

10/8 (Sat) **Mt. Mansfield Rock Garden** From the trailhead in Stevensville, we'll go up the Frost Trail to Maple Ridge with open views to the west, then over Rock Garden (including an interesting cave), then lunch at Butler Lodge and down the Butler Lodge Trail. Moderate hike, moderate pace. 4.4 miles, 500' elevation gain. Call leader by 10/6 for information and to sign up. Russ Kinaman, 879-6666.

October Outings - cont.

10/9 (Sun) **Mt. Mansfield Fall Foliage Tour** We will hike from the Stevensville Trailhead to Butler Lodge, take a short rest and then hike Wampahoofus Trail to the Forehead and on to the Chin via the Long Trail. Look for great views under crystal clear blue skies! Difficult hike, leisurely to moderate pace, 10 miles, 3300' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Phil Hazen, 355-7181 or philhazen@comcast.net

10/11 (Tues) **Tuesday Beginners' Bird Walk** Leisurely pace, relatively easy terrain, under 4 miles. Location will be based on where the birds are. Maeve Kim, 899-4327 or maevulus@surfglobal.net

10/15 (Sat) **Mansfield Trails** Frost Trail to Rock Garden Trail down to Butler Lodge for lunch. Back to car via Butler Lodge Trail. Moderate, 4 miles, 1600' elevation gain. Lee Wrigley, leewrigley@myfairpoint.net or 318-6281.

10/16 (Sun) **Whiteface Mountain in Vermont - Dogs Welcome** Hike the Long Trail from Route 15 to Whiteface Mountain (3714'). Bear Hollow Shelter is in this section. Difficult due to the distance, moderate pace, 14 miles round trip. Stamina and endurance will be important for both humans and dogs. Group limit 10. Carlene Squires, 434-2533 or carlene@gmavt.net

10/22 (Sat) **Mt. Ellen via Jerusalem Trail** From Jerusalem, we'll go up the Jerusalem Trail to the Long Trail and head to the summit of Mt. Ellen (4083') and return the same way. Moderate hike, moderate pace. 8.4 miles. 2000' elevation gain. Contact leader by 10/20 for information and to sign up. Russ Kinaman, 879-6666.

10/23 (Sun) **Camels Hump** With a few leaves lingering on the trees, it's up the Monroe Trail, the Dean Trail, north on the Long Trail to the summit. Difficult hike, leisurely to moderate pace, 8 miles, 2500' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Phil Hazen, 355-7181 or philhazen@comcast.net

10/29 (Sat) **Camels Hump: Monroe, Dean, and Long Trail Loop** This Camels Hump loop is one of the leader's favorite hikes. It has a variety of terrain and spectacular views. Fall color should add to the enjoyment. Difficult, 8 miles. Contact leader by 10/27. Kathy Adams, 399-8687 or hikeradams@hotmail.com

10/30 (Sun) **Hedgehog Brook and Burnt Rock** From the trailhead in Fayston, we'll go up the Hedgehog Brook Trail to the Long Trail and head north to Burnt Rock for lunch and views to the west. Moderate hike, moderate pace. 5.2 miles, 1000' elevation gain. Contact leader by 10/28 for information and to sign up. Russ Kinaman, 879-6666.

November

11/5 (Sat) **To Be Determined** Easy hike at a relaxed pace. Contact leader for details. Dot Myer, 863-2433 or dotmyer@myfairpoint.net

11/12 (Sat) **Mt. Hunger from Waterbury** Mid-fall hike to a beautiful summit - maybe even some white stuff! Moderate hike at a *strong pace*, 5.6 miles, 1900' elevation gain. Please contact leader by 11/10. Robynn Albert, 878-4036 or robynnalbert@hotmail.com

11/19 (Sat) **Camels Hump via Forest City** Alternate trail for great views atop Vermont's most popular mountain! Moderate hike at a *strong pace*, 6 miles, 2200' elevation gain. Contact leader by 11/17. Robynn Albert, 878-4036 or robynnalbert@hotmail.com

11/27 (Sun) **Tillotson & Belvidere** We'll loop up the Frank Post Trail to Tillotson Camp and on to Tillotson Peak, go back south on the LT to Belvidere Mountain, and return on the Forester's Trail. Difficult hike, moderate pace, 8.5 miles, 2400' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 11/25. David Hathaway, 899-9982 or David.Hathaway.78@gmail.com

December

12/3 (Sat) **Belvedere Mountain** We'll follow the Long Trail from the Route 118 crossing north to Belvedere, and return. Moderate hike, moderate pace, 6 miles, 2000' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 12/1. Richard Larsen, 878-6828 or larsen007@aol.com

December Outings - cont.

12/4 (Sun) **Taylor Lodge** This is a great hike at any time of year. We'll hike to the lodge, have lunch, then decide if we want to go through a cave on the way back. Moderate, 5 miles. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 12/2. Kathy Adams, 399-8687 or hikeradams@hotmail.com

12/10 (Sat) **Burnt Rock Mountain** We will follow the LT north from RT 17 to the summit of Burnt Rock Mountain then return south to the Hedgehog Brook Trail and descend east to the parking lot in North Fayston. Moderate hike, moderate pace, 9.6 miles, 1700' elevation gain. Group limit 12. Contact leader by 12/9. Peter Cottrell, 879-0755 and pcottrel@myfaipoint.net

12/11 (Sun) **Birch Glenn** Easy hike at a relaxed pace. Last year, huge bear tracks were seen on this hike. Dot Myer, 863-2433 or dotmyer@myfairpoint.net

12/17 (Sat) **Camels Hump via the Burrows Trail** Depending on the weather, we will either hike or snowshoe to the top of Camels Hump from the Huntington side. Moderate hike, moderate pace, 4.8 miles, 1950' elevation gain. Group limit 12. Sheri Larsen, 878-6828 or larsen007@aol.com

12/18 (Sun) **To Be Determined** Contact leader for details. David Hathaway, David.Hathaway.78@gmail.com or 899-9982.

12/24 (Sat) **To Be Determined** Contact leader for details. Call Linda Evans at 899-3006.

The following people have joined the Burlington Section since our June issue.

Zack Ahrens, Charles Anderson, Alexander Bassett, Mark Cyr, Scott Eagle, Claudia Eckrote, Eric Francalanga, Karen Freudenberger, Scott Gardner, Tucker and Michelle Holland, Andrew Johnson, Jeremy Kent, Lori Kettler, Roger Lebovitz, Anne MacLeod, Jordan and Lauren Macy, Victor Morrison, David Peters, Margaret Scotti, Scott and Curry Simmel, Kenneth and Ann Taylor, Kenneth Torino, Stephen Wark, Colin Whitehouse

WELCOME!

CRITTER COLUMN: SNOW GOOSE

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

Snow Geese come through Vermont in the spring and fall, on their way to and from their winter breeding grounds in the arctic tundra (far northern Canada, Alaska and Siberia). In the eastern part of North America, Snow Geese spend the winter along the mid-Atlantic coast and the Gulf Coast from Mississippi to Texas. In the west, the birds winter from southern British Columbia to Baja California.

Their dazzling white plumage makes Snow Geese easy to distinguish from Canada Geese. Snow Geese are mostly white, with pink bills and legs. The black at the end of their wings is most visible in flight.

If you watch a flock of Snow Geese, you might see some darker birds. Immature Snow Geese are gray on the tops of their bodies, with the darkest gray on the head and neck. You might also see a "Blue Goose". They used to be considered a separate species but now they're recognized as a regularly-occurring morph of Snow Geese. Blue Geese are bluish gray on top with gray-brown breasts and sides. They have white heads, necks and bellies.

Large flocks of Snow Geese used to congregate in Addison County during fall migration, as many as 30,000 at a time. In mid-October, the fields at Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area used to look solid white for acres and acres. The air was full of the noise of geese keeping their family groups together and communicating with newcomers. When hundreds or thousands of the big white birds took to the air at once, the sound and the visual spectacle were astonishing. Unfortunately for Vermonters, Snow Geese have changed their migration pattern in recent years. We still get a few thousand Snow Geese each fall, but the largest flocks now stop to feed west of Lake Champlain in the area of Chazy, NY.

Ridge Lines

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Green Mountain Club
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