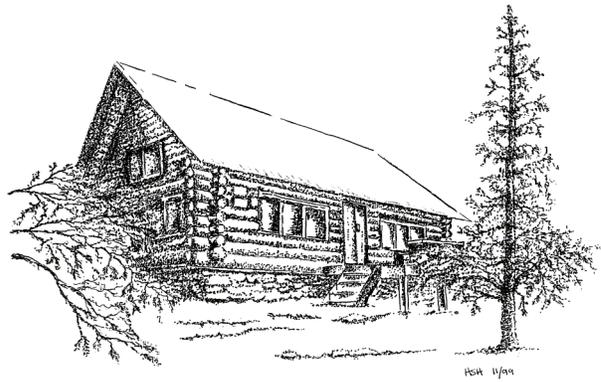


RIDGE LINES



GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB
BURLINGTON SECTION

SPRING 2005

*Contribute Some Muscle Power to Your Green Mountain Club -
and have fun doing it!*

Spring Trail Work—It's Fun and Useful! By Pam Gillis, Trails Co-Chair

The Burlington Section has several trail work outings each spring. These are really fun hikes in which we accomplish some very useful tasks. All the tools are provided, along with instruction if you need it. Some of the volunteers clip branches and small plants that want to grow across the trail, all the while talking with co-workers and enjoying wild flowers. These crewmembers use loppers and little folding handsaws that are lightweight and handy. One or two lucky folks get to play in the mud, doing the important task of cleaning water bars and drainage ditches. These volunteers use a "Hazel hoe", a lightweight but strong tool that can whack through roots as well as move dirt, leaves and other debris. We also bring along a chain saw for use by someone who's had lots of experience with this tool. Other hikers assist by pulling and rolling the cut branches and logs away from the trail. In a few short hours, volunteers watch a trail that's completely blocked become clear and ready for hikers!

The higher elevation trails are closed to hiking in spring due to mud season, but you can go on them if you're doing trail work. Our goal this spring is to prepare the Long Trail from Route 2 to Butler Lodge for the summer hikers. If we have enough time and enough muscle-power, we'll also do some work on Nebraska Notch Trail, Butler Lodge Trail, and Lake Mansfield Trail. These are all important side trails allowing day hikers to access the LT.

We'll start with the LT between Bolton Notch Road and Jonesville, the lowest elevation we cover, but after that the trail work schedule depends on weather, snow conditions, number of volunteers, and reports we get about how the trails are looking and what they need. Generally, the effort is in the "moderate" category (5-8 miles, not over 2400' elevation gain), but we sometimes need a sub-crew to go a longer distance. We're usually done for the day by mid-afternoon. Most outings have an early turn-around option for folks who might not be able to go the whole distance or who need to be back earlier than the rest of us.

Wildflowers should be blooming on all of the work hikes this year, and we have a good chance of finding fresh moose tracks. We even had a bear sighting on one outing! After the trail work is done, the whole group relaxes with conversation, laughter, snacks and beverages (soda, lemonade, beer). People are deliciously tired, and there's a feeling of camaraderie and intense satisfaction.

The more folks that come, the easier and more fun it is for everyone – and the more miles of trails there are that are cleared and ready for visitors. Please consider coming on one or more of this spring's outings. They're scheduled for May 1, 7, 15, 21, 29 and National Trails Day, June 4. (We always get a big turn out for National Trails Day, so we are more in need of May volunteers, especially the 29th, Memorial Day weekend.) To sign up for a trail work outing, call Pam Gillis at 879-1457 or John Sharp at 862-3941. Trips leave the UVM visitors' lot at 8:00 AM or the Richmond Park and Ride at 8:30.

Big Gathering of Hikers, Campers, Bikers, Paddlers and Lovers of the Outdoors!!!

The **Annual Meeting of the Green Mountain Club** will be held this year on June 10, 11 and 12 at the Base Lodge of Smugglers Notch Resort in Cambridge, Vermont. This year, the Burlington Section is the host, along with Laraway and Sterling Sections. Volunteers in these three sections have planned a large menu of outings and activities.

On Friday night, there'll be a dessert social and a slide presentation by Dave Blumenthal and Lexi Shear about their incredible **thru-hike of the Pacific Crest Trail**. Lexi and Dave walked 2700 miles through scorching desert heat, ice fields, drenching rain, and even a typhoon. They'll have with them some of the **special lightweight equipment** that they made for their adventure, as well as Dave's **hiking sketchbook**.

On Saturday, there's an **early morning bird walk** and a warm-up hike on the Morse Highlands - both before breakfast. There are lots of activities in the afternoon, including **hikes** ranging from easy to difficult, **rock scrambling**, a **bike trip** and **winery tour**, guided **yoga** in the outdoors, and a **wildflower walk**. Afternoon activities will conclude with the **grand opening of the new Long Trail footbridge** across the Lamoille River. In the evening, **author Joe Citro** will liven up dinner with strange tales from Vermont's mountains, swamps and caves.

Activities continue on Sunday, with a hike to Taft Lodge and a **chance to pan for gold** in the Brewster River. GMC members can also take self-guided walks on any of the 14 miles of trails at the Resort. Meals will be catered by Smugglers Notch Resort (with vegetarian options for each meal). There's plenty of lodging available at the Resort or close by, including several camping areas. Look for the registration form on page 6 in the Spring 2005 issue of the Long Trail News – or register online at www.greenmountainclub.org

Increased GMC Dues

The GMC board recently reviewed feedback from a member poll about dues. Members overwhelmingly said they'd be willing to pay slightly higher dues to support the Club and the Long Trail at this time of decreasing federal support and continuing expenses. Starting in March 2005, dues will be:

Individual membership	\$ 35.00
Family membership	\$ 45.00
Limited Income	\$ 20.00*
Sponsor (Individual or Family)	\$ 55.00
Defender (Individual or Family)	\$ 75.00
Protector (Individual or Family)	\$ 100.00*
Life Membership (One adult)	\$ 1000.00
Dual Life membership	\$ 1500.00
Nonprofit or Youth Group	\$ 50.00
Business or Corporation	\$ 125.00
Guardian	\$ 250.00
Steward	\$ 500.00

Two new categories of membership have been added: Steward and Guardian. Two categories of membership were left unchanged: Limited Income and Protector. * no change

Burlington Section Officers for 2005			
<u>President</u> Phil Hazen	879-1302	<u>Education</u> Walter Lopuschenko	849-6493
<u>Vice President</u> Anneliese Koenig	862-4629	Brynne Lazarus	860-0724
<u>Secretary</u> Linda Evans	899-3006	<u>Outings*</u> Paul Houchens	658-1321
<u>Treasurer</u> Joel Tilley	865-9220	<u>Trails</u> Pam Gillis	879-1457
<u>Membership Committee</u> Dot Myer	863-2433	John Sharp	862-3941
<u>Publicity</u> Pat Collier	863-1145	<u>Director</u> Sue Girouard	644-5941
<u>Special Events</u> Brenda Wright	658-5869	<u>Alternative Director</u> Dana Baron	878-6773
		<u>Shelters*</u>	

* We're currently looking for people to fill the posts of Outings Co-Chair and Shelters Chair. See page 2.

Sharing Vermont's Mountains and Lakes with Wild Critters

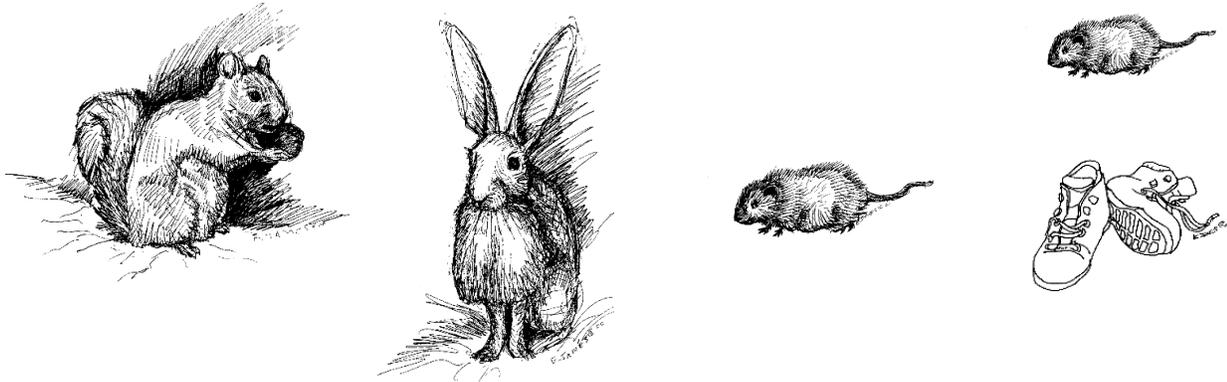
By Maeve Kim - with illustrations by James R. Vaughn

With thanks to Karl Riemer, who scanned the artwork so we could use it!

When you're out and about in spring and summer, you'll be sharing the outdoors with a wide variety of wild animals and birds. Here are some suggestions to help you enjoy nature without danger to you or the critters.

Raccoons, Skunks, and other small furry animals: Remember that rabies is in Vermont and pretty much throughout the Northeast. It's treatable if you get medical attention soon after you're bitten; otherwise, it's 100% fatal. Be suspicious of any animal that doesn't seem afraid of you. Never touch a dead animal. If you're bitten, wash the wound with soap and water, leave the trail and see a doctor immediately.

It's a good idea *not* to share your trail mix with the cute little chipmunks who show up the minute you sit down for lunch. It doesn't help the animals to get them used to handouts, and it goes against Leave No Trace wilderness ethics to be throwing food around.



Bobcats: Something interesting might be happening with Vermont's bobcat population. They're packing up and moving down into the valleys. For hundreds of years, bobcats have preferred rocky mountain areas. More and more frequently, they're becoming "flat-landers". One theory is that the decline of the snowshoe hare has caused the cats to switch over to cottontails, which are the rabbits of hedgerows, farmland and suburbs. You probably won't be lucky enough to see a bobcat (and they're certainly no threat to you), but you might see tracks or even hear its loud "MrrrOWewww!"

Snakes: There aren't any poisonous snakes along the Long Trail or the Appalachian Trail in VT. (Limited numbers of rattlesnakes inhabit some cliffs in southern Vermont, but their range doesn't overlap hiking trails.)

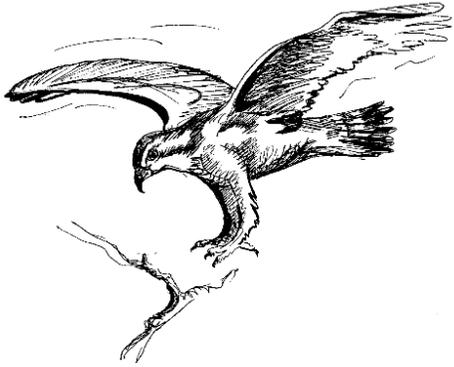
Insects: In Vermont and the Adirondacks, clouds of tiny, biting blackflies can drive hikers nuts. They're around starting in late May and usually disappear in July. (Old timers say blackflies leave on the Fourth of July. Don't believe them.) If you want to hike during these weeks, wear long pants and long sleeves and put on insect repellent. Long pants also help guard against the possibility of ticks.

Loons: Loons start looking for places to nest in May and June. They prefer the edges of shallow water but have also done well with floating man-made islands. On some lakes, nesting areas are roped off with signs and buoys. Other nesting areas aren't marked, but paddlers should always watch from a good distance away. The fluffy little dark babies start appearing in late July. If you're boating and see an adult loon, slow down. Adult loons can dive under water to avoid your boat, but loon chicks cannot dive deeply enough nor swim quickly enough to get away and might get hit or pushed under.



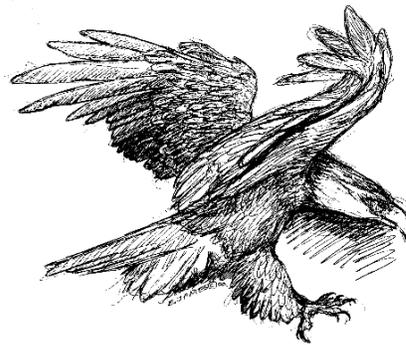
Peregrine falcons: In recent years, peregrine falcons have nested on Arrowhead Mountain in Milton, Bolton Notch, Bristol Cliffs, Mount Horrid, Mount Pisgah, Nebraska Notch, Snake Mountain in Addison, Hazen's Notch and Smuggler's Notch – and at over a dozen other high, rocky sites. They nest on high cliffs that they think are

inaccessible – but several of their nesting sites are close to hiking trails. Peregrine falcons are apt to abandon their young if they're disturbed, especially if hikers are above their nests. If you come across a trail that's closed because of nesting peregrines, it's your responsibility to go elsewhere.



Other Hawks: Nesting hawks are very territorial and can be a real threat to people who venture too close to their nests. Several years ago, an unfortunate hiker in her last hundred miles of the Appalachian Trail was raked across her scalp by an angry goshawk – **not** a good thing to happen miles from help! Hikers and rock climbers should steer clear of obvious nests and should back off if a hawk screams close by.

Bald Eagles: If you're walking or paddling in the Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area in Addison, keep an eye out for bald eagles. Last year, several transplanted chicks were brought to the area and raised in "hacking boxes". More chicks will be raised this year. (Look for the hacking boxes from the goose viewing area on Route 17 on the way to the bridge to NY.) The hope is that the eagles will return to the area each year and will eventually nest and raise young. The adult birds have the characteristic white head and tail. The dark immature birds are more difficult to identify, but they're noticeably huge and tend to soar with flat wings.



Otters: When you're paddling in Vermont, keep an eye out for otters. There's at least one family of these playful mammals at Dead Creek, often in the area of "Brilyea Bridge" (at the end of the dirt access road leading off Route 17, just west of the goose viewing area). You'll have the best chance of seeing an otter when there haven't been a lot of cars over the bridge for several minutes. Families with kits have been seen playing on the rocks below the bridge, and large adults have been spotted many times – poking their heads up to check out the human visitors, floating along on their backs while noshing on carp, and very busy at otter tasks in the reeds near the water.



Moose: These big animals usually don't attack people, but mothers will protect their young and both males and females can be dangerous during rutting (mating) season. Calves are born in May and June, and bull moose are in rut from late August till October.

Bears: There are many black bears in Vermont, although chances are you'll never see one while hiking. If you do, stand still and make some noise. *Don't* turn and run.

Memories of Gardiner Lane

Gardiner died in January at the age of 90. He was a long-time member of the Burlington Section and an honorary life member of the Green Mountain Club. Over the years, he served in many roles, including GMC president and acting executive director. He also had been co-adopter at Buchanan Shelter until last year when he could no longer participate because of health reasons.

Gardiner inspired a lot of us by keeping active and energetic well into his eighties. Many people think of him as the father of backcountry skiing in Vermont. He was active in the Catamount Trail Association and developed many of the cross-country ski trails at Bolton Valley (including the Bolton to Trapp Lodge section of the Catamount Trail). He also founded the "Old Goats", a group of retirees who took it on themselves to keep these trails cleared and ready for skiers.

Several Burlington Section members have fond and special memories of Gardiner.

The first is from Clem Holden, a long-time friend:

For many years, Gardiner and I were shelter adopters for Buchanan Shelter. Roy Buchanan, for whom the shelter is named, retired from trail and shelter work at age 78. So, in 2001, when I was 78, I told trail chief Chris Hanna that Gardiner and I were retiring. Chris asked me if I'd asked Gardiner. I said no but I would. Gardiner's answer was immediate: NO WAY. He wanted to continue!

Here are other memories of Gardiner, from many other GMC members.

I met Gardiner one time on the Butler Lodge Trail. He looked so frail and old that I simply couldn't believe he hadn't been dropped there by a helicopter - but, no, he'd hiked every step.

Ten years ago I skied the Honey Hollow section of the CTA with 80-year-old Gardiner. I was 40 years old and couldn't keep up with the Old Goat.

I first met Gardiner at the warming hut at Bolton Valley. I was introduced to him and later learned how important he was in that area because of all his work developing the trails. I was impressed!

When I was chair of the shelter committee Gardiner was a co-adopter of Buchanan Lodge. He told me that when the relocation of the LT changed in the Winooski Valley he was going to move a wood stove in to the lodge for winter skiing.

You'd see Gardiner walking and you'd think he was really old. But then he'd put on cross-country skis, and he was so nimble and skilled you had to forget his age.

One thing Gardiner always did was shake your hand with that two-finger grip.

One thing Gardiner always did was greet people when they came to cross-country ski. He'd tell them the trail conditions and invite them in to warm up.

If you wanted a favor from Gardiner, all you had to do is promise him a plate of cookies. He'd come through every time!

Something that I learned from Gardiner was to be warm and open, to smile and laugh.

Gardiner was also an accomplished artist. One of his watercolors is on the cover of the Catamount Trail Association guidebook.

I spoke to Gardiner about signing my seventh edition of the CTA guidebook. I regret not getting the guidebook to him before his passing.

And, finally –

Gardiner was famous for psychic powers.

(Editors' Note: There's got to be quite a story behind that memory!)

Gardiner Lane will be deeply missed.

Burlington Section members who volunteer on committees report to the whole group at the beginning of every calendar year. Their reports keep us all up to date about important work that's being done on our trails, in the shelters, and as outreach activities to educate the public about the GMC, the Long Trail, wilderness ethics, and how to have fun outdoors.

Shelters Committee Report

submitted by Chris Hanna

Volunteers were hard at work even before the first work hikes. We knew we'd be building new moldering privies at Duck Brook Shelter and Buchanan Shelter, so Scott Christianson applied for and got a grant from Home Depot to help out with the materials for the "crib" base of the privies. Mary Lou Recor provided her garage for Leo Leach, Bruce Bushey and Scott Christianson to do all the necessary pre-building. Dave Hardy and I made field trips to the two Shelters to plan the best sites for the privies.

Then there were three outings. On the first one, we hiked up to Duck Brook Shelter to build that privy. It rained on our second privy outing, but we still carried materials across a beaver pond and up to Buchanan Shelter. We erected the new privy but didn't have time to take apart the old one. Our 3rd outing was back to Buchanan to remove the old privy.

In addition to the scheduled outings, we had one semi-emergency trip to Duck Brook on a snowy day in January '05 to remove a clump of large hemlock trees that had fallen onto the roof and over the picnic table. (The shelter roof will need to be repaired in the spring.)

In all, the following volunteers put in more than 320 work hours: Bruce Bushey, John Brown, Scott Christianson, Linda Evans, Chris Hanna, Leo Leach, Tom Neu, Jan O'Brien, Mary Lou Recor, and Chris Hanna. On the emergency trip to Duck Brook, we also had help from Dave Hardy, the Director of GMC Field Programs, and from Kate Darakjy and Jon Szaliwicz, who work as GMC field staff during the summer.

During the year, shelter adopters keep tabs on the buildings, do minor repairs, and notify people about more major problems. The shelter adopters for the past year were: Taft Lodge - John Bennet, Butler Lodge - Todd Mallory, Twin Brooks tenting area - Scott Buckingham, Taylor Lodge - Leo Leach, Puffer Shelter - Jeff Bostwick, Buchanan Shelter - co-adopters Clem Holden and Herm Hoffman, Duck Brook Shelter - Kerstin Lange.

Education Committee Report

submitted by Brynne Lazarus and Walter Lopuschenko

"They were small, but I ate 24 of them!"

(Brett Huggett referring to a pancake binge while hiking the Appalachian Trail)

That was just one of many stories swapped when six veterans of the Long Trail, Appalachian Trail, Wonderland Trail, and John Muir Trail gathered in December with an audience of other long-distance hiking enthusiasts to share their experiences and advice. Topics ranged from trail philosophy ("hike your own hike") and quirky personalities encountered on the trail, to the logistics of food drops and the relative merits of different kinds of footwear.

In June, Walter Lopuschenko took folks who were new to backpacking up the Butler Lodge Trail, south on the LT to Twin Brooks Tenting Area, and then down Nebraska Notch. Participants packed gear and pretended they were going for an overnight trip. During the hike, Walter talked about what to bring on backpacking trips and how to pack it. At Twin Brooks, hikers got to practice with camp stoves, water filters, and setting up camp. Other topics during the hike included how to minimize impact on the trail and on ourselves when backpacking.

We scheduled a camp stove cook-out for July, which was going to be an opportunity for hikers to test out a variety of backpackers' stoves while trading and tasting some trail recipes. This event was canceled due to lack of interest. Oh well. Guess that stuff only tastes good when you're really hungry.

In November, Matthew Walker led a hike to Butler Lodge that included instruction and discussion of Leave No Trace principles as well as some relaxing yoga stretches on the rocks at the Lodge.

Many thanks are due to all of the folks who, entirely on their own initiative, organized educational outings. These included, but were not limited to, Maeve Kim (birding), Carol Chapman, Dave Blumenthal and Lexi Shear (wildflower walks), and Phil Hazen (map and compass)

As always, please get in touch with Walter Lopuschenko (849-6493) or Brynne Lazarus (863-1469) if you have ideas for educational programs.

Each GMC section has a volunteer representative on the main club's Board of Directors. This person shares in discussions and decisions about GMC's philosophy, finances and mission. The directors also carry questions, concerns and information from their sections to the main club and then keep the members of their own sections up to date.

Here's the annual report from outgoing Burlington Section director Deb Brown.

Envisioning the Future of the GMC – submitted by Deb Brown

Well, it's been another eventful year for the GMC. Shelters, privies and bridges are getting built, and unbuilt! The new Rolston Rest Shelter, donated by the recently deceased Tom Abbott, was completed in 2004. The Short Trail in Waterbury, an interpretive and educational trail, was also completed, and the original Journey's End Camp was dismantled for reassembly on the Short Trail in 2005. Many hands – volunteers, trail crew and staff - worked on the new bridge across the Lamoille River in Johnson, a symbolic link between the Laraway and Sterling sections of Long Trail. The bridge will be dedicated at the Annual Meeting in June, celebrating years of planning and hours of toil.

In other news, the GMC website is being redesigned, aiming for a March launch. New publications are in the works. A full slate of Educational programs is planned for the winter and spring. And the GMC conducted a member survey in 2004 designed to help the club plan future activities according to the beliefs and desires of its members.

Last summer, the GMC was caught in the middle of an unwelcome media swirl, when wilderness opponents objected to a Chittenden Bank promotion encouraging people to join the GMC, causing the bank to cancel the promotion. In September, the Board was asked to consider withdrawing from the Vermont Wilderness Association by a member who argued that supporting additional wilderness creates undue political difficulties along with challenges to maintaining the Long Trail in wilderness areas. The Board discussed this and voted to continue support for wilderness.

In financial news, we anticipate a scaled-back field season in summer 2005 due to constraints in the Federal Budget. However, the Vermont General Assembly budget included money in the state budget for further LT land acquisitions, and we hope to continue to receive level funding in 2005. (Send letters of support to your state legislators!)

Long-range goals include completing Long Trail Protection, building endowments for trails & shelters, rebuilding the hiker center and improving the other Waterbury facilities. If 10 million tax-free dollars fell out of the sky today, we could stop worrying! Since that's unlikely, the GMC has begun a capital campaign. We're now in the "quiet phase", laying the groundwork for success by recruiting Campaign chairs, enlisting and training campaign volunteers, and developing campaign policies & protocols. Some club members have expressed fears that a Campaign might require changing the "culture" of the club or the composition of the Board of Directors, as has happened in other larger hiking clubs. Please rest assured, as Board members themselves strongly oppose this idea. Most of us volunteer, as Board members or otherwise, because we have a strong love for the Long Trail and the GMC - not because we have wealthy and powerful contacts. Nor will we neglect the trail in order to raise money – since the Trail IS our main priority. The Capital Campaign, like much of the GMC's work, will be a grassroots, volunteer-driven endeavor. Money won't be the only product, though we do need funding to secure the future of our beloved Long Trail. I believe we will also build on the strengths and talents of the GMC: our membership and volunteer base, our love for hiking and the Long Trail, and our ability to articulate this passion to others. Using our energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to the Long Trail, we can ensure that our mission – "to make the Vermont mountains play a larger part in the life of the people" – continues for many generations to come.

Outings Committee Report

Submitted by Phil Hazen and Paul Houchens

In 2004, the Burlington Section offered a total of 103 outings. There were activities as varied as a warbler ramble, bike trips, a snowshoe trek for beginners (and lots of other snowshoe outings), a

wildflower walk, work parties to maintain trails and shelters, canoe and kayak trips, a workshop about using a map & compass, and a chance to learn about Leave No Trace ethics and practice yoga on a rocky ledge. One of the most popular outings was the Winter Solstice Hike to Butler Lodge. Most of the outings were in Vermont, but there were several trips to New York, New Hampshire and Maine as well. The Outings Committee thanks the many volunteer trip leaders!