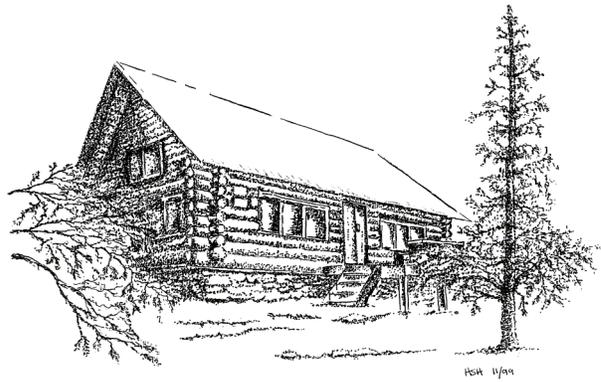


RIDGE LINES



GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB
BURLINGTON SECTION

SPRING 2006

Two Ways to Get Ready for the Summer Hiking Season

First – Help get the trails ready.

Every spring, there's a lot of work to be done to repair winter's damage and get the trails ready for hikers. This year, the Burlington Section trail work dates are **May 7, May 13, May 21, and May 27**. We need volunteers to do several different chores, from clipping branches that have grown across the trail to cleaning out the water bars and drainage ditches that keep the trails from turning into roaring waterfalls during spring rains. On each hike, we'll have one or two people who have experience with a chain saw and can deal with larger blow-downs. Other volunteers will pull and roll the cut branches and logs away from the trail.

All the tools are provided, but feel free to bring your own favorites if you want. We'll also provide instruction on how to use the tools, as needed. This is your chance to get up close and personal with Hazel hoes, crow bars, loppers, folding handsaws and come-alongs. At the same time, you'll be talking and laughing with your co-workers, enjoying spring wildflowers, smelling fresh air, listening to birds, checking out tracks from moose and deer, and in general spending a day that's both fun and useful.

Generally, trail work outings require moderate hiking (5-8 miles, not over 2400' elevation gain). We're usually done 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.

The more workers we have, the easier and more fun it is for everyone – and more miles of trails get cleared. Please consider coming on one or more of the trail work outings. We'll meet at 8:00 AM at the UVM visitors' lot off East Ave. in Burlington *or* at 8:30 AM at the Richmond Park & Ride (just off Exit 11). Contact Pam Gillis, 879-1457, or John Sharp, 862-3941 for more information.

Second - Get yourself prepared with GMC's Summer Hiking Safety Refresher.

Ever been caught on the top of a mountain in a summer thunderstorm? Has the weather ever changed and trapped you far from the trailhead, underdressed, cold and wet? Have you worried about slipping and spraining your ankle, cutting yourself while hiking, or breaking a bone on the side of some mountain? Green Mountain Club Educator Pete Antos-Ketcham will review Summer Hiking Safety tips, including what to do in the event of lightning, how to recognize and treat hypothermia, what to pack for a day's hiking trip, and tips on putting together a basic first aid kit. This valuable workshop will be held from 6:30 to 9:00 PM on Wednesday, May 10. The location hasn't yet been determined, so check in as the date gets closer. Call GMC at 244-7037 or go to www.greenmountainclub.org. Or you can contact Phil Hazen, 355-7181 or philhazen@direcway.com.

GET INVOLVED!

SIX GREAT WAYS TO BECOME AN ACTIVE PART OF THE BURLINGTON SECTION

1. **ADOPT A SHELTER**

Throughout the year, Long Trail overnight sites are monitored by adopters who keep track of conditions and arrange for any necessary repairs. **We are currently interviewing for adoption of Taylor and Butler Lodges.** If you're interested in this opportunity, please contact John Connell or Linda Evans. You can reach John at 899-2375 or jcc1945@yahoo.com. Linda is at 899-3006 or lindaevans@adelphia.net.

2. **ADOPT A TRAIL**

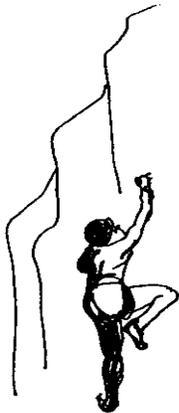
A beautiful section of the Long Trail is temporarily orphaned. We're looking for someone to adopt the trail from Taft Lodge to Route 108. Contact Sue Girouard at 644-5941 or sueg@sover.net,

3. **TELL THE PUBLIC ABOUT GMC – at the EMS Upgrade Your Gear Sale**

From April 28 through April 30, everything in Eastern Mountain Sports is on sale, up to 20% off. On April 27 from 4PM until closing, there are special shopping hours for people with membership cards for a variety of outdoor and environmental clubs, including the Green Mountain Club.

GMC will have a display in the store during the sale. We need volunteers to sit at our table, answer questions from shoppers, and sign up anyone who would like to become a member. Volunteers usually work for two-hour shifts. If you're interested, contact Dot Myer at 863-2433.

The *Upgrade Your Gear* sale is a great chance to replace equipment that's been bugging you for ages. You'll be able to head out for this summer's activities with the right tools to insure that you'll have fun and be safe. Eastern Mountain Sports is on Dorset Street in South Burlington.



4. **SHARE YOUR OUTDOOR ADVENTURES**

We're issuing an invitation to backpackers, end-to-enders, paddlers, rock climbers, day hikers, long-distance skiers, and all outdoorsmen and women. Would you like to share your experiences in a welcoming setting, with lots of people who share your love of the outdoors? We're looking for a presenter for next February's Annual Meeting of the Burlington Section. If you've taken an excursion that has excited or delighted you, or if you're planning an adventure for this summer or fall, think about being our featured speaker. You don't have to commit yourself now, but if you have a tale to tell and think you might want to share it, please leave your name with Anneliese Koenig at 862-4629. Tell Anneliese what you might want to talk about and be sure to leave her a way to reach you.

5. **CO-CHAIR THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Each year, the Education Committee organizes several outings designed to teach participants about nature or outdoor skills. We're looking for a volunteer to share leadership of this important committee with seasoned veteran Walter Lepuschenko. Contact Walter at 849-6493 or lepuschw@us.ibm.com.

6. **CONTRIBUTE TO RIDGE LINES**

Have you heard something amusing, astonishing or amazing along the trail? We'd love to use your story in our *Heard Along the Trail* feature. We're also looking for reminiscences about favorite hikes, trails or shelters; tales about animal encounters; and great trail recipes you'd like to share with other hikers. Send to *Ridge Lines*, c/o Maeve Kim. The mailing address is on the back of this issue.

Committee Reports

Every spring, section members who volunteer on committees keep us up-to-date about all the important work that's being done, from trails and shelters to educational and outreach activities, wilderness ethics, and how to have fun outdoors.

Education Committee

In addition to "regular" hikes, we hosted educational outings including a wildflower identification walk, a trip for beginning birders, a yoga outing, and workshops on map and compass skills and orienteering. We want to thank outgoing Education Committee Co-Chair Brynne Lazarus. Walter Lepuschenko is continuing as co-chair. We're looking for someone to share leadership of this committee.

Outings Committee

In 2005, the Burlington Section sponsored ninety-eight outings. There were hikes in Vermont, New York, New Hampshire, Maine and even the Blue Ridge Mountains of Tennessee. There were ski trips in the backcountry and at ski touring sites. There were backpacking events as well as overnights in heated cabins. There were Mud Season road walks, paddling adventures, and nature walks. At the Annual Meeting, nine members were honored for leading at least four outings each during 2005. They are: Dot Myer, Pat Collier, Larry Levine, Pam Gillis, Pete Saile, Herm Hoffman, Phil Schlosser, Rich Larsen, and Bob Chaperon. Their contributions have been vital in providing outdoor experiences and fun for a large number of hikers!

Shelters Committee

The Shelters Committee chair receives reports from shelter adopters and hikers about the condition of lodges, tent sites and lean-tos. A few minor repairs were needed on shelters in 2005.

Duck Brook Shelter had some tree damage early in the year, which Chris Hanna and adopter Kerstin Lange repaired. Incoming shelter coordinators John Connell and Linda Evans also organized a tree-cutting trip to the Shelter in November.

The winter wind ripped off the privy door at *Twin Brooks*. This was repaired before the start of the hiking season.

Present and future Shelters Committee members owe a big debt to Chris Hanna, who recently left this committee after years as coordinator. Chris's guidance and expertise served us well! We also thank our shelter adopters: Kerstin Lange, Clem Holden, Herm Hoffman, Jeff Bostwick, Leo Leach, Todd Mallory, Scott Buckingham and John Bennett. (See page 2 for an exciting opportunity to join the ranks of shelter adopters.)

Special Events Committee

The Special Events Committee organizes the Section's Annual Meeting and the yearly Taylor Series Event. The 2005 Taylor Series presentation was *Vietnam Vets in Uzbekistan* by columnist and trail designer John Morton. This year's Annual Meeting was a big success. Ninety members showed up to enjoy lasagna, garlic bread, salads, and homemade desserts. Reports from committees helped keep everybody up-to-date about all the work needed to keep the Section going and maintain our trails and shelters in good condition. After supper and the meeting, there was a high-tech presentation about a trip to the Yukon by five Section members.

Brenda Wright is retiring as Special Events Coordinator, to be replaced by Anneliese Koenig and Wendy Savoie as co-chairs.

At the Summit Heard ~~Along the Trail~~

Two hikers were making their way along the ridgeline near the top of the Cliff Trail. The dad was carefully reminding his son that there were things up there that needed careful protection. "See, son?" he said, pointing at the lichen-covered rock face, "that green stuff's very delicate. Very. You don't walk on it." Then he pointed to the fragile low-growing sedges. "We're supposed to walk on this *grass*. Remember. Don't walk on the rocks. Always walk on the grass."

(Editors' Note: We strongly support parents hiking with children and we loudly applaud parents sharing their knowledge with their kids. This well-meaning dad's confusion underscores how important it is for us all to educate fellow hikers about fragile plants on Vermont's alpine summits!)

Letter from Daan Zwick

Daan is a life-long member of GMC and the Burlington Section. He was caretaker at Taylor Lodge in 1938, at Taft Lodge from 1939 to 1941 and at Butler Lodge around 1990. Daan also served as summit caretaker on Mount Mansfield for many years.

Although I am far away, and do not know if I will ever return to Burlington Section turf, I have been interested in reading the history of the Long Trail shelters in the latest issues of Ridge Lines. I feel that no record of the shelters would be complete without a mention of the many contributions of Larry Dean. He took on the responsibility for repair and maintenance of Taft, Butler, Taylor and Bolton Lodges, doing a lot of the actual labor himself. He was also good at organizing work parties from Section volunteers and from Burlington's Boy Scout Troop #1, of which he was scoutmaster for 52 years.

In 1938, when I was 15, Larry asked me if I'd like to be caretaker at Taylor Lodge. There were some misgivings about having such a young person in such a responsible job, but my parents gave permission and I became the first caretaker at Taylor. The next year I got promoted to Taft Lodge, and Rod Rice succeeded me at Taylor. He was a local Burlington boy also and we two started the tradition of local boys as caretakers.

Larry also recruited caretakers for all four shelters. At first, only Taft Lodge had a caretaker. Early caretakers were usually college students or teachers. Judge Cowles' two sons were there for so many years that the Judge built the Laura Cowles Trail up from the Underhill side of the mountain as a shortcut so he could visit his sons at Taft.

I believe Butler Lodge got its first caretaker in 1938. A couple of Long Island school teachers named Lenett hiked the full Long Trail and then wrote Larry asking if they could stay there as caretakers next summer. After Pearl Harbor and the United States' entry into World War II, caretaking was suspended at all Burlington Section shelters.

Taft Lodge provided the most amenities, including big cotton-filled mattresses and warm woolen blankets. At the end of every hiking season, the caretaker had to carry all the mattresses and blankets over to the Mount Mansfield Hotel for storage, so the mice wouldn't nest in them. The original Taft Lodge also had a huge cast-iron wood burning kitchen range complete with cooking and warming ovens and a hot-water tank. When astonished hikers asked (as they always did) how they ever got the thing up there, Larry would always give Roy Buchanan's answer: "We found the stove here and built the cabin around it".

Correction: In an earlier issue, we said that the drawing used for the Ridge Lines masthead is "the original Taft Lodge". Daan Zwick tells us that the original structure didn't have a stairway entrance because it wasn't on a high rock foundation. It was built right on the ground, which is why the bottom logs rotted and had to be replaced. The original cabin also had only two small windows in front, one on each side of the front door. There was one window in each end, high up near the peak. Our masthead picture is a sketch of the new Taft Lodge, built in 1996.

Would you believe that there was once electricity at Butler Lodge???



Interview with Rod Rice

By Maeve Kim

In the October '05 and January '06 issues of *Ridge Lines*, we shared some of the history of the Burlington Section's Long Trail lodges and shelters. These stories triggered a lot of memories. How Butler Lodge was electrified is a story of imagination, creativity, energy and youth, involving several well-known Burlington Section members.

Rod Rice was caretaker at Butler Lodge in the summers of 1940 and 1941. As he got ready to head up the mountain for his second summer, he found himself eyeing an old single-cylinder lawnmower engine and thinking, "*That* could be used to power a generator!" Rod and a friend (he thinks it was probably Daan Zwick) lugged the engine up the steep Butler Lodge Trail, along with a six-volt car battery and a generator from a 1928 Dodge Victory convertible that had passed several years sitting in a barn belonging to Clem Holden's dad. Rod still has the pack frame he used on that memorable hike, and it still has the marks made by acid leaking from the battery.

Over the next few days, Rod rigged up the generator and lawnmower engine on a board that he placed just outside the Lodge. He then ran wires into the Lodge through a gap between the logs and hooked the wires to the battery. (Those wires were visible for decades, until the recent reconstruction of Butler Lodge.) Finally, Rod added a headlight from a Model A Ford, which he rigged up over his bunk. When there were a lot of hikers staying overnight at Butler Lodge, Rod didn't run the generator. He wanted them to enjoy a true wilderness experience. But on the nights when he was alone, he really enjoyed being able to lie in his bunk with the luxury of excellent reading light. He also came to like the steady, familiar, friendly chugging noise of the old generator.

Rod and his friends stayed at Butler Lodge in all seasons of the year, hiking or snowshoeing up from Stevensville Road in Underhill. In the thirties and forties, lodges were equipped with good stoves, bucksaws for felling trees, and axes for cutting kindling. Everyone knew how to find and cut dead wood for fires and how to use woodstoves. But as more and more homes got oil-burning furnaces, fewer hikers knew how to burn wood safely. (One group staying over at Taylor Lodge started their fire in the oven section of the big stove instead of in the firebox. Of course, there was no chimney leading out of the oven. The hikers just couldn't figure out why the fire was so smoky.) Rod misses the old wood stoves. "The experience now just doesn't match that great feeling of hiking up and knowing that there could be a warm fire in just a little while".