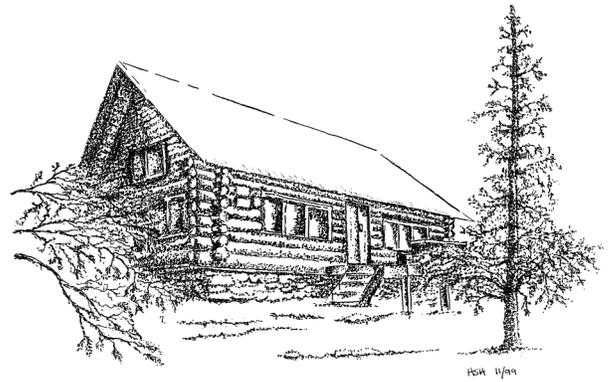


RIDGE LINES



GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB
BURLINGTON SECTION

www.naturecompass.org/gmcburlington

SPRING 2007

Take the Side-to-Side Challenge

Are you looking for something to make this spring and summer memorable? What about tackling the Green Mountain Club's extensive network of side trails?

Back in September, GMC's Board of Directors approved the establishment of a certification program for hikers who complete all eighty-four side trails of the Long Trail System, a total of 164.2 miles. This program is patterned after GMC's End-to-End certification program for hikers who walk the entire Long Trail. There's no time limit. You can hike all the side trails in one year or over the next fifty years. Just keep some sort of record: a diary, a journal, a photo album or an annotated map. When you finish, send your documentation to GMC and earn a patch and a certificate.

To get you started, how about dedicating this summer to hiking all the side trails in the Burlington Section's part of Vermont? Here they are. Start hiking!

Adam's Apple Trail	0.2 m	Hell Brook Cutoff	0.7 m
Amherst Trail	0.3 m	Hell Brook Trail	1.5 m
Beaver Meadow Trail	2.3 m	Lake Mansfield Trail	1.6 m
Butler Lodge Trail	1.8 m	Lake View Trail	0.8 m
Cantilever Rock Trail	0.2 m	Laura Cowles Trail	1.4 m
Canyon North Extension	0.6 m	Maple Ridge Trail	1.3 m
Canyon North Trail	0.6 m	Nebraska Notch Trail	1.5 m
Canyon Trail	0.6 m	Profanity Trail	0.5 m
Chilcoat Trail	0.8 m	Rock Garden Trail	3.6 m
Clara Bow Trail	0.4 m	Sterling Pond Trail	1.1 m
Cliff Trail	1.1 m	Sunset Ridge Trail	2.1 m
Elephant's Head Spur	0.2 m	South Link	0.6 m
Elephant's Head Trail	0.7 m	Subway Trail	0.3 m
Forehead Bypass	1.2 m	Wampahoofus Trail	0.8 m
Frost Trail	1.4 m	Whiteface or	
Halfway House Trail	1.1 m	Beaver Meadow Cut-Off Trail	0.5 m
Haselton Trail	2.1 m	Whiteface Trail	1.0 m

See the Long Trail Guide for directions and specifics about the trails. If you'd like, send us a description of your hiking adventures and we might print it in Ridge Lines.

Report from the Outings Chair

Submitted by Rich Larsen

The Burlington Section had over a hundred outings scheduled for 2006. In spite of the bad weather that plagued many weekends, a good percentage of the activities were successfully completed. The average number of participants per outing was six.

All of our trips are led by volunteers. In 2006, there were eleven volunteers who led four or more outings each. (Pat Collier and Herm Hoffman were the most dedicated trip leaders, with 12 and 9 outings respectively!) Eighteen other volunteers led 1, 2 or 3 outings each. This Outings Report would not be complete without a loud **THANK YOU** to the trip leaders. There would be no outings without the great work of volunteers.

In the coming months, we'd like to offer an even more robust schedule of outings and get more participation. We've started encouraging trip leaders to describe the "expected pace" of each outing: strong, moderate, or leisurely. We're hoping this will clarify things. Hikers who might worry that they're too slow won't find themselves in a group of speed demons. Hikers who get frustrated by a slower pace can choose trips that will move along. There'll be less chance of participants feeling out of sync with the group.

If you're interested, please contact Rich Larsen (larsen007@aol.com) or Paul Houchens (houchens@comcast.net). We greatly encourage new leaders to step forward, especially folks who think they have a "fast pace" or a "leisurely pace". We'll be able to serve a wider base of members if we can offer activities with all the various paces.

We encourage every reader of *Ridge Lines* to think about leading an outing in 2007.

Vermont is full of beautiful places for walks, hikes, paddles and meanders. Challenging hikes to impressive summits are always exciting, but there are so many other possibilities as well.

- What about participating in the Side-to-Side Challenge? (See page 1.) Lead some hikes on local side trails. Organize a picnic at a lodge or shelter.
- Is there a beautiful beaver pond near your home where you often walk your dog? Want some company on a summer evening?
- Do you have a favorite trout stream you might want to share?
- Do you love to walk along slowly looking at wild flowers or hunting for mushrooms?
- Think ahead to fall. Do you have a special place to look at foliage? If you lead a walk there, others can share in the beauty.

Want to know about upcoming GMC activities?

Go to www.greenmountainclub.org and click on Events. Every one of the GMC's fourteen sections offers hikes, walks and other activities, and everyone is welcome.

Want to read about outings that have already taken place??

Go to <http://www.naturecompass.org/gmcburlington/reports/2006.html>.

To all our readers: Helping out with trail maintenance is a great way to celebrate hiking! There are several work days scheduled for spring and summer. Each hike has work for people with a wide range of abilities and expertise, from clipping brush to building waterbars. This year, there's even a Women-Only Long Trail work hike. Check out the Activities Calendar for dates and contact information.

Report from the Shelters Chair

Submitted by Linda Evans

It was a quiet year for the Shelters Committee because no major repairs were necessary. We tallied seventy hours of volunteer time, split among sixteen dedicated members. Our eight shelter adopters did impressive work: John Bennett at Taft Lodge, Scott Buckingham at the Twin Brooks Tenting Area, Jon Boyson at Butler Lodge, Jen Andrews at Taylor Lodge, Jeff Bostwick at Puffer Shelter, Clem Holden and Herm Hoffman at Buchanan Shelter, Kerstin Lange at Duck Brook Shelter.

Bark mulch was hauled up to Puffer and Duck Brook Shelters. A new shutter was installed on the door of the privy at Twin Brooks. General housekeeping took place at all eight shelters within our jurisdiction, and all sites are presently in excellent condition.

There will be several work hikes scheduled this summer. All members are encouraged to join us. We have lots of fun and we make a big difference. (And we don't work anyone too hard!)

Report from the Trails Chair

Submitted by Pam Gillis

We had five outings dedicated to trail maintenance during 2006. There was an average turn out of 7.6 volunteers, including the leaders. That's down from the previous year's average of 10 workers per outing, but the rain may have discouraged folks. It rained every trail work day but one. Most days the rain was not continual, but unfortunately we had steady, heavy rain on National Trails Day.

The trails had more blow-downs than usual this year, so we concentrated on removing trees. We also did clipping and clearing of water bars. Our section now has a new hazel hoe, bringing the total to three. Hazel hoes are excellent tools for clearing water bars and digging drainage ditches.

Report from the Membership Chair

Submitted by Dot Myer

There are currently 726 memberships in the Burlington Section. 504 of these are individual memberships and 222 are family memberships. Individual members can vote at the section's Annual Meeting and the main club's Annual Meeting. In addition, each family membership is counted as two voting members. In all, the Burlington Section now has 948 voting members.

We don't have a count of how many additional members – such as children – are included in family memberships. In the future, we'd like to keep this kind of data. Children who grow up with the GMC might want to be members when they grow up. (This year at least one person who was in an active family when she was a child rejoined on her own as an adult.)

The following people have recently joined the Burlington Section:

John and Sharla Beiswenger
C. Stark Biddle
Nate & Annie Buck
Paul Carlile
Barry Cogan
Jim and Patricia Donovan
Diana Edwards
Mary Ewins
Robert Fuller
Patrick Haller
Serena Hollmeyer
Diana Khan
Bettina D. Laidley
Tom and Ellyn Leamon
Chris Leff
Gary D. Miller
Liz Moloff
Britt Nielson
Erica Olandt
John Roberts
Cynthia Rorison
Emily Sloane
Kit and Andrew Thurber

Welcome!

GMC members can now get a 10% discount year-round at the Burlington and Shelburne Climb High retail stores! Be prepared to show a valid membership card at the time of purchase. This special discount can't be used in conjunction with coupons or other discounts or sales.

Burlington Section Volunteers In Phase Three of the GMC Capital Campaign

In the early 2000's, with cutbacks in funding from public and private sectors and the South Barn destroyed by fire in January 2003, our volunteer leaders realized a need to plan for the club's long term financial stability. In 2004, the board of directors and staff started an extensive planning study with consultants hired to establish needs and determine fund-raising feasibility. In November 2004, the **Second Century Campaign** was approved by 100% of the board to address four major concerns vital to "**Securing the Future of the Long Trail**":

- **Trail & Shelter Maintenance Endowment: \$1,500,000**

We must maintain what we own. Volunteers and staff work together on 445 miles of trail and 66 overnight facilities.

- **Land Protection: \$1,500,000**

Since 1986, over 80 trail miles have been protected, with about 12 to go to complete the task.

- **Land Stewardship Endowment: \$500,000**

Stewardship means guaranteeing that the trails remain a "footpath in the wilderness" and not an "accidental" clear-cut.

- **Headquarters Reconstruction: \$1,250,000**

The South Barn burned in January 2003. Replacement is urgently needed to serve members, staff and the public.

Here is how we have organized our efforts:

Phase One - Advance Gifts

Campaign committee members solicit board, committee members and staff. 100% of the volunteer Board of Directors pledged over \$230,000. 100% of the staff pledged about \$40,000. For a capital campaign to be successful, those who voted for it must first support it.

Phase Two - Leadership Gifts

With the full commitment of the board and staff, the Second Century Campaign Committee set out confidently to secure gifts and pledges from selected generous members, friends, businesses and foundations in the range of \$25,000 to \$1,000,000. At this point, we have over \$3 million in gifts, pledges and challenge grants.

Phase Three - Major Gifts

In this phase, the focus is on gifts and pledges up to \$25,000. The Second Century Campaign Committee is now turning to the biggest strength of the GMC, section members and at-large members, to form regional Major Gifts committees. They are the ones familiar with our thousands of regional members and friends who can help to complete this campaign successfully.

The **Burlington Section** started its participation in **Phase Three** of the campaign in January with John Connell, Sue Girouard and Rick Hubbard as co-chairs and Joe Frank and Phil Hazen as advisors. Other committee members now include Kathy Adams, Len Carpenter, Linda Evans, Ed Amidon, Peter Hawkes, Tom Hyde, Lee Ann Banks, John Brown, Elizabeth Bassett, Amy Otten and Sheri Larsen. Early organizational meetings have taken place and the process of contacting other members is just beginning. In the weeks to come, Burlington Section members can expect to be contacted. In the meantime, anyone wishing to learn more about the campaign or to volunteer should contact one of the co-chairs.

Recent exciting news is that the next \$500,000 of pledges will be *matched one-to-one*, thanks to a generous challenge grant. This means that all new pledges are automatically *doubled* - an extra incentive to give generously for "**Securing the Future of the Long Trail.**"

Phase Four – General Appeal

The final phase of the campaign will be a General Appeal to all members and the public and will build on the momentum of the earlier phases to carry us beyond our minimum need of \$5.25 million.

Thanks in advance for bringing the GMC into its Second Century.

Phil Hazen - President

Burlington Section

