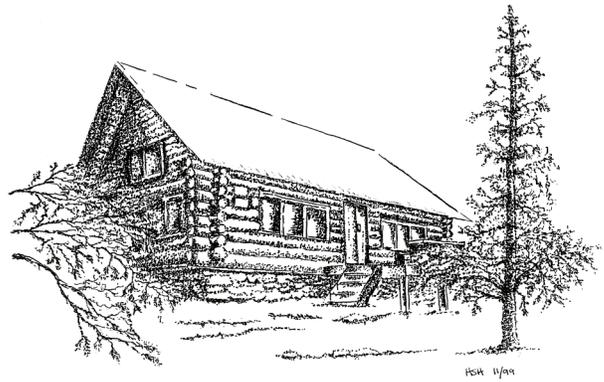


RIDGE LINES



GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB
BURLINGTON SECTION

www.naturecompass.org/gmcburlington

SMOOTH WATERS

SUMMER – FALL 2006

Summer is hiking season – but it's also paddling season. Many Burlington Section members have kayaks or canoes. Sometimes we want an all-day adventure, but often we just want to get out on the water for an hour or so after work. Luckily for us, there are great places for a quiet paddle not far from the city.

Shelburne Pond: Much of the shoreline of this pond is protected by the Nature Conservancy and the University of Vermont. The water is surrounded by ledges, cliffs and marshes. The marsh at the northern end of the pond is a good place to see ducks, herons, turtles and possibly beavers. There's also a trail from the parking area that takes walkers into the woods and onto small bluffs. The area features a wide assortment of ferns, some of which are rare. (Visitors shouldn't pick or dig any plants in the area.) By late summer, Shelburne Pond can have a strong smell of decaying vegetation, so it's best to visit in June or July. *Directions:* Take Williston Road (Route 2) to Hinesburg Road (Route 116). Go over the interstate. After 5+ more miles, turn right onto Pond Road. About a mile and a half down this road, there's a large State Fishing Access parking lot.

Arrowhead Mountain Lake: This dammed up part of the Lamoille River in Georgia and Milton has a split personality. The southern half feels like a deep, wide river and often has fast-moving motorboats. The northern half is a shallow marshy area that's great for paddling and provides a rich habitat for many birds. There are several osprey nests close to the water. You might also see terns, herons, kingfishers and ducks. (The northern marshes are great for duck hunting. Paddlers should stay away during that season!) *Directions:* You can get to Arrowhead Mountain Lake by taking I89 to exit 18 and then turning south on Route 7. Almost immediately, turn onto 104A West. Or take Route 7 all the way and turn right onto 104A after driving by the length of the lake. The fishing access is on your right 1.5 miles down 104A.

Colchester Pond: This little gem doesn't offer exciting paddling, but it's close to Burlington and fine for a lazy summer afternoon. It's also a great place for boating with children or trying out a new canoe, with no chance of being swamped by anything large or noisy. The big parking lot is uphill from the pond, but the kind people at the Winooski Park District have provided wheeled carts for transporting boats up and down the hill. The grassy slope calls out for picnics. There's a beautiful walking trail that goes around most of the pond. *Directions:* To get to Colchester Pond, take Route 15 through Essex Junction. Watch for McDonald's on your right and Ehler's RV on your left. Soon after, there's a traffic light at Old Stage Road. Turn left and then make an almost immediate left onto Lost Nation Road. Follow LNR, turning when it does. (Don't take Discovery Road.) Make a left onto Curve Hill Road. Go right at the bottom of the hill onto Colchester Pond Road.

Kingsland Bay: The Kingsland Bay Fishing Access area is a gateway to Lake Champlain and Little Otter Creek. If you're looking for a quiet paddle with few motorboats, head up Little Otter Creek rather than out toward the Lake. *Directions:* Drive down Route 7 to Ferrisburgh. Opposite the small green and church, turn right onto Little Chicago Road. Look for a sign for Kingsland Bay State Park. Just beyond it, turn right onto Hawkins Rd. In a little over a mile, there's a "slang" (a low part of the road with water on both sides). The fishing access parking lot is just past this.

See page 2 for information about padding on Lake Champlain and about parking privileges at Vermont fishing access areas.

Planning to paddle on Lake Champlain?

Before heading out on the broad lake, a paddler should be an experienced boater, a good swimmer, and wearing a PFD (personal flotation device). It's also a good idea to go with a small group rather than alone. The bays and inlets generally offer calmer water, but anywhere on the lake you're likely to encounter wind, waves and wakes from big boats.

Check out www.lakechamplaincommittee.org for information about the Lake Champlain Paddlers' Trail. The Lake Champlain Basin Program started this project with help from the National Park Service and the New York State Natural Heritage Trust. The web site provides a history of the project, maps, information about overnight camping areas, and guidelines for responsible use of the trail.

Fishing Access Controversy

By Maeve Kim

As kayaks and canoes have become more popular, there have been some uncomfortable moments and even some verbal clashes at fishing access areas in Vermont. One fisherman at the Kingsland Bay access told me, "This parking lot's plenty big, but a lot of them across the state only hold three or four cars. We get to our favorite spot and it's full and none of those people are fishing. The paddlers have expensive cars with expensive roof racks and all the latest gear, but they haven't paid for a fishing license. I have. But come a busy weekend and I can't even park to take my grandson out fishing. There's no room for me anymore."

Whether we really drive an expensive car or just tie a little kayak on top of a beat-up Ford Escort, it's a good idea to understand the controversy. This spring, the Fish and Wildlife Department proposed a rule that doesn't significantly change existing law but clearly sets out the priorities for authorized use of state fishing access areas.

- First priority: Angling, ice fishing and the launching of any boat to be used for fishing and parking of vehicles and boat trailers related to fishing
- Second: Launching inboard and outboard motorboats and parking of vehicles and trailers needed for that purpose
- Third: Trapping, hunting and parking of related vehicles and trailers
- Fourth: Launching of non-motorized vessels (boats, kayaks, canoes, rafts, sailboats and sailboards) not used for commercial purposes, and parking of vehicles and trailers related to that purpose

The bottom line in both the current and proposed rules is that recreational paddlers have a right to use the access areas *after* people who are fishing, trapping or hunting. (Groups of paddlers who have paid a guide will have to get a permit from the Fish and Wildlife Department before using state-controlled fishing accesses.)

Here are some suggestions for maintaining a good relationship among all Vermonters who enjoy being out on our lakes, streams and ponds:

- If you're going paddling with a group, carpool whenever possible. If you need a car for every boat, unload boats at the access and then move cars well away from the launching ramp. If the access parking area is very small, leave cars alongside the road if it's safe to do so.
- Be polite and friendly with people who are fishing. Don't put your boat in until you've checked where people's lines are. When you're coming in off the water, approach slowly. Hang back a short distance from shore and look at the posture of the people fishing. If everyone is sitting around chatting and looking relaxed, getting out of your canoe or kayak won't be too intrusive. On the other hand, if someone's craning forward with tension in every line of her body, she might have a big fish nibbling the bait and she won't appreciate a sudden approach.
- A friend of mine who is an avid kayaker has bought a fishing license, although he has never fished. He leaves the license prominently displayed on the dashboard of his car when he's parked at a state fishing access. He feels that it's a way of saying, "I value having ready access to beautiful bodies of water, and I'm willing to pay my share to build and maintain the parking areas".

***Do you have thoughts, suggestions or reactions about the use of fishing access areas?
Send them to Ridge Lines at the address on the last page.***

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



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. Here is Rod Rice's story of bringing power to Butler Lodge.

Rod is a long-time member of the Green Mountain Club and was caretaker at Butler Lodge in the summers of 1940 and 1941.

As Rod got ready to head up the mountain for his second summer at Butler Lodge, he found himself eyeing an old single-cylinder lawnmower engine and thinking, "*That could be used to power a generator!*" Rod and a friend 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 the 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 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.

Rod didn't run the generator if there were a lot of hikers staying overnight at Butler Lodge. 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, Long Trail 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. (Rod recalled that one group staying over at Taylor Lodge started their fire in the oven section of the big stove instead of 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".

Trip Leaders Needed

The Burlington Section of the GMC is always interested in having new people lead trips. We have about 80-100 outings a year, with 20-25 active leaders. Some people lead 1-2 trips a year, some lead 10-12. You can help us maintain a robust schedule of trips by volunteering as an outings leader. Over the years, volunteer trip leaders have offered a wide range of activities including end-to-end hikes, foliage hikes, history hikes, nature walks, bike trips, picnics, paddling, star-gazing, "peak bagging", camping, and bushwhacking to remote summits.

If you think you'd like to lead a trip but you're hesitant about jumping in without some help, we can arrange an "assistant leader" to join you. The experienced assistant leader will provide support by answering your questions and helping out before, during, and after the trip.

Call Richard Larsen at 878-6828, or email at larsen007@aol.com, to volunteer as an outings leader.

Meet the Author

Walt McLaughlin is a Burlington Section member and the author of *Forest Under My Fingernails: Reflections and Encounters on the Long Trail*, a narrative about his end-to-end hike in summer 1995. A new edition of his book, with illustrations, has just been published. Walt will be appearing at Barnes & Noble in South Burlington on Wednesday, August 23rd at 7PM. He'll give a short talk and then be available for questions and book signing.

In a phone interview, Walt recalled that the Long Trail "tied together so many beautiful places that I'd already visited one by one. It felt like home turf. But I think it does for every hiker. Whether or not you were born in Vermont, hiking the Long Trail gives you a real sense of place". His favorite peak was Burnt Rock Mountain, just south of Camels Hump. "It's not the biggest and it's not even above treeline, but the top is bare, there are views, and it just feels completely remote". Walt also recalled the beauty of the Glastenbury Wilderness, a "real surprise and delight for people just beginning their hike".

Peregrine Alert - Areas Closed to Hikers

The Fish and Wildlife Department has closed several cliffs until August, because of breeding peregrine falcons.

- Ryegate Quarry, Barnet Road Cut and the Route 5 scenic pullout, and the cliff part of Bolton Notch are closed. (Preston Pond Trail remains open.)
- The southern overlook at Rattlesnake Point in Salisbury is closed, but the eastern overlook is open.
- The cliff tops and overlooks are closed at Deer Leap in Bristol, Fairlee Palisades, and Nichols Ledge in Woodbury.
- A small part of the southern cliff top of Snake Mountain in Addison is also closed to hikers, but all the trails are open.

LT Opportunity

Rich and Sheri Larsen are hiking the Long Trail in day trips or motel-based overnight trips, on weekdays or weekends. The northern regions are completed, but most sections south of Rutland are still not done. If others want to join, either hiking the same direction, or doing coordinated "car-key swaps", please call the Larsens at 878-6828.

Haunted on the Mountain??

Ridge Line's favorite out-of-state correspondent is Daan Zwick, a life-long member of GMC and the Burlington Section. Daan sent some details about Frenchman's Pile, on the ridgeline of Mt. Mansfield. (The poor Frenchman was reportedly hit by lightning on the site, not far from the Visitors' Center at the top of the Toll Road.)

Daan wrote:

This pile of stones, once over eight feet tall, developed from the superstition that if you didn't throw a rock on the site as you hiked by, the ghost of an electrocuted Frenchman would haunt you forever. This became a problem as loose rocks in the area weren't all that plentiful. In order to propitiate the ghost, people started removing rocks that trail builders on the ridge had placed to mark the trail or provide stepping places over muddy sections. Summit caretakers in recent years have removed the cairn and discouraged having it rebuilt. I can testify that I've repeatedly passed that spot without contributing a stone and no ghost has ever annoyed me.

