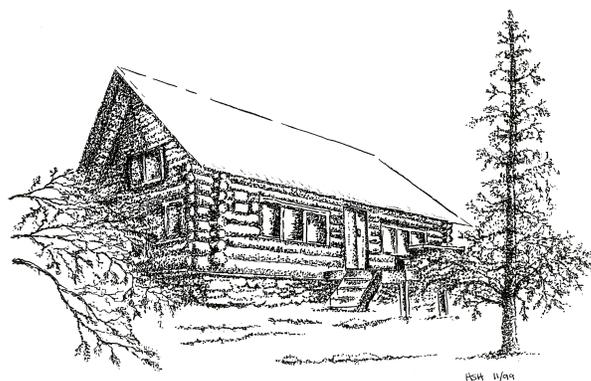


RIDGE LINES

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB
BURLINGTON SECTION

Spring 2016



www.gmcburlington.org
gmc@gmcburlington.org
802-557-7009

HELP GET THE TRAILS IN SHAPE FOR HIKING!

Every spring, Burlington Section volunteers get together to repair winter damage to our section of the Long Trail and access trails. This year, trail work is scheduled for **May 7, May 14, May 21** and **May 28**, with an additional outing to celebrate National Trails Day on **June 4**.

More volunteers mean more miles of cleared trails, so **everyone is welcome**. You don't have to be an experienced woodsman or outdoorswoman. There are many different chores, from clipping branches that have grown across the trail, to cleaning out water bars and drainage ditches, to dragging away twigs and limbs that others have cut. You may bring your favorite saws or clippers, but tools will be provided (along with instruction on how to use them). While you work, you'll be talking and laughing, 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. **Please consider joining us 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.

Turn to page 2 for a report on trail work that was accomplished in spring 2015.

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Fundraising for Bolton Lodge and Bryant Camp is still underway!
Do a google search for "Restore Use of the Historic Bolton Lodge"
and you will get to the donations page.

Want to save the GMC some expense? And save a tree or two?

If you would like to receive *Ridge Lines* electronically and stop receiving a paper copy in the mail, please send us your name, at gmc@gmcburlington.org. You'll get an email message letting you know when the latest issue is posted online where you can read it or download and print it.

At the January 30 Annual Meeting of the Burlington Section of the GMC, committee chairs shared information about the work done during 2015. Here are summaries of those reports.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Submitted by Ted Albers

Note: The Director represents our Section to the main club and provides information from the main GMC to Section members.

To lead off with an **exciting bit of news**: GMC is now debt-free! Fund-raising for the Winooski Bridge project was very successful, and the mortgage on the headquarters in Waterbury has been paid off.

Membership - There are now 9779 voting members of the Green Mountain Club.

Member Discounts - Members can now get a 20% discount on all merchandise bought at the Visitor Center in Waterbury and on-line at the GMC website. (Discounts used to be 20% for publications, 10% for everything else.)

Trail Magic Day - Nine sections participated in Trail Magic Day in August, with volunteers handing out snacks, information and encouragement to hikers at various spots where the Long Trail crosses roads. In all, GMC volunteers talked with about 200 hikers! Our section was represented by Tom Candon, Pam Gillis, Dot Myer, Carlene Squires, Sue Brown and Llyn Ellison who together chatted with 68 hikers. We look forward to this being an annual event. "Trail angels" don't have to be thru-hikers or experts. The only qualifications are a friendly smile plus homemade cookies and punch.

Rental Cabins - A new and exciting challenge for the club is the increased number of cabins to be rented out on a reservation basis. For decades, overnight lodging managed by GMC consisted of rustic lodges, shelters and tenting areas that were available to hikers on a first-come-first-served basis. Several years ago, the club acquired the Wheeler Pond cabins and are now adding Bolton Lodge and Bryant Camp (in Bolton Valley) and the Headwaters Camp (in the Northeast Kingdom). Beaver Dam Camp and Hadsel/ Mares Camp on Wheeler Pond are heavily used during the winter, and it's expected that the other camps will be also. This presents a challenge: how to keep the camps safe given that they have wood stoves that will be used by many people with many different levels of knowledge and expertise.

Waste is another challenge in cabins that get a lot of winter use because composting toilets don't work as well in cold weather. GMC is now working on septic permits for the two camps in Bolton Valley.

Publications - The latest edition of *The End-to-Ender's Guide* came out last spring, and a new waterproof foldout map of the Long Trail came out last fall. There will be a new edition of *The Long Trail Guide* in 2017, one hundred years after the first edition.

Outreach and Publicity - GMC's Facebook page is gaining in popularity. Also, there will soon be a new main club website that will include a blog space.

At 7:30AM on Saturdays, WDEV now hosts the Green Mountain Report, with topics such as Hiking With Dogs, Food Along the Trail, etc.

The Waterbury Visitor Center and GMC Headquarters is now a stop along the Green Mountain Byway, and there are new informational signs.

Hiker Responsibility - The increasing number of hikers on Vermont's mountains has led to an increase in unprepared hikers who need to be rescued. The GMC will adopt the Hiker Responsibility Code and Hike Safe card printed by New Hampshire Fish and Game. Read more at hikesafe.com

TRAILS – Submitted by Co-chairs Pam Gillis and John Sharp

We had five regular trail work outings in May and early June 2015, with an average of 8.4 volunteers per outing. This was down a bit from 2011-2014, but it still represented a good volunteer turnout (and one outing was a modified short one with just four people). In all, 259 person-hours of trail work and hiking were done.

Thirteen people turned out on May 30, with two hitting the trail early with a chainsaw. There were a lot of trees down in some areas and none in other areas. We cleared a big mess of downed trees on the trail from the overnight parking to the day parking at Lake Mansfield, a section we usually don't cover.

In addition to the spring outings, there were four small extra trips in the fall to cut trees that were reported down.

Special thanks to Max Seaton and Tom Joslin, who each went on four outings, and to Phil Hazen and Ted Albers who each went on three. (John and Pam each did four of the five outings.) And extra thanks to Dave Hathaway, Max Seaton, and Paul Beliveau for the fall cutting work. (Dave went on three of the four.) We're all enjoying the new club chainsaw!

With the building of the Winooski footbridge, we have a new section of LT, and the Jonesville to Bolton Notch Road section is a side trail. There are likely to be a lot of trees down in some areas given the strong winds we've had this winter – so we need another year of good turnout!

If you see trees down or other trail work that needs doing, please let us know. Go to our website (gmcburlington.org), find Trail Problems on the right side of the page, and click to let us know. Or just email Pam (gillis1986@gmail.com).

SHELTERS – Submitted by Linda Evans

It's been another event-free year at the six shelters and one campsite that are maintained by the Burlington Section. Maintenance that will continue this coming summer includes:

- Replacement of rotting logs on the front of Taft Lodge
- A new roof for Butler Lodge
- A new kiosk and tent platforms at Twin Brooks Tenting Area

Helicopters will be used to airlift some materials, which is always an exciting sight!

We oversee some really high-use areas! Butler and Taft Lodges on Mt. Mansfield, and Taylor Lodge in Nebraska Notch, see a steady flow of day hikers and overnight visitors. According to the Northeastern Alpine Stewardship, "more than 87,000 people and dogs came to Mansfield, Camels Hump and Mt. Abraham while caretakers were present – more than a 30% rise over five years ago".

Our shelter adopters are a self-reliant bunch who make regular visits to their sites and either take care of problems themselves or report them to the Field Director. I'd like to thank them all by name.

Jeff Bostwick – Puffer

Jonathon Boyson – Butler

Scott Buckingham – Twin Brooks

David & Zack Ellenbogen – Taylor

Kerstin Lange – Duck Brook

John Abbott & UVM Outdoors Club – Taft

Brian Youngberg – Buchanan

Treasurer's Report

Joel Tilley reported that the section continues to be in good financial shape. In 2015, our total income was \$3405.41 more than our total expenses.

We now have over \$2700 available for club projects. This includes money from three unrestricted bequests and endowments as well as the Holmes Fund, which is earmarked for archives and historical projects. The Section donated \$14,000 from the Payne Bequest to the Winooski Bridge Project.

EDUCATION

Chairperson Wes Volk reported that there were three educational outings in 2015. He's hoping for more in the coming year and is looking for people to lead easy to moderate walks with a focus on history, birds, animal tracks, wildflowers, trees, wilderness skills, etc.

OUTINGS

David Hathaway reported that there were ninety Burlington Section outings scheduled during 2015. Each of the following people led four or more trips: David Hathaway, Wes Volk, Adam Heckle, Ted Albers, Robynn Albert, Phil Hazen, Wolfgang Hokenmaier and Sheri Larsen. Kelley Christie led several Young Adventurers Clubs outings, and there were five trail work outings led by Pam Gillis and John Sharp.

There were several first-time trip leaders last year: Lindsay Pokorak, Max Seaton, Joe Sikowitz, Mark McLane and Nate Richard.

David mentioned that GMC is now asking trip leaders to leave a copy of *The Long Trail News* in shelters whenever they visit. This reading material will help people be aware of who provides the shelters and might encourage new members to join the club.

MEMBERSHIP

Dot Myer reported that the Burlington Section now has 772 memberships, many of which are families. The total number of members is 1081.

WEBSITE

www.gmcburlington.org has become an important source of information about upcoming outings and completed trips. In 2015, there were about 1700 views of Trip Reports and about 2000 views of the outings list.

The Section is looking for someone to maintain our Facebook page. If you're interested, please contact David at David.Hathaway.78@gmail.com

Executive Committee

The following slate of officers was presented and approved at the 1/30/16 Annual Meeting.

President - Ted Albers ted@ted-albers.net

Vice President – vacant

Secretary - Mary Keenan keenan158@yahoo.com

Treasurer – Joel Tilley jptilley50@gmail.com

Membership - Dot Myer dotmyer@myfairpoint.net

Ridge Lines – Maeve Kim maevulus@surfglobal.net

Shelters – Linda Evans linda.r.evans7@gmail.com

Marketing & Communications – Vacant

Education – Wes Volk wesvolk@gmail.com

Special Programs & Taylor Series - vacant

Section Historian - Dot Myer dotmyer@myfairpoint.net

Outings – Paul Houchens, Dave Hathaway

houchens@comcast.net, David.Hathaway.78@gmail.com

Outings: Young Adventurer's Club – Kelley Christie kelleymchristie@gmail.com

Trails - Pam Gillis, John Sharp gillis1986@gmail.com john.sharp@uvm.edu

Web Site – Dave Hathaway David.Hathaway.78@gmail.com

Director – Michelle Connor

Section Outings

Spring 2016

Unless otherwise specified, call the trip leader to sign up, find out what equipment you'll need, and learn about any changes. Check with trip leader before bringing your pet along. Human guests are always welcome. Trip leaders often arrange carpooling. If you ride along in someone else's car, we recommend reimbursing the driver at the rate of 10 cents a mile.

March

3/5 (Sat) **Bald Hill Bushwhack** Bald Hill is near Camels Hump in Huntington. We'll hike up the Burrows Trail on Camels Hump until we reach the ski trail that circumnavigates the Hump. After putting on snowshoes, we'll follow the ski trail north for a while and then bushwhack to the top of Bald Hill, where we'll have terrific views of Camels Hump. Snowshoes are required. Moderate hike, moderate pace, 3-3 ½ miles round trip, approximately 1000' elevation gain. Group limit 12. Contact leader by 3/3. Sheri Larsen, 878-6828 or larsen007@aol.com

3/6 (Sun) **Duxbury Window** Enjoy an easy to moderate snowshoe hike up to the Duxbury Window. This short Long Trail hike starts at the trailhead on Duxbury Road near the Winooski River at the lowest point on the LT. The trail follows Bamforth Ridge, one of the flanks of Camels Hump, for about 1.6 miles (one way, gradually up - no rocky scrambles) and gains about 950 feet. The woods in this forest are wonderful and you will be rewarded with a view towards the South East through a cutout. (However, this is not a summit hike.) Contact ted@ted-albers.net for meet up instructions.

3/12 (Sat) **Prospect Rock** From Rte.15 we'll hike or snowshoe along the Long Trail north, crossing the Lamoille River and then continuing up to take in the views from Prospect Rock. Easy hike, moderate pace, 3-4 miles, ~300' elevation gain. Group limit 15. Contact leader by 2/5. David Hathaway, 899-9982 or david.hathaway.78@gmail.com

3/19 (Sat) **Butler Lodge to Nebraska Notch** Starting from Stevensville, we will snowshoe along the Nebraska Notch Trail to the Long Trail, then follow it to Butler Lodge and return along the Butler Lodge trail. Moderate hike, moderate to strong pace, 6.2 miles, 1700' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 3/17. David Hathaway, 899-9982 or david.hathaway.78@gmail.com

3/20 (Sun) **Pico Peak** Could be longer loop if conditions are favorable (2 more miles all downhill). Joint hike with GMC Brattleboro Section. Contact Dave Hardy for details, 343-9017.

3/26 (Sat) **Cantilever Rock** From the winter parking area below Underhill State Park we'll head up the to Sunset Ridge trail, follow it to Cantilever Rock, and return. Easy snowshoe hike, moderate pace, ~2.5 miles, ~1000' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 3/24. David Hathaway, 899-9982 or david.hathaway.78@gmail.com

April

4/2 (Sat) **Milton Town Forest** We'll meet to walk the Milton Forest Recreational Trails off the Milton-Westford Road (formerly the Bove Property). This 4-mile hike passes by the beautiful Milton Pond. Wear proper footwear for hiking or snowshoeing that may include some muddy conditions. Dogs are welcome but have to be on leash in designated areas. Easy walk/snowshoe, moderate pace, 4-10 miles, a small number of short hills. We'll be out approx. 2 hours. Group limit 15. Contact leader by 4/1. Nancy Hankey, vtgardener1@myfairpoint.net.

4/3 (Sun) **Lake Champlain Waterfront** Let's walk Burlington's Bike Path and explore the many parks it passes and other nearby gems! Moderate hike. Moderate pace. 6-8 miles. 500' elevation gain. Group limit 8. Contact leader by 3/25. Adam Heckle, aheckle@uvm.edu or 233-8091.

4/9 (Sat) **Camels Hump via Monroe Trail** Starting from the Couching Lion Farm Site in Duxbury, we will climb the Monroe Trail to the summit of Camels Hump and return the same way. Difficult snowshoe. Moderate pace. 7 miles. 2700' elevation gain. Contact leader by 4/7. David Hathaway, 899-9982 or david.hathaway.78@gmail.com.

4/10 (Sun) **Mt Abe via Battelle Trail** Depending on the weather conditions, we'll hike or snowshoe to the top of Mt. Abraham via the Battelle Trail. If it's icy, crampons or microspikes and poles will be necessary. Difficult snowshoe. 7 miles. 2500' elevation gain. Contact leader by 4/8. Rich Larsen, 878-6828 or larsen007@aol.com.

4/16 (Sat) **Bike from Vergennes to Middlebury** Save the trails. We we'll start at the green in Vergennes, then bike over hilly back roads to Middlebury for lunch. Difficult bike trip, 25 miles. Group limit 8. Mary Lou Recor, 660-2834 or mlrecor@myfairpoint.net.

4/23 (Sat) **Map & Compass Workshop** Learn how not to get lost in the woods. Easy workshop. Phil Hazen, 355-7181 or philhazen@comcast.net.

April Outings – cont.

4/30 (Sat) **Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail** We'll start in St. Albans and bicycle the full 26 mile length of the Missisquoi Valley Rail Trail to Richford, and return. Difficult bike trip, 52 miles, moderate pace. Contact leader by 4/28. David Hathaway, david.hathaway.78@gmail.com or 899-9982.

May

5/1 (Sun) **Paddle the LaPlatte River Marsh Natural Area** According to records, this is the week the lake level is at its maximum (about 99'.) We'll take advantage of the high water to paddle up into the LaPlatte River Natural Area in Shelburne (a Nature Conservancy habitat). Length and duration to be determined by group but bring lunch. This unique river shore area is a habitat for migratory waterfowl, beavers, etc. (The LaPlatte runs 16 miles from Lake Iroquois to Lake Champlain.) The shore area can flood when the lake level rises so this is hopefully the best time to go, as one can paddle through stands of maple and willow if conditions are right. Easy paddle. Contact leader by 4/30. Ted Albers, ted@ted-albers.net.

5/7 (Sat) **Spring Trail Work** Help clear the Long Trail (and some side trails). Bring work gloves, lunch, water. Tools provided or bring your own. Meet at UVM visitor's lot at 8am or Richmond Park & Ride (Exit 11) at 8:30am. Moderate work trip. Slow-moderate pace, 4-10 miles, 1000-2000' elevation gain. Pam Gillis, 879-1457 or gillis1986@gmail.com. John Sharp, 862-3941.

5/8 (Sun) **Colchester Pond** Join us to walk the 3.25 miles around Colchester Pond. Expect some hills and a moderate pace. Trails cross through farm fields, woods, old pasture, wetlands and rocky ledges. A gorgeous pond is nestled amongst rolling hills. We'll be out approx. 2 hours. Wear proper footwear for muddy conditions. Dogs are welcome. Easy walk/snowshoe. 3.25 miles. Group limit 15. Contact leader by 5/7. Nancy Hankey, vtgardener1@myfairpoint.net.

5/14 (Sat) **Spring Trail Work** Help clear the Long Trail (and some side trails). Bring work gloves, lunch, water. Tools provided or bring your own. Meet at UVM visitor's lot at 8am or Richmond Park & Ride (Exit 11) at 8:30am. Moderate work trip. Slow-moderate pace, 4-10 miles, 1000-2000' elevation gain. Pam Gillis, 879-1457 or gillis1986@gmail.com. John Sharp, 862-3941.

5/15 (Sun) **Easy Snake Mountain hike for Beginners, Kids, Dogs** One of the easiest rewarding wilderness summits in VT, Snake Mountain offers an interesting history, open views, a unique natural lake close to the summit and easy walking along an old carriage road. All ages and fitness levels are welcome to join. Easy hike, moderate pace, 3.6 miles, 900' elevation gain. Wolfgang Hokenmaier, 343-8175 or wolfgang.hokenmaier@gmail.com.

5/21 (Sat) **Spring Trail Work** Help clear the Long Trail (and some side trails). Bring work gloves, lunch, water. Tools provided or bring your own. Meet at UVM visitor's lot at 8am or Richmond Park & Ride (Exit 11) at 8:30am. Moderate work trip. Slow-Moderate pace. 4-10 miles. 1000-2000' elevation gain. Pam Gillis, 879-1457 or gillis1986@gmail.com. John Sharp, 862-3941.

5/22 (Sun) **Paddle Arrowhead Mountain Lake** Join us to kayak to the dam on Arrowhead Mtn. Lake in Milton/Georgia. We'll be out approx. 3 hours. PFD required. No boat rentals available at this location. Bring a lunch and water. Easy paddle. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 5/20. Nancy Hankey, vtgardener1@myfairpoint.net.

5/22 (Sun) **Ride the Islands** We 'll meet at the Folsom School in South Hero, ride along the lake on West Shore Road (gravel), cross the bridge for lunch in North Hero, then turn south back to the school. No dogs, please. Rain cancels. Distance: 45 mi. Difficulty depends on the wind, otherwise relatively flat at a flawed-human-powered pace. Group limit 10. Mary Lou Recor, 660-2834, mlrecor@myfairpoint.net.

5/28 (Sat) **Spring Trail Work** Help clear the Long Trail (and some side trails). Bring work gloves, lunch, water. Tools provided or bring your own. Meet at UVM visitor's lot at 8am or Richmond Park & Ride (Exit 11) at 8:30am. Moderate work trip. Slow-moderate pace, 4-10 miles, 1000-2000' elevation gain. Pam Gillis, 879-1457 or gillis1986@gmail.com. John Sharp, 862-3941.

5/29 (Sun) **Carse Wetlands and/or Hinesburg Town Forest** Let's explore UVM's newest natural area with new trails and a nearby historical Town Forest. Moderate hike. Moderate pace. 6 miles. 500' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 5/20. Adam Heckle, aheckle@uvm.edu or 233-8091.

5/30 (Mon) **Camels Hump West Loop** The hike will begin at the Burrows Trail head and follow the Connector Trail to Forest City Trail joining the Long Trail to the summit. We'll follow the Burrows Trail back to the trailhead. Difficult hike. Moderate pace, 5.8 miles, 2400' elevation gain. Max Seaton, 999-3945 or maxyseaton@yahoo.com.

June

6/4 (Sat) **National Trails Day** Help clear the Long Trail (and some side trails). Bring work gloves, lunch, water. Tools provided or bring your own. Meet at UVM visitor's lot at 8am or Richmond Park & Ride (Exit 11) at 8:30am. Moderate work trip. Slow-moderate pace, 4-10 miles, 1000-2000' elevation gain. Pam Gillis, 879-1457 or gillis1986@gmail.com. John Sharp, 862-3941.

6/4 Sat **Spring Bird Walk** Songbirds have returned to Vermont, and they're courting, squabbling, mating and nesting. We'll take a leisurely walk (2-4 miles) to enjoy birds and bird song. 7AM start. Location to be determined. Maeve Kim, maevulus@surfglobal.net or 899-4327.

6/5 (Sun) **Mansfield Forehead** We'll go up Frost/Maple Ridge and down Wampahoofus/Butler. Hopefully the lady slippers will be out on Frost then! Difficult hike, 6 miles, 2500' elevation gain. Sheri Larsen, 878-6828 or larsen007@aol.com.

6/11 (Sat) **Worcester Ridge / Skyline Trail** We'll climb the Middlesex Trail to the summit of Mt. Hunger, then follow the Skyline Trail to Mt. Worcester, returning on the Worcester Mt. Trail. Difficult hike at a moderate pace, 11 miles, 3000' elevation gain. Contact leader by 6/9. David Hathaway, 899-9982 or david.hathaway.78@gmail.com.

6/12 (Sun) **Mt Abe via Batelle Trail** We'll park at the Battell trailhead and hike up to Mt Abe. Difficult hike, 7 miles, 2500' elevation gain. Carlene Squires, 434-2533 or carlene@gmavt.net.

6/18 (Sat) **Mt Abe via Batelle Trail** We'll park at the Battell trailhead and hike up to Mt Abe. Difficult hike, moderate pace, 7 miles, 2500' elevation gain. Wes Volk, 355-4135 or wesvolk@gmail.com.

6/19 (Sun) **Biking in Shelburne & Charlotte** We'll meet in Shelburne and bike the Bay Park Trail north to Harbor Road, then continue to its end at the Shelburne Shipyard (about 8 miles round trip). We'll return on Harbor Road, cut through Davis Park and take trails to Bostwick Road, where we'll ride to Charlotte Beach and return (16 miles round trip.) Easy terrain at a moderate pace, about 24 miles. Group limit 5. Contact leader by 6/18. Ted Albers, ted@ted-albers.net.

6/25 (Sat) **Appalachian Gap to Theron Dean Shelter** Hike from Appalachian Gap on Rt 17 to Theron Dean Shelter and back. Moderate hike, moderate pace, 4-10 miles, 1600' elevation gain. Lee Wrigley, leewrigley@myfairpoint.net.

6/26 (Sun) **Sterling Pond via Elephant's Head Trail** Park down by Stowe resort and hike up Elephants Head and then maybe on to Madonna. Difficult hike at a moderate pace, 9.6 miles, 1500' elevation gain. Wes Volk, 355-4135 or wesvolk@gmail.com.

Mud Season Hiking - Hiking trails are wet and muddy in the spring. When hikers step on saturated soil, they can cause irreversible damage. The State of Vermont closes hiking trails on state land (including the trails on Mt. Mansfield and Camels Hump) from mid-April to Memorial Day. Be a responsible hiker between sugaring season and Memorial Day!

Plan lower-elevation walks and hikes.

Walk through the mud. Don't walk around it.

Stay off Vermont's sensitive summits. The delicate and rare tundra plants on the state's highest peaks are easily crushed or ripped out of the earth by the combination of boots and water. In addition to the two closed mountains, hikers should avoid Stratton Mountain, Killington Peak, Jay Peak and Lincoln Ridge (Mount Ellen to Appalachian Gap).

"Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces us up, snow is exhilarating; there is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather."

-John Ruskin

Ridge Lines

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