



Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club President's Report 2020

The past year has presented many challenges to the usual activities of the Burlington Section. The pandemic has and continues to cause significant disruptions to our usual set of in-person activities. However, efforts to adapt have created new opportunities. The pandemic has also spotlighted the importance of the Long Trail system and other Vermont outdoor resources, something our club members know already, and our dedication to maintaining the accessibility of the Long Trail system did not wane.

Many of our activities are meant to develop personal connections between members and establish connections with people outside our club. The usual way of advertising group hikes, meeting in large numbers for trail maintenance outings and conducting executive meetings in-person were not available to us for much of the year. Like so many others we have adapted to holding meetings by video conferencing. While I look forward to being able to meet again in-person, this disruption has changed our way of thinking and brought about new opportunities. One of these is the newly established monthly meeting of Section Presidents. Established by Tom Candon, President of the GMC, we now enjoy the opportunity to come together without the need to travel to discuss current issues and share ideas.

During 2020 we saw a surge in the use of the Long Trail system. Our club already knows the importance of having outdoor spaces accessible, afterall, "The mission of the Green Mountain Club is to make the Vermont mountains play a larger part in the life of the people by protecting and maintaining the Long Trail System and fostering, through education, the stewardship of Vermont's hiking trails and mountains." The pandemic just put a spotlight on the topic and encouraged many more people to take a hike. Even with restrictions on our ability to do trail and shelter maintenance, we still got out to clear blowdowns and identify important issues. Maintaining our trails under the weight of increased use is now our challenge.

Speaking of taking a hike, being a relative newcomer to the Burlington Section I realized I need to strengthen my own connection to the Long Trail and side trails we maintain. Over the past year I have made a point to hike more of the trails our section maintains and to visit more of the shelters. Days trips brought me to Taft Lodge (several times) and Puffer Shelter for the first time. I also finished hiking all of the Long Trail within our section, covering sections from Bolton Mtn to Taylor Lodge and from Smuggler's Notch to the Chin. A couple blue blaze trails included Profanity and Wampafhoosus.

The challenges of the past year spotlighted the dedication of our volunteers and members. I would like to thank Annette Seidenglanz, former Marketing & Communications and Education chair, and Kayla Weeks, former Treasurer, for their service to our section. Dana Baron spearheaded our efforts to celebrate the Taft Lodge 100th year anniversary, with many others pitching in to make it a memorable event. Steve Titcomb, Toben Glavin and Clare Innes stepped forward to fill Officer and Committee Chair positions. These are just a sampling of the many volunteer efforts over the past year. I also want to mention the impact of our members on the financial health of our section and club overall. We are fortunate that increased trail use has also come with some increase in members and member dues. In my role on the Budget and Finance Committee of the main club I have also seen the generosity of our members, stepping up to make sure our club has the financial resources it needs to thrive even during these financially uncertain times.

Last year as I began my first term as President I certainly did not predict the challenges that we came to experience. However, I did come into this role knowing we had an engaged and dedicated Executive Committee and a membership with strong connections to the Long Trail. Our section's accomplishments over the past year have only served to strengthen this and I know we are ready for the challenges ahead.

Respectfully,

Jonathan Breen
President, Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club
jonathan.h.breen@gmail.com

Green Mountain Club – Burlington Section
Minutes from the Annual Meeting, January 18, 2020
Faith United Methodist Church, South Burlington, VT

The meeting was called to order by Section President Ted Albers at 6:45PM.

Ted introduced Mike Debonis, GMC Executive Director and Tom Candon, GMC President and acknowledged Burlington Section volunteers especially Brian and Janette Williams for organizing the meeting.

Mike reviewed some of the highlights of 2019. It was a wonderful but tough year with the loss of long-time members Jean Haigh and Daan Zwick. The Club accomplished all the work that they set out to do in their 2019 plan and had a clean audit and a solid year financially. The GMC's Caretakers and Long Trail Patrol counted 64,000 visitors on Mt. Mansfield and had a record year at Barnes Camp. (The Club partners with Smugglers' Notch State Park, Stowe Mountain Resort, and Lamoille County Planning Commission to manage the Barnes Camp Visitor Center built in 1927 as a gateway to Smugglers' Notch, Mount Mansfield State Forest, and the Long Trail. Burlington Section members volunteered many hours in 2019 led by Nancy McClellan and Brian Williams.) Overall on the LT, the number of users continue to climb. There was a bear issue in the Glastenbury area. The club is working to improve hiker behavior and visitors need to use bear boxes which were deployed in many impacted areas. The 2020 season includes some major privy improvement if anyone is interested in helping. The Club is buying a Coddling Hollow parcel this month and working on purchasing a second parcel near Plot Road. Taft Lodge 100th anniversary is this year and the Burlington Section will take the lead is coordinating a celebration. Finally the Club has a marketing campaign handing out buttons and stickers ("Hike VT, Love GMC") to promote the connection between the LT and the GMC which is still unknown to many. Mike reported on Coddling Hollow: GMC, Trust for Public Land, and VT Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation are working to acquire 161 acres in Johnson and Waterville where the LT crosses private land for 0.34 miles. GMC was successful in securing a legislative appropriation to fund the fee acquisition of the property and is currently working to fundraise the cost of the easement acquisition and remaining project costs. The land will be added into the Long Trail State Forest with GMC retaining a conservation easement. Closing on the property is expected in January 2020. Also in the works: GMC is working negotiate a potential land deal in northern Vermont that would allow for the protection of 0.4 miles of Long Trail if the landowner is willing to conserve the property. This project is still early in development.

Business: The membership approved the minutes of the Annual Meeting of January 19, 2019 as submitted by Mary Keenan, Secretary, without discussion.

Treasurer report: Kayla reported that it has been a pleasure to take on the role of treasurer for the Burlington Section of the GMC, our section finances are in good shape. The report is attached to these minutes. Regarding the 2019 report: the first two columns of the 2019 Income/Expense Report show budgeted and actual amounts for last year's Income and Expenses. Our

total income of \$7,490 was \$1,510 less than we expected, partially to the decrease in the annual meeting admission intake in 2019. Our Operating Expenses in the past have tended to be less than budget for and last year was no exception. Our biggest expense is Ridgelines, with a budget of \$3,500. Our Operating Expenses of \$7,527 were \$4,128 less than our budgeted amount. We made no big donations to the GMC last year. Our total Income was \$1,763 more than our Total Expense, which is reflected in the increase in our checking account over the year. As a note, you will not see any expenses for the Annual Meeting in this year's expense report. We have decided to align the section expenses for the Annual Meeting with the actual calendar year in which the meeting takes place. This for this year you will not see any expenses, and next year you will see an amount that is generally larger than what we have spent in the past because it will represent the expense amount for the 2020 and 2021 Annual Meetings.

Regarding the proposed budget for 2020: In the right-hand column, a previously designated "Special Programs" was renamed 'T-shirts' (for volunteers). The budget for this category was decreased for 2020 from \$2,500 to \$500 to more realistically reflect the actual likely cost of this project (which cost \$1,508 in 2019 but will not require as much T-shirt printing in 2020 or out-years. The membership voted to adopt the budget without discussion.

Committee Reports:

President – Ted commented on the commitment of volunteers who continue to turn up to lead outings, organize events and to serve on the Executive Committee in force. Ted commented on what he sees as the need for the GMC to be recognized for its role as a state-wide organization committed to the stewardship of the Green Mountains, and its valuable viewsheds. He sees the public perception of the GMC as primarily a 'hiking club' as detrimental. Greater public recognition for the preservation, conservation and stewardship role that the GMC has played in the state for a hundred years could result in broader and deeper support for the GMC. Ted also mentioned that our own John Sharp received his 2nd Green Mountain Club award at the GMC's Volunteer Picnic this summer in recognition of almost 40 years as our trail steward. John was also the Section VP in 1985 and 1986 when Pam Gillis was Section president – then he took over as President during 1987 and 1988.

Vice President – Greetings from sunny, humid Costa Rica. When I assumed the position of Vice President, the role had been vacant for several years. Part of the task for me has been to define and clarify the job. To that end, I wrote up a new description. Hopefully, it will help my successor. Responsibilities I have taken on this year include conducting an Executive Committee meeting in Ted's absence, writing articles for Ridgelines, and seeking nominations for open board positions. This year we have a new President, Jonathan Breen, and a new education chair, Annette Seidenglanz, both of whom bring experience and enthusiasm. For the larger GMC I continue as a general Director on the GMC Board, a member of the Development Committee, trail adopter, and participant in various club-wide activities such as hauling wood to camps, trail clearing, and Long Trail Day. I also volunteer at and recruit new volunteers to act as greeters and trail-guides at Barnes Camp. I will be making oyster stew again at Bolton Lodge in two weeks, so come on up!

Respectfully submitted, Nancy McClellan.

Directors – Michelle Connor reported that as part of the marketing campaign this year (that Mike mentioned), the club is also increasing the benefits for members -- now including a free pass to a Taylor series presentation, free overnights at caretaker sites and early reservations at Bolton and Bryant camps. The staff and Board are also beginning discussions around diversity, equity and inclusion to explore how to be the most welcoming as we engage with a broad community, supporting our work to 'make the Vermont mountains play a larger role in the life of all people.'

Membership – Dot Myer reported that we have 712 memberships with a total of 1048 members. Membership is up slightly from last year (1,008).

Outings – David Hathaway reported that we had another successful year of outings. We had 96 total outings led by 22 trip leaders, compared to 93 led by 22 leaders in 2018 and 97 led by 22 leaders in 2017 (same leader count, but a shifting cast of leaders). Trip counting includes all scheduled trips, even if canceled or led by a substitute, to encourage people to make the effort to lead trips, plus trips for which people acted as substitute leaders. We had 2 new trip leaders who hadn't lead any trips in the past 5 years (or ever): Paul Beliveau (4) and Dana Baron (3). Others who led at least four trips: David Hathaway (16), Juli Tyson (12), Ted Albers (10), Mary Lou Recor (7), Kim Farone (7), Robynn Albert (6), Jill George (6), Wes Volk (6), John Sharp (4), and Dana Bolton (4). Trips included hikes, snowshoe trips, birding and wildflower walks, bicycle trips, paddling trips, and a map & compass outing, and occurred in Vermont, New York, and New Hampshire. Since not all trip leaders send me trip reports (hint, hint) I don't have (and didn't try to gather) information on how many trips were canceled and how many people went on various trips which can vary by a lot. (Trips I was on ranged from 2 to 13). People do look at our trip reports on gmcburlington.org, so I encourage all leaders to send them to me, however brief, along with pictures if you have them. There are many wonderful photos and trip reports published there. This is a great place to look if you are looking for ideas for trips too. I encourage everyone - hikers and trip leaders - to join our Meetup group. There's a link on the right side of our web page. Trip leaders can be made a Meetup "event organizers" and post their trips themselves if they want.

We didn't have any "Meetup only" trips (those spontaneous outings advertised only on Meetup) but 43 of our "regular" trips were posted on Meetup in addition to being posted on Ridgelines, our website and in the newspapers as always. These resulted in many new participants including several by non-GMC members which is always welcome.

Anyone who thinks they might want to lead trips should contact me to be put on our trip leader mailing list, which is sent quarterly requesting trip leaders to sign up to lead trips. Our only requirements for being a trip leader is you are a GMC member, that you are willing to organize a trip, including communicating with interested participants, and that you are interested in helping others enjoy the outdoors. If you are uncertain you can reach out to any of our trip leaders to co-lead a trip with them to "learn the ropes". We also have a trip leader handbook that you might find useful. We encourage (but do not require!) our "regular" trip leaders to post their trips on Meetup. Even using Meetup, you can continue to vet potential participants by omitting a meeting location (you do have to specify a date and time) and determine how many may participate in

your trip. You do this by asking people to contact the ‘organizer’ (you- the leader) for that information. Contact me if you want to know more about [Meetup](#).

Trails – John Sharp reported that we held four work outings in May, and one in June: attendance was 14, 17, 13, 9 and 5. We had enough volunteers on the first day to get the Duckbrook trail finished. We did have to schedule one outing in June to clear Bolton to Mayo as in previous weeks there was quite a bit of snow above 2500 ft. preventing this. Blow downs were more cooperative this year than in the recent past, so we were able get walk-throughs completed without running out of chain saw fuel. There was some griping about the state some of our clippers. If you show up early this spring I might be able to outfit you with new pair. There are still volunteer t-shirts available if you go on 2 or more works outings.

Website – David Hathaway reported that the website had 10,041 visits in 2019, compared to 9,182 in 2018 and 9,475 in 2017. The home page had 3,742 views in the past year, followed by a 2009 post from [Robynn Albert](#) on dealing with spruce traps that had 558 views. (First – Don’t panic! Stay calm. Take the time to think and plan how you’re going to get out. Second – Don’t thrash around. etc.) Trip reports cumulatively had 1,714 views, and outings pages cumulatively had 1,764 views. Anyone with suggestions for additions or changes to our website, or who notices errors on it can report them to gmc@gmcburlington.org. Our Mailchimp mailing list has 1,596 members and friends, up 59 from last year, to whom we sent out 13 emails in 2019. They’ve changed their definition of “audience” to include unsubscribed and inactive people, and I’ve had to cull some emails from our list to keep under a 2,000 subscriber limit for our free account. Our meetup group currently has 1,376 members (an increase of 341 from last year), with 114 “active” members (which I think means they’ve RSVPed yes to at least one event) and 21 event organizers (people able to post trips.)

Annette Seidenglanz oversees our [Facebook](#) page and our new [Instagram](#) feed, which is also available on the right column of our website. To find us on Instagram, search for greenmountainclubburlington. On Facebook search for GMCBTV.

2020 Slate of Candidates for the Burlington Section Executive Committee:

President - Jonathan Breen
Vice President – Nancy McClellan
Secretary – Mary Keenan
Treasurer – Kayla Weeks
Membership – Dot Myer
Ridge Lines – Maeve Kim
Shelters – vacant
Annual Meeting – Brian & Janette Williams
Marketing & Communications – Annette Seidenglanz
Education – Annette Seidenglanz
Taylor Series – vacant
Section Historian – Dot Myer
Outings – Dave Hathaway
Outings YAC (young adventurers) – vacant
Trails – John Sharp and Paul Beliveau

Website – Dave Hathaway
Director – Michelle Connor
Immediate past President – Ted Albers

Other Business: Ted presented Dot Myer with the 2020 Burlington Section President’s Award. Dot is a legendary hiker and has been part of the GMC since her graduation from UVM in 1955. Ted said that “you might recall that the GMC honored Dot with a Special Recognition in 2014 upon retiring from leading trips. Her last outing was a September 7, 2014 trip to Wind Gap and the Allis Trail. Dot was our Section President 1979-1980 and has received the GMC’s Roy Buchanan Award and a coveted GMC Honorary Life Membership a decade ago. Upon receiving the recognition, Dot related a short story: *One day while at camp, Peggy Pons didn't feel like hiking. So instead we stayed in camp and painted the flagpole for the ranger. One morning there was a bear between the camp and the outhouse. I clapped my hands and yelled "Go, Bear, Go!" The bear went a little-ways. Foolishly, I went a little closer, clapped my hands and yelled "Go, Bear, Go!" again. I repeated this several times until the bear was gone. Then I found out the people in the next campsite had come all the way from Oregon and this was the first bear they had seen. I apologized to them for scaring their bear away. A little later a bee flew by. I screamed and ran away.*

New Business: Nancy read notes of appreciation by Pam Gillis and Maeve, and David, John, Mike and Tom all spoke about outgoing President Ted and his enthusiasm and his being an ambassador and leader he has been for the club. Nancy presented Ted with maple syrup. Phil Hazen presented Ted with several books for his ‘presidential library’ and an alarm clock that only rings after 10AM. Phil noted that Ted is not known as an early riser.

The business meeting adjournment at 8:01pm.

The meeting was followed by a presentation from Tyler Socash, the [Adirondack Mountain Club’s](#) Education Programs Coordinator. A day after completing his master’s degree Tyler embarked on a 7,000 mile thru-hiking journey across the Pacific Crest Trail, Te Araroa in New Zealand and the Appalachian Trail. Tyler lives in Keene NY.

2020 Treasurer's Report

The principal source of income for the Section is membership fees. This amounted to \$10,217, which is about \$2000 more than for each of the previous two years. The 2020 budget reflected those results, so this was a significant increase. The only other two sources of income were the annual meeting and the Taylor Series. The annual meeting income of \$686.90 was almost twice the expected amount. The Taylor Series event brought in \$215, which was somewhat less than expected. Our total income was \$11,118.90, which was \$2468.90 more than expected.

Our Operating Expenses of \$7,518.29 were only \$86.71 less than our budgeted amount, but some of the individual budgeted items were substantially different than planned. By far the largest expense was printing and postage for Ridgelines. Note that in previous years the printing and mailing costs were combined in a single line item. However, I thought it would be more informative if I separated these. The total cost of printing is indicated as \$4,769.41, but this includes a late payment of \$349.80 for the December 2019 mailing that should have been accounted for last year. The total postage expense for the year is indicated as \$845.18, but this includes the mailing permit fee (\$240). The budgeted amount for the mailings line item was \$225.00, which was apparently the previous fee amount. Thus, not including the late payment for 2019 and the permit fee, the total Ridgelines expenses amounted to about \$5000.00. This compares with the budgeted amount of \$3500. Ridgelines accounted for almost two-thirds of our total expenses for the year. I would also like to point out that the total includes over \$250 of state sales tax for printing. Apparently, we had not given the printer a tax exempt certificate last year. I have submitted one for this year, so this will save us some expense for Ridgelines. More generally, we should provide a copy of our tax exempt certificate to the vendor for any significant purchase in the current year. I can provide a PDF or printed version of this form, and it must be provided to the vendor at the time of purchase.

A large relative disparity between the budget and actual expenditures was in the Trail Maintenance category. \$1000.00 was budgeted, but we only spent \$31.08. Looking back at previous years reports, it appears that chainsaw purchase, maintenance, and ancillary materials and equipment were a significant expense. We did not have these in 2020.

Another category in which there was a budgeted amount (\$500) was Education, but there were no expenses related to this category in 2020.

We had one special project last year that involved an expense, and this was the Taft Lodge Anniversary event. Total expense was \$328.39. We had budgeted \$500 under the special projects category ostensibly for the t-shirt project. However, there were no expenses last year for that project.

Our income minus expenses this year amounts to \$3,600.61. In addition, we earned \$22.74 on the two CDs we have from bequests. Our total balance, not including monies that reside with the main club, is \$36,439.42.

Some numbers for the proposed 2021 budget are included in the accounting report, but are subject to change pending approval at the annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Titcomb

Treasurer, Green Mountain Club, Burlington Section

Green Mountain Club
 Burlington Section
 2020 Budget and 2020 Income/Expense Report (Jan.-Dec.)

As of: January 24, 2021

Operating Account-Income

	<u>2020 Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>(Actual - Budget)</u>	<u>2021 (Jan.-Dec.) Proposed Budget</u>
Membership	8,000.00	10,217.00	2,217.00	10,000.00
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Annual Meeting (Section)	350.00	686.90	336.90	0.00
Taylor Series	300.00	215.00	-85.00	0.00
Special Projects	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Subtotal: Operating Income \$	8,650.00	\$11,118.90	\$2,468.90	\$10,000.00
Contributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income \$	8,650.00	\$11,118.90	\$2,468.90	\$ 10,000.00

Operating Account-Expenses

	<u>2020 Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Balance (Actual - Budget)</u>	<u>2021 (Jan.-Dec.) Proposed Budget</u>
Shelter Repairs & Maintenance	100.00	112.94	12.94	100.00
Trail Maintenance	1,000.00	31.08	-968.92	500.00
Mailings (including Permit)	225.00	845.18	620.18	650.00
Ridgelines	3,500.00	4,769.41	1,269.41	4,000.00
Annual Meeting (Section)	750.00	790.80	40.80	0.00
Outings	400.00	361.26	-38.74	400.00
Education	500.00	0.00	-500.00	500.00
Taylor Series	300.00	50.00	-250.00	100.00
Special Projects (Taft Lodge)	0.00	328.39	328.39	0.00
Special Projects (T-shirts)	500.00	0.00	-500.00	0.00
President	100.00	119.23	19.23	100.00
Membership	20.00	0.00	-20.00	20.00
Treasurer	100.00	11.00	-89.00	50.00
Website	110.00	99.00	-11.00	110.00
Miscellaneous expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Subtotal: Operating Expenses	\$7,605.00	\$7,518.29	-\$86.71	\$6,530.00
Donations to the GMC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expenses \$	7,605.00	\$7,518.29	\$(86.71)	\$ 6,530.00
BALANCE (Inc - Exp)	\$ 1,045.00	\$ 3,600.61	\$ 2,555.61	\$ 3,470.00

<u>Account Balances</u>	<u>January 1, 2020</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Change (since January 1)</u>	
Operating	\$21,986.28	\$25,586.89	\$3,600.61	
Peter Alden Bequest (unrestricted)	\$1,626.31	\$1,626.31	\$0.00	(with GMC)
Payne Bequest (unrestricted)	\$11,126.04	\$11,148.78	\$22.74	(CDs, checking acct)
Holmes fund (restricted, w/GMC)	\$755.68	\$755.68	\$0.00	(with GMC)
Reserve (unrestricted, w/GMC)	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$0.00	(with GMC)
Total assets	\$37,994.31	\$41,617.66	\$3,623.35	

\$0.00

Operating + CDs	\$	36,735.67	
Bank statement + cash	\$	36,439.42	
Difference should be 0.00	\$	296.25	December membership was deposited 1/11/2021 2020 Taylor Series donation was made 1/20/2021

2020 Report of Vice President, Burlington Section, GMC

Much of my activity this past year involved filling open positions on the Executive Committee. The year began with a new President, Jonathan Breen. We thanked Ted Albers for his years of dedication and service to the club. Talented and enthusiastic members stepped forward to fill the positions of Treasurer and chairs of Communications and Marketing, Education and Taylor Series. We welcome them and thank them. There is one open position for the Young Adventurer's Club (YAC). This position involves organizing and hosting YAC outings to provide families and young hikers to get out and explore the woods at a comfortable pace. The goal is to promote and encourage children's enthusiasm for the outdoors.

I was on planning committees for the Taft 100th Anniversary celebration and the section annual meeting.

I wrote several articles for Ridgelines and one article for the Long Trail News.

I continue to volunteer at Barnes Camp, which did operate this summer and fall to provide hiker information safely. I am a director on the board of the GMC; chair the Long Trail Legacy Capital Campaign, which has been ongoing through these difficult times; and on the DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) committee.

I did make oyster stew at Bolton Camp for the President's hike last year, but, unfortunately, you will have to wait until 2022 for another taste! I look forward to it!

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy McClellan

2020 Director's Report

Michelle Connor

The GMC main club is doing well and remains focused on maintaining the trail and supporting hikers in Vermont -- we have seen trail use increase as more people get outdoors during the pandemic. Membership and donations have remained steady, and the club received funding from the Paycheck Protection Program. We did run a reduced field season this year and the Visitor Center has been closed since March. However, a highlight for 2020 was closing on two land protection projects -- both Coddington Hollow and Judevine -- which ensured that more sections of the trail will remain accessible to future hikers.

Staff are preparing various scenarios as they work with the Board on a budget for the next fiscal year, depending on how the pandemic plays out. We expect some continued disruptions to operations over the winter and spring, but are hoping to roll out a full field season crew this coming summer. GMC is planning for a full caretaker program, two Long Trail Patrols and a construction crew.

We are excited to partner with Lenny's Shoe & Apparel on a promotion where they donate \$5 to the GMC for every pair of Darn Tough socks sold. The club also recently finished loading all of our trails into Trail Finder (an app that helps users find new trails); GMC is listed as the trail manager for each, with information on how to contact and donate to the club.

Happy trails!

BURLINGTON SECTION OF THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB
MEMBERSHIP REPORT 12/31/20

Memberships	744
Memberships with 2 members	<u>347</u>
Total number of members	1,091

Total membership in 2019 1,048

This is 43 more members than last year. However this is not the total number of new members because there were members who were dropped during the year

Dot Myer

2020 Outings report (David Hathaway):

We had 16 trips scheduled before closing down group hikes due to COVID-19 on March 13, and another 28 that were scheduled for the rest of the first and second quarter, but canceled. When things opened up again in the summer and the GMC Section Outings Working Group COVID era outings guidelines were put out at the end of June, we started scheduling a few trips, but opted not to schedule them far in advance and publish in Ridgelines due to the uncertain future trajectory of the pandemic. This proved wise, since trips were shut down again on November 13. During this open summer and fall period we had 15 section outings. A particular shout out to Dale Schmit, who started as a trip leader this summer, and led 7 trips during the 4 month window in which they were allowed! Starting January 6 of this year, we are once again allowed to lead group hikes, but with more severe restrictions, including no carpooling outside a single household and mask wearing at all times. We have not yet begun to schedule group trips, but will post them on the website and send out an email to the section when we do. We remain hopeful that we can get back to scheduling and conducting hikes in a somewhat more normal manner later in 2021.

2020 Website report (David Hathaway):

The website had 10213 visits in 2020, compared to 10041 visits in 2019 and 9182 in 2018. The home page had 4092 views in 2020 followed by a 2009 post from Robynn Albert on dealing with spruce traps that had 537 views (the second most popular page on our website for at least the past 4 years!). Past year trip reports, outing descriptions, and hike ideas had 1407 views, showing how much these were used by people making plans for their own outings. Current year trip reports had 1103 views and current year outing pages had 849 views. Because we couldn't have outings (and hence trip reports) in the spring, Annette Seidenglanz filled in giving us a wonderful virtual wildflower tour posts almost every day from March 28 to June 23, for a total of about 85 posts! These got 323 views and are still available on the website (enter "virtual wildflower 2020" in the search bar at the right side of the page), so check them out! Anyone with suggestions for additions or changes to our website, or who notices errors on it can report them to gmc@gmcburlington.org. Our mailchimp mailing list has 1702 members and friends, up 114 from last year, to whom we sent out 15 emails in 2020. Our meetup group currently has 1561 members (an increase of 185 from last year) and 26 event organizers (people able to post trips).

December 6, 2020

GMC Burlington Section

Shelters Report

As this strange year comes to a close, there isn't much to report for shelters, but here is what I have.

1. Shelter adopters: Early in my tenure as shelters coordinator, I contacted Lorne Currier of the main club to get a list of shelter adopters in our section. I had some concerns about some adopters' availability, and I communicated those to Lorne. We agreed on a protocol of communication between the section and adopters but it never really came into play as there was little or no adopter activity to coordinate given the pandemic.
2. Taft Lodge: as this venerable structure was approaching its 100th anniversary, we pulled together a celebration to honor this fact. The celebration took place on September 19 in the lower parking lot at Stowe Mountain resort. Leading up to the event, some minor repairs were done at the lodge, including replacing several broken windows. As part of the celebration, a plaque was placed in the Lodge. After the event, one of the footings for the front porch was reconnected to the bedrock. Much of this work was accomplished by Michael Dillon and Keegan Tierney. For next year, the decking on the front porch should be replaced.
3. Twin Brooks: the privy roof was badly rotted and in dire need of replacement. Michael Dillon stepped up again and took care of this problem near the end of the field season.
4. Puffer shelter: I've received reports that this shelter is in need of a fair amount of work. I'll plan on an early outing in 2021 (depending, of course, on COVID restrictions) to assess the needs and make plans to get it done.

That's all I know of right now. Here's hoping 2021 is not as crazy as 2020 and we can get out in the field more.

Respectfully,
Dana Baron
Shelters Coordinator

19 JAN 2021

Trails Annual Report for 2020

As with every thing, the 2020 spring walk thru was very different due to covid. That groups were limited to 2-4 people and the use of chainsaws prohibited until July limited us in what could be done early. A walk thru was completed by the end of July. While the trail was cleared of blow downs little or no clipping was done and water bars hardly touched. As the trails have been well maintained in the past a year without clipping didn't seem to hamper hikers, but this spring clipping and water bars need to be maintained.

Here's hoping the section can schedule work hikes this spring and that chainsaws are not restricted. In order to clip and clear blow downs you need 8 people to show for a work party. Last year trail clearing was done by Paul Beliveau (and family members), David Hathaway (with his new electric chainsaw), Ted Albers, Jonathan Breen and myself. While so few are sufficient for clearing blow downs and some water bars more people are needed to fully maintain the trails.

In addition to the walk thru Paul, David and I have gone out several times to remove new blow downs.

Here's hoping that by May enough people have been vaccinated that work outings can be scheduled, through it looks like it may take longer.

John Sharp
Paul Beliveau

Marketing & Communications Report

I began my marketing and communications work in late 2020 with a resounding ... silence. Not my idea of a successful start, we have been having trouble with posting to Facebook, which has put a bit of a crimp in the works. Thankfully, the GMC Communications Manager, Chloe Miller, has stepped in to joust with Facebook in hopes of winning us back our access. Stay tuned!

My goal for 2021 is to support the conversation about hiking on and caring for the Long Trail and connector trails and help raise the profile of events of interest to GMC/Burlington members. Taking a page from Annette Seidenglanz's inspiring playbook, where her Facebook posts about floral trailside inhabitants have been educational and entertaining, I plan to sprinkle in hiking tips, events, identification of plants, constellations, critters, geology - whatever you might see, hear, feel, and - yep, even smell - on the trail. There is a wealth of topics to draw from: Covid safety on the trail, wildlife encounters, gear, trail care, what swells your heart about hiking ... so much to inspire conversations, celebrate the love of the trail and the land it crosses, and increase participation in Club activities. I welcome suggestions and feedback from all members.

I look forward to networking with GMC/Burlington committee members, Club staff, and members (and nonmembers!) to support the efforts, events, and upkeep of the trail that links us all.

Clare Innes

Education, Special Projects & Taylor Series Report

I'm new to this role as of this year, and have joined just a few chapter meetings and feel like I'm just starting to get oriented.

My goal for 2021 is to help facilitate four events over the course of the year, addressing both local, regional, and international topics that are hopefully of interest to Club members, but do not overlap or are duplicative to other GMC talks. The first event for 2021 is a Taylor Series lecture on Jan 28, 2021 on Sailing & Hiking in Patagonia (clearly- this is checking the international box). I welcome suggestions from anyone who would like to present on a topic via Zoom or lead an education or special project talk (also on Zoom), on topics that are local or regional. Please email me.

Another goal of mine for this year is to increase the awareness of events and activities (mostly zoom talks currently) via creation of an announcements section in Ridgelines. This could include both GMC sponsored events and/or events by other similar organizations that will be of interest to members. Again, please email me if you have a suggested event /talk you think will be of interest to GMC chapter members you would like included in a future Ridgelines publication. Please provide at least two months advance notice.

Wishing everyone good health and rejuvenation in 2021!

Respectfully submitted

Toben Galvin

Education, Special Projects, and Taylor Series Coordinator for GMC Burlington Section

tobengalvin@gmail.com

2020 Burlington Section co-history and archives report:

As GMC history tells us, “in 1917 the Green Mountain Club was incorporated as a non-profit in Rutland. Rutland remained the base of operation until 1977 when the headquarters moved to Montpelier, and then moved again in 1992 to Waterbury Center where it is today.” (Reidun Nuquist)

The GMC was an all-volunteer organization until about the time the club moved to Montpelier and Larry Van Meter became executive director. Even as the club hired professional staff, volunteers carried out the day-to-day management of its sections. To this day records of the operations of the sections are generally kept by its members. Section archives like ours are often handed down from one generation to the next, and may sit for a decade, or even two or three, in a barn, attic or basement before being dusted off and handed to a successor.

By such happenstance I received some Burlington Section archives during my tenure as president. These included several crates of records (and a couple of scythes) from former section president and historian, Dot Myer. I also received records that were once in the possession of Marion Holmes, Roderick Rice and others.

Since I managed to keep these records dry when my cellar flooded (not once, but twice), Jonathan and Nancy decided that that qualified me to be section co-historian with Dot. In 2019 and 2020 Dot passed on to me Burlington section records dating to the founding of the GMC. This included an original 1917 LT *Long Trail Guide* (the first edition) and the first GMC financial report. Records also included a dozen or so LT guides from the World War II years, glass-slides, and the original receipt signed by Theron S. Dean, GMC Treasurer, for \$1 in dues paid by Mrs. Laura E. Cowles when she became a member on May 24th 1916, among other gems.

In 2020 Mike Debonis helped set up volunteer Ed Fitzgerald and me so we could index these and other records into the Filemaker database the club uses to keep track of its archives. We transferred several boxes of material that had come to me to the GMC archives for safe storage. It's a good start, but it's likely there are more records to preserve. If you happen to have meaningful Burlington Section records, please let me know at ted@ted-albers.net

Ted Albers

Burlington, Vt., May 24th, 1916.

Mrs. Laura E. Cowles,

OVERLEDGE,

100 Ledge Road,

Burlington, Vt.

To Green Mountain Club, Dr.

Membership dues for 1916. \$1.00

A thank you and welcome to the new member,-
veteran of many successful summer and winter climbs.

Received Payment,

THERON S. DEAN,
TREASURER,
6 MASONIC TEMPLE,
BURLINGTON, VERMONT

Theron S. Dean.

TREASURER

5-24-16.



Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club 2021 Executive Committee Slate of Candidates

Officers

- President – Jonathan Breen
- Vice president – Nancy McClellan
- Secretary – Mary Keenan
- Treasurer – Steve Titcomb

Standing Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs

- Membership – Dot Myer
- Ridgelines – Maeve Kim
- Shelters – Dana Baron
- Annual meeting – Brian & Janette Williams
- Marketing & Communications – Clare Innes
- Education – Toben Galvin
- Special Programs & Taylor Series – Toben Galvin
- Section Historian – Dot Myer & Ted Albers
- Outings – David Hathaway
- Young Adventurer's Club – *vacant*
- Trails – John Sharp & Paul Beliveau
- Website – David Hathaway
- Director – Michelle Connor (3 year term expires 2022)

One officer and two committee chairs were filled during the past year by the Executive Committee. Information about these volunteers who are now being voted upon by the membership are below.

Treasurer - Steve Titcomb

Steve's first exposure to the Long Trail was in 1971 when he and his brother climbed Mt. Mansfield via the old Bear Pond Trail (steep!). When he moved to Vermont in 1983, his first hike was up Camels Hump via the Bamforth Ridge Trail. When this trail became the official Long Trail route, he adopted this section of the trail and has continued to maintain it. He has also done many work hikes over the years with the Montpelier Section and, more recently, with the Burlington Section.

As an at-large GMC member, Steve served as a general director for six years during Ben Rose's tenure as Executive Director. He did an end-to-end hike of the LT in 1997 and had an amazing experience. Steve moved to VT to take a tenure track faculty position in Electrical Engineering at UVM. He retired from UVM in 2016. His wife, Maureen Delaney, has been working at IBM since 1992. They have a son who graduated from RIT in 2018 and a daughter who is a third-year student at Northeastern University.

Marketing & Communications – Clare Innes

Clare has spent her life reveling in nature on foot, on wheels, afloat, and even aloft (if you include paragliding and bungee jumping!). Her career in communications and marketing spans three decades, including creating an enthusiastic community of ukulele players.

Clare Innes grew up next to the town forest in Wilton, Connecticut, where she found solace and bliss, an outlet for her soaring curiosity, and a jungle gym beyond compare. She learned much about caring for her plant and animal companions and maintaining her own little trails. Through the years, she has gone on many backpacking and camping trips and countless day hikes throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Her communications and marketing experience includes freelance writing, such as in Yankee Magazine, Boston Globe, and Lonely Planet guidebooks. For 11 years, she was Marketing Coordinator for the Chittenden Solid Waste District, which involved fomenting enthusiasm for waste-reduction practices. She has extensive desktop publishing experience, including design, production, and printing expertise. Post-CSWD, she worked for a year at a local marketing firm in Burlington, where she learned valuable social media skills. Presently, she is working part-time at REI, as the job is flexible enough to work around her ukulele classes and performances, while keeping her boots firmly planted in outdoor adventuring.

We look forward to working with Clare, as she pours her experience into supporting the efforts of the Green Mountain Club to foster fandom for the trails that squiggle through our state.

Special Programs and Taylor Series, and Education - Toben Galvin.

This important position involves organizing educational or instructional outings or programs, including the well-known James P. Taylor Outdoor Adventure Series.

Toben Galvin is a 15-year resident of Shelburne and a long-time GMC club member whose interests include hiking, skiing, sailing, fishing, and world travel. A frequent audience member in past Taylor Series events, Toben has enjoyed the series over the years and would like to help ensure that the programming continues with its blend of local, regional, and international topics.

Toben has an MA in Resource Economics from the University of Florida (2000), a BA in Anthropology from Grinnell College (1995), and has completed a Semester Abroad program in Ecology with the School for International Training in Ecuador (1991). He's an independent energy consultant at his own firm, www.skytopconsulting.com.

Toben's most frequent use of the Long Trail and supporting trail network system is during the winter months, as he enjoys backcountry skiing. Over the years, he has hiked and overnighted widely on the Long Trail. Toben has two children, ages 15 and 18; the 18-year-old is regularly hiking and on his way to completing the Lincoln Gap to Johnson Section in multiple trips.

Toben has traveled widely, including long trekking trips in the Cordillera Blanca range of Peru and a short weekend trek in the Swiss Alps (Grindelwald). He is friends with many active local adventurers and naturalists and would use this local network to help identify future speakers and topics for the club.