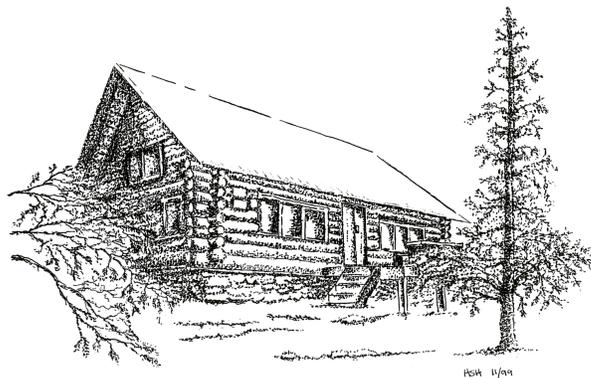


RIDGE LINES



GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB
BURLINGTON SECTION

Winter 2021-2022

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Goodbye from me – Hello to Tess!

In spring 2003, when Mary Lou Recor asked if I'd fill in as editor of *Ridge Lines* while she was hiking the Appalachian Trail, I could not have guessed that I'd still be doing this eighteen years and almost seventy issues later.

Green Mountain Club and me – That wasn't an obvious partnership. I am the slowest walker and hiker in the entire world. I had never hiked in my life until I was almost 50, when a group of women friends suggested a visit to one of the White Mountains' "Friendly Huts". I had no idea what I was getting into! I imagined a nice stroll in the woods. Instead, I was struggling, gasping, grunting, whining and moaning almost from the start.

But I was hooked – not on hiking, but on where hiking could take me.

I had no models of active older adults in my family. My father, a native Vermonter and Long Trail end-to-ender, died suddenly at age 65, and all my uncles and aunts were considerably older than he was. I needed some models, some inspiration! So in 1999, when I retired from teaching middle school, I became a "Thursday Volunteer" at GMC headquarters in Waterbury.

It worked! Every Thursday, I worked with and talked with men and women in their sixties, seventies and eighties who hiked, biked, snowshoed – people who refused to equate aging with stagnating. And I started solo hiking. For several summers, I headed up the Frost Trail one or two times a week to have lunch on a big open rock face – and sometimes enjoyed a little nap too. Then I branched out, hiking to Butler Lodge and Taylor Lodge several times each, exploring the Rock Garden and Wampahoofus Trails, heading up out of Underhill State Park along Sunset Ridge. With a friend, I made two hikes up Maple Ridge to the Nose. I spent a night at Glen Ellen Lodge as part of a women's poetry hike. For a few September days, I volunteered as a summit caretaker near Mansfield's "upper lip" and got to know the ridge line from the top of the Toll Road to the Chin.

One of my daughters joined me for hiking vacations in Montana and Arizona. My other daughter and I climbed Laraway and Wheeler here in Vermont and Noonmark in the Adirondacks. (Later, she went on to summit Basin, a much more ambitious adventure than any of mine!)

Then came two consecutive New Year's Eves in Taft Lodge, with a small group of friends, ending one year and beginning another on what I'd come to think of as "my mountain". And one memorable December night, four of us built two snow caves in the Notch and spent the night in them (something I'm glad to have done once and delighted not to have done again).

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Also in this issue: Welcome to Tess Stimson, and outings for December through March

Goodbye from Maeve – cont.

And four times a year, I worked on *Ridge Lines*. I heard from fascinating people, with fascinating stories about personal triumphs, tribulations and even tragedies. I became increasingly impressed by the life-long dedication of so many GMC-ers who keep the trails cleared and opened and who make repairs, from minimal to extensive, on privies and shelters.

I got history lessons about the club and about the Long Trail. I learned about changes in hiking gear and clothing. I got tips for winter hiking and being in the woods during hunting season and where to go in Mud Season. I learned about backwoods first aid and Leave No Trace ethics. I discovered that there used to be wood stoves in Long Trail shelters and, amazingly, that there was once electricity at Butler Lodge!

I started researching animals along Vermont's hiking trails and joined Keeping Track so I could learn more. I heard lots of lively recollections about why porcupines were such a problem for hikers in the middle of the twentieth century.

Terms such as "trail name", "spruce trap", "peak bagger" and "batch-bin composting" became familiar parts of my vocabulary.

I took part in GMC events including GMC days at Eastern Mountain Sports, Taylor Series lectures, "Short Clips of Great Trips" at Trader Duke's in South Burlington, and a wonderful oral history evening at the old barn.

I found my dad's recipe for hiker's hardtack and, more exciting, I found and read his End-to-End journal!

And, of course, I learned about the amazing things this small club has done and manages to keep doing every single year. Committee reports at the Annual Meetings never fail to awe me!

I have thoroughly enjoyed all these years as *Ridge Lines* editor. But I've got articles to write on my own, for *BirdWatching* magazine and other publications. I've got three books in the works and two quilts that are only partly made. I want to continue developing new classes and programs about birds, birdwatching and habitat preservation for OLLI-UVM, CVU Access, Green Mountain Audubon Society, AudubonVT, Island Arts and other organizations. I've partnered with an amazing man, and together we're developing a huge vegetable garden and fruit orchard – filling two pantries and two freezers every year. It's time to turn this newsletter over to someone new!

Thank you all! – Maeve Kim

Our new editor is Tess Stimpson. Tess is a prolific author, journalist, and teacher at St. Michael's College. Her first issue of *Ridge Lines* will be in March 2022, with the annual summary of the Section's activities during the preceding year.

WELCOME, TESS!

Section Outings, Winter 2021-22 - 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. Guests are always welcome.

December

12/4 (Sat) **Butler Lodge via Nebraska Notch** Moderate hike/snowshoe, moderate pace, 6.2 miles, 1700' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 12/2. David Hathaway, david.hathaway.78@gmail.com or 802-899-9982.

December Outings – cont.

12/5 (Sun) **Mt. Mansfield from 108** Difficult hike/snowshoe, 5 miles, 3000' elevation gain. Lisa Hardy, ndlisa827@aol.com.

12/11 (Sat) **Mansfield Forehead** Difficult hike/snowshoe, moderate pace, 6.9 miles, 2600' elevation gain. Wes Volk, wesvolk@gmail.com or 802-355-4135.

12/18 (Sat) **Butler Lodge** Moderate hike/snowshoe, moderate pace, 3.6 miles, 1650' elevation gain. Group limit 12. Jonathan Breen, ghostman2651@gmail.com or 802-318-8104.

January

1/8 (Sat) **Mystery Hike** Contact the trip leader for details. Wes Volk, wesvolk@gmail.com or 802-355-4135.

1/9 (Sun) **Harrington's View** Climb the Duck Brook trail and LT to Harrington's View, with views of Champlain and Bolton Valleys. Easy to moderate snowshoe, leisurely pace, 4.8 miles, 1600' elevation gain. Ted Albers, ted@ted-albers.net.

1/16 (Sun) **Mt Abraham** Microspikes and snowshoes required. Difficult snowshoe, moderate pace, 5.8 miles, 2500' elevation gain. Contact leader by 1/14. Jill George, jillghiker@gmail.com.

1/22 (Sat) **Belvidere Mt.** This northern peak on the Long Trail offers a panoramic view from its fire tower. Expect a moderate hike with moderate people. 5.6 miles. Mary Lou Recor, mlrecor@myfairpoint.net or 660-2834.

1/23 (Sun) **LaPlatte River Snowshoe** Follow the LaPlatte River Marsh Natural area, the Shelburne Bay Clarke Trail and perhaps some of the Ti-Haul trail, all in Shelburne. Total distance to be determined by the group depending on the trails we take but will be between four and six miles, mostly flat. This is a chance to get familiar with the walks around Shelburne Bay and the LaPlatte. Easy snowshoe, leisurely pace, 4-6 miles. Ted Albers, ted@ted-albers.net.

1/29 (Sat) **Camels Hump Loop** We'll take Forest City Trail to Montclair Glen Lodge, then climb the Long Trail to the Camels Hump summit and return along the Burrows Trail. Difficult snowshoe, moderate pace. 6 miles, 2400' elevation gain. Contact leader by 1/27. David Hathaway, david.hathaway.78@gmail.com or 802-899-9982.

February

2/6 (Sun) **Sterling Pond** Hike up the Stowe side of Notch Road to Sterling Pond Trail to Sterling Pond. Microspikes/snowshoes required. Difficult snowshoe, moderate pace, 5 miles, 1500' elevation gain. Contact leader by 2/4. Lisa Hardy, ndlisa827@aol.com.

2/13 (Sun) **Mt Hunger & White Rock from Middlesex** Microspikes and snowshoes required. Difficult snowshoe, moderate pace, 6.5 miles, 2100' elevation gain. Contact leader by 2/11. Jill George, jillghiker@gmail.com.

2/19 (Sat) **Mystery Hike** Contact the trip leader for details. Wes Volk, wesvolk@gmail.com or 802-355-4135.

2/27 (Sun) **Taylor Lodge** From the Stevensville trailhead we'll follow Nebraska Notch Trail and the Long Trail to reach Taylor Lodge, and return. Easy snowshoe, moderate pace, 4.4 miles, 600' elevation gain. Contact leader by 2/25. David Hathaway, david.hathaway.78@gmail.com or 802-899-9982.

March

3/12 (Sat) **Mystery Hike** Contact the trip leader for details. Wes Volk, wesvolk@gmail.com or 802-355-4135.

3/13 (Sun) **Beaver Meadow Ski or Snowshoe** The plan is to ski to Beaver Meadow Lodge and back on ungroomed, but not too steep trails. If the snow conditions refuse to cooperate, we will snowshoe. 5.2 miles. Mary Lou Recor, mlrecor@myfairpoint.net or 660-2834.

3/20 (Sun) **Laraway Ice Tour** From the Long Trail parking on Coddington Hollow Road we'll follow the Long Trail up to see the ice formations on the rock wall below the Laraway summit, continue to the Laraway Lookout, and return. Microspikes absolutely required, as the ice below the cliffs can be extensive, and snowshoes required since the trail may not be well packed. Moderate snowshoe, moderate pace, 4.5 miles, 1600' elevation gain. Contact leader by 3/18. David Hathaway, david.hathaway.78@gmail.com or 899-9982.

Ridge Lines

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