



Volume 75, Number 3

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

September 2022

Smoke & Blazes Returns!



A view of Kent Pond from the Appalachian Trail in Killington. Scenic spots like this one are seeing increased foot traffic in recent years.

Killington Section Directors:

Term expiration 2023
Sue Thomas*
Wayne Krevetski
Melissa Reichert

Term expiration 2024
Ruth Hare*
Amy Peacock
Maura Wildman

Term expiration 2025
Bill Cooke
Dave Coppock
Herb Ogden

*Second consecutive 3-year term.
Not eligible for re-election.

Killington Section Officers:

Wayne Krevetski President
Herb Ogden Vice President
Melissa Reichert Secretary
Maura Wildman Treasurer

Committee Chairs:

Amy Peacock History & Archives
Sue Thomas Outings
Larry Walter Trails & Shelters
Dave Coppock Trails & Shelters

Delegates to GMC Board:

Larry Walter Director
Ruth Hare Alternate

Smoke & Blazes:

Sue Thomas Editor

Web Site: www.gmckillington.org

Andrew & Isaac Jones Web Masters

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Larry Walter 14 Belmont Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701, 775-3855, lwalter@sover.net
Maura Wildman 774-8425, mwild0411@gmail.com

A note from your reluctant and entirely unqualified editor

Please bear with me as I venture forth into the strange new world of computer graphics...it'll be a bumpy ride I'm sure, but I look forward to learning new skills, and with some coaching from Viv and a former co-worker, I hope I will be able to get this first issue out to you with a minimum of cursing and my computer screen intact. Hopefully each issue will get a little easier...at the moment it feels a bit like climbing Camels Hump in the dark!

I
A Reminder

Thank you to everyone who sent your email address to Viv, if you haven't already, please do so, at vivianbebee@gmail.com. We need to compile an email list of all our members, as a way of updating you between newsletters, posting reminders about upcoming events, and to rally the troops to deal with trail maintenance among other uses. You can also opt to receive Smoke & Blazes via email if you would prefer. I'm also still hoping that someone will come forward to take on the position of membership coordinator and/or publicity. Any takers?

*
Covid Update

Covid is still with us, alas, and it's anyone's guess what the fall and winter will bring. We are committed to continuing to offer outings, so please contact me if you have a trip you are willing to lead on the next schedule. We will continue with a

few common-sense safeguards: leaders will have the option to require vaccination; you will still need to call ahead in order to limit group size and enable notification if a participant later tests positive; and with colder temps coming, leaders may discourage carpooling or require masks...the guidelines say windows open, but obviously whoever wrote that has not experienced a Vermont winter!

Outing Reports

Burton Cemetery and Old Weston Road, Mt. Tabor, June 18, by Herb Ogden, leader

Four of us enjoyed a pretty easy hike in the wilds of Mt. Tabor. Leaving our cars at Devil's Den, we followed the abandoned highway southeast toward Weston. This was the only road east from Mt. Tabor until the CCC built the present Forest Road 10 south from Devil's Den during the Depression. We followed it past several farm cellar holes and the foundation of a one-room school, then turned west on an obscure old road that led us to the Burton Cemetery, nicely maintained by the VFW Lodge in Manchester. It has at least 42 headstones and was used from 1831 to 1879. From there, it was less than a mile back to Forest Road 10, past the remainders of yet another old farm. Arriving back at our cars, we had plenty of time to inspect the odd geology of Devil's Den. Luckily the proprietor did not put in an appearance.

Slate Valley Trails, Poultney, June 25, by Diane Bargiel, leader

Gail Helfer joined me for a nice c. 5-mile loop in the Slate Valley Trail system (slatevalleytrails.org, Country Club Trailhead button and click "Endless Brook to Fairgrounds" for the map). We started at the SVT parking lot along route 30 that the Lake St. Catherine Country Club has been so gracious to share. From there, we walked up the country club driveway to the back of the cart shed, where the Dog Leg Trail starts. That winds its way through some really nice forest (at times the trail runs alongside the golf course, so please be mindful of being quiet in those areas, and also watch for wayward golf balls overhead! I've found three on the ground so far.) The trail comes to a "T" at Groves Way, which we took to Pond Road to walk up to Maple Run, then up to the western side of the Overlook Loop to the vista overlooking Lake St. Catherine. From there we came down the Back Nine to the Fairgrounds Connector back to Groves Way. The weather was perfect, and the woods were beautiful and varied.

Spring and Summer Work Parties, submitted by Larry Walter, summarized by editor

Turnout has been strong for work parties this spring and summer and much was accomplished: waterbars were cleared, blowdowns dispatched and shelters spruced up throughout our section of the Long Trail, which runs from Route 140 to Route 4. The Sargent Brook crossing in Shrewsbury has been studied east to west to north to south and upside down, but no solution has yet been found that satisfies all parties involved, so watch S&B for the next chapter in this continuing saga. On the Sherburne Pass Trail, the sink hole is once again attempting to devour the trail, so our crews have flagged a reroute, pending a look at the easement wording by the main club. Larry has also whacked the weeds at the Route 4 crossing, making the parking lot more visible and hopefully safer from vandals. Larry and Dave have been training a crew from the Allen Street School, a much-needed infusion of young energy behind the saws!



Chittenden Brook Trail, Rochester, July 16
Patches, Lisa and Allison at the Long Trail junction.

Sue Thomas, Editor
219 Church Street
Rutland, VT 05701



Upper Michigan Road, Pittsfield, August 14
Nancy enjoys a lunch break beside the brook.



KILLINGTON SECTION

Your Invitation to Join
Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

The Killington Section, based in Rutland, VT, is a chapter of the statewide Green Mountain Club. Membership in the Section includes membership in the Club. Members receive a membership card, the Club quarterly *Long Trail News*, and the Section quarterly *Smoke & Blazes* including a schedule of outings, trail work parties, and social events. Members also receive reduced rates on items from the Club bookstore and at most overnight sites served by caretakers. Membership dues help to maintain trails and shelters in the Killington Section (Route 140 to Route 4) and the Long Trail system throughout Vermont.

ANNUAL DUES:

Individual\$45
Family.....\$60
Senior/Student/Friend\$25

Contact us for information on life memberships and categories for giving at a higher level.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

I also enclose a contribution of \$_____ to the Kirk Trails and Shelters Fund supporting the Killington Section's maintenance and preservation of trails and shelters.

I would like information on volunteering for:

___trail work, ___shelter work, ___sign making, ___publications, ___leading outings, ___publicity, ___education

Make check payable to "GMC" and mail with this application to:

Green Mountain Club, 4711 Waterbury – Stowe Road, Waterbury Center, VT 05677

SEPTEMBER 2022- NOVEMBER 2022

Bring drinking water and a lunch. Wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the weather and be prepared for weather changes. Distances are round trip and are approximate, as are elevation gains. Hike leader has discretion to refuse anyone who is not adequately prepared. Proof of vaccination may be required. Call the hike leader for meeting place and time, and if you reserve a space and are unable to go, please let the leader know **ASAP** so that someone else can take your place. If you are sick or have any symptoms, please stay home and join us next time.

September 10, Saturday – LONG TRAIL DAY

Join GMC members, staff and section volunteers for a day of hiking trails all over Vermont. More details are available at greenmountainclub.org/longtrailday. Here in our area, volunteers will be handing out snacks and drinks to backpackers at the Rt. 140 crossing, contact **Wayne Krevetski, 802-282-2237, wkrevetski@hotmail.com**, if you'd like to participate in a little "trail magic." **Herb Ogden, 802-293-2510, hogden@vermontel.net** will lead a hike starting at Rt. 4 and heading south on the Long Trail to Pico, then descending via the Sherburne Pass Trail. It's a strenuous 7 miles, with some rewarding views. Full COVID vaccination, including boosters recommended by the CDC, required for the hike.

October 8, Saturday, rain date Sunday – HOGBACK MOUNTAIN, Goshen

An easy-to-moderate 2 ½ mile hike ending with a panoramic view. Vaccination required.

Sue Thomas, 802-773-2185

November 5, Saturday -- "PUT THE TRAIL TO BED" WORK PARTY

Join us for our last-of-the-season work day. Bring lunch, sturdy shoes and work gloves, tools will be provided. **Larry Walter, 802-775-3855 or Dave Coppock, 802-683-1614**

November 12, Saturday – EMERALD LAKE VISTA TRAIL, Dorset

Views west to the Taconics, old stone walls and a beautiful stand of evergreens. 2.4 miles, moderate, total climb 500 ft. Full COVID vaccination, including boosters recommended by the CDC required. **Herb Ogden, 802-293-2510, hogden@vermontel.net**

November 19, Saturday, rain date Sunday – SLATE HISTORY TRAIL, Bomoseen

A safe, easy walk for hunting season to explore the abandoned village of the West Castleton Slate Company. We'll poke around the ruins of the dam and the 1868 slate mill, then take a scenic walk along the lake shore to a quarry site, returning for lunch by the lake at the State Park. 2 miles, easy. Vaccination required. **Sue Thomas, 802-773-2185**

**“Now I see the secret of the making of the best persons.
It is to grow in the open air,
and to eat and sleep with the earth.”**

Walt Whitman



Sue Thomas, Editor
219 Church Street
Rutland, VT 05701



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Green Mountain Club, 4711 Waterbury – Stowe Road, Waterbury Center, VT 05677