

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB: KILLINGTON SECTION OUTINGS (www.gmckillington.org)

Return of the Schedule!

As things begin to get back to normal -- a new normal, that is -- I know we are all anxious to hit the trails. Prior to our section's annual meeting in April, I canvassed our hike leaders to see how everyone was feeling about group hikes. The overwhelming opinion at that time was as follows:

- a) It was too soon, with case count still quite high in Vermont and Rutland, and vaccinations well below the level needed for herd immunity.
- b) The guidelines are still quite restrictive -- with carpooling banned, parking will be a big issue, and being socially distanced and/or masked, plus not allowed to gather or linger to talk, made many of us wonder if it is worth it.
- c) It seemed too much responsibility falling on hike leaders, who have no wish to be the "enforcer" or deal with people who refuse to comply.

However, with vaccinations proceeding and cases continuing to decline, Herb and Sandy have offered to lead four trips this summer, with strict compliance to the current regulations. For the foreseeable future, all hikes will be by reservation only, in order to keep group size small. If you reserve a space and are unable to go, please let the leader know as soon as possible so that someone else can take your place. The hike leader will send you the current guidelines, which you must agree to comply with, will need contact information from you and may require proof of vaccination. As of now the state is requiring dogs to be leashed.

**Note from the outings chair: This is the best info we have as of press time, but the situation remains fluid. Restrictions may ease or tighten as circumstances demand, so check with the hike leader if you have questions.*

JUNE 2021-SEPTEMBER 2021

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 or not in compliance with covid-19 guidelines. Proof of vaccination may be required and all hikes until further notice are by reservation only. If you reserve a space and are unable to go, please let the leader know **ASAP** so that someone else can take your place. You must provide contact information to the leader when you reserve your space. As of press time, the State is asking that all dogs be leashed.

June 5, Saturday

Larry Walter 775-3855, Dave Coppock 683-1614

Upper-Elevation Work Day

Clear brush and water bars, paint blazes and cut blowdowns readying the upper-elevation stretches of the Long/Appalachian Trail for the summer hiking season. Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes. lunch, water and bug spray, Tools will be provided.

June 6, Sunday

Larry Walter 775-3855, Dave Coppock 683-1614

Trash pick-up day

Mill River south of the swinging bridge.

June 12, Saturday

Green Mountain Club Annual Meeting

Virtual again this year. See your Long Trail News for details or visit greenmountainclub.org.

July 17, Saturday

Herb Ogden 293-2510, hogden@vermontel.net

Green Mountain, Mt. Tabor

We'll hike the Long Trail to Little Rock Pond, climb Green Mountain with views east over the pond, descend through fine evergreen woods and return by the Green Mountain Trail and Connector. 6.9 miles, moderate, with 1050' total ascent.

July 31, Saturday

Sandy Bragg 492-2143, sanfordbragg@yahoo.com

Town Farm WMA, Shrewsbury

We'll explore the new 500+ acre Town Farm Wildlife Management Area, hiking on trails and old roads with a stop for lunch at Clarendon Shelter. Returning on the Long/Appalachian Trail. 4 miles, moderate.

August 21, Saturday

Herb Ogden 293-2510, hogden@vermontel.net

Quimby, Killington

We'll climb east on the Appalachian Trail to near Quimby Mountain, then follow an abandoned road to view the little Woodard cemetery and nearby huge cellar hole, with views toward Pico and Killington. We'll return by the Quimby Road. 4.5 miles, moderate, with 1300' total ascent, mostly in the first 1.25 miles.

September 5, Sunday

Herb Ogden 293-2510, hogden@vermontel.net

Burton Cemetery and Old Weston Road, Mt. Tabor.

From Devil's Den on Forest Road 10, we'll hike the abandoned Weston road that leads to the Burton Cemetery, last used in 1879. We'll continue west to Forest Road 10 and return on it. 3 miles, easy, with 300' total climb.