

Smoke & Blazes

Volume 76, Number 2

Killington Section, Green Mountain Club

Summer 2023



Ruth enjoying a beautiful day at Kent Pond last summer. Join us on Saturday, July 8 for a paddle at Lowell Lake State Park in Londonderry, see the hike schedule for details.

Killington Section Directors:

Term expiration 2024
Ruth Hare*
Amy Peacock
Maura Wildman

Term expiration 2025
Bill Cooke
Dave Coppock
Herb Ogden

Term expiration 2026
Wayne Krevetski*
Melissa Reichert*
Allison Henry

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

Smoke & Blazes:

Sue Thomas *Editor*

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:

Bruce Peacock *Director*
Ruth Hare *Alternate*

Web Site: www.gmckillington.org

Andrew & Isaac Jones *Web Masters*

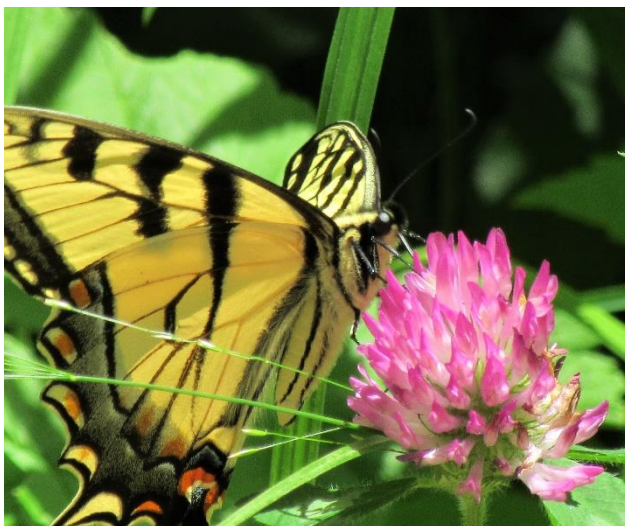
Contact us at: KillingtonSection@greenmountainclub.org

The Extra Mile

Our History Committee, consisting of **Herb Ogden, Dave Wright** and section Historian **Amy Peacock**, have completed their preliminary work on getting recognition for the Long Trail Lodge property at the top of Sherburne Pass as a state historic site. Their proposal has been approved by the Killington Section Board of Directors and sent on to GMC Executive Director Mike DeBonis. The stated goals are:

- Site to be accepted onto the Vermont State Register of Historic Places
- Resolve safety issues for public access
- Create an interpretive experience for visitors with signage
- Relocate the Sherburne Pass Trail back to its original route through the site

Now we wait for news of negotiations between the GMC and Killington Resort, current owners of the property. The committee will keep us informed as things progress, thanks for all their good work!



Also hard at work is the committee formed to revamp the Killington Section website. **Bill Cooke, Ruth Hare** and **Wayne Krevetski** have rewritten content to bring the site up to date and make it more inviting and user-friendly. It's still a work in progress, but when they have it all ironed out, Webmaster **Andrew Jones** will get it up and running, so keep an eye out for our new look.

Are **you** looking for a way to “go the extra mile” and get more involved in the Killington Section? Consider participating in a work day on the trail (see the hike schedule). We also need volunteers to help with Long Trail Day on Aug. 19, and someone to handle publicity and/or membership on an ongoing basis.

Killington Section Annual Meeting April 22, 2023

We'd hoped to hold our meeting in the Godnick Center gazebo, but high winds were too much even for this outdoorsy group, so indoors had to do. The meeting was called to order by President **Wayne Krevetski**, and after the usual formalities Treasurer **Maura Wildman** delivered her report, stating that income from dues has dropped somewhat since last year. Our section is not alone in this, and the GMC is offering outreach to help with recruitment. Anyone out there interested in being our section membership coordinator?

Trails & Shelters co-chairs **Larry Walter** and **Dave Coppock** were next up, and a lengthy discussion ensued regarding the squatter who has taken up residence at Pico Camp and harassed hikers. Headquarters has contacted local law enforcement, but they've had difficulty making contact to serve a no-trespass order. Dave will speak to Mike DeBonis about how to proceed. The hoped for and equally regretted removal of Cooper Lodge was also discussed, still being held up by the State, and the need for safe crossing options at Sargent and Gould Brooks.

Outings chair **Sue Thomas** reported a good variety of hikes are being offered, though participation remains on the low side. We discussed various ways of publicizing activities – social media, local news outlets etc., and the need to utilize our new email capabilities to send regular reminders. Sue also suggested pursuing coordinating with Rutland Rec's Come Alive Outside program, and hopes our members will participate to show prospective new members what a fun bunch we are!

Melissa Reichert then reported on her work with the Land Conservation Committee, which aims to protect the LT as well as a 1000' corridor, side trails, structures and parking areas. She informed us that there are still a few areas in our section that remain unprotected. Next, **Wayne** filled us in on the Trail Management Committee, which is monitoring the Telephone Gap project and the North Country Scenic Trail, which will eventually connect with the LT. How the Killington section will participate in Long Trail Day, August 19 this year, was also discussed.

Then it was time to elect new board members. **Sue Thomas** has completed two terms so could not be reelected, but **Allison Henry** has stepped in to take her place. **Wayne** and **Melissa** were reelected. Officer selection came next, with **Wayne Krevetski** remaining President; **Herb Ogden**, Vice President; **Melissa Reichert** continues as



The new KS Board of Directors: Herb, Ruth, Dave, Wayne, Maura, Amy, Melissa and Allison. Missing: Bill Cooke.

Secretary; and **Maura Wildman**, Treasurer. Thanks go to **Larry Walter** for his time as Delegate to the GMC Board, **Bruce Peacock** will be taking over that job. We adjourned then and stampeded to the refreshment table!

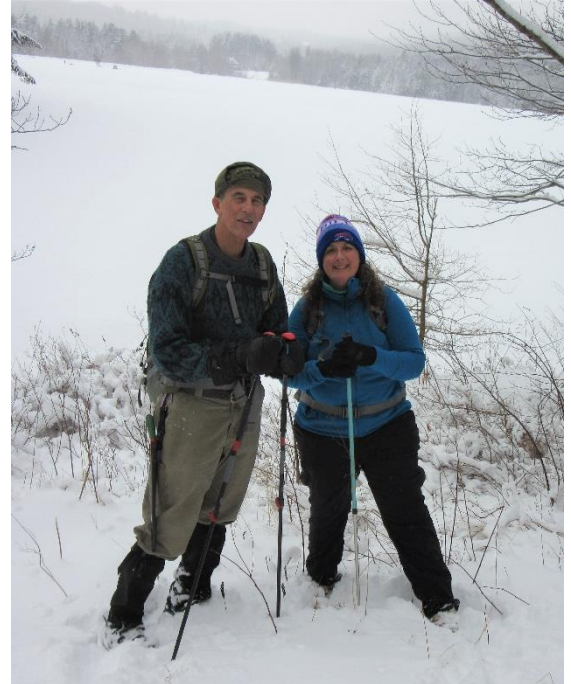


Our intrepid Trails & Shelters co-chairs Dave and Larry, always on the job.

Outing Reports

Not Spruce Peak January 22, 2023, by Allison Henry

The weekend before the planned hike to Spruce Peak via the Long Trail, my hiking buddy and I went to scope out the proposed route. We encountered a very treacherous stream crossing with fast-moving, unfrozen water about a mile south of the trailhead which took much bushwhacking and a gravity defying leap of faith to cross. The morning of the hike, I decided to give my two faithful attendees the option of a Plan B. Sue suggested the Sherburne Trails in Killington, and Larry and I agreed, so off we went on a short drive to Rt. 100. The Sherburne Trails were built less than 10 years ago and are maintained by the Killington Mountain Bike Club in conjunction with the Town of Killington and USFS. Although we had only crusty old snow in Rutland, we found fluffy new snow and a winter wonderland in the Killington woods, and our microspikes were needed. Like most bike trail networks, the Sherburne Trails consist of several miles of zigzaggy, interwoven trails with numbered trail junctions for reference. We encountered some neat boulders and rolling hills but no steep climbs. One of the sections led to a view of Kent Pond which was interesting to see from a different vantage point. I was optimistically wearing my Buffalo Bills hat in anticipation of the divisional playoff game against Cincinnati later in the day, and we ran into several different groups of hikers who were visiting Killington from elsewhere. The folks from Philly expressed their appreciation for both teams which was grudgingly allowed. The group from Massachusetts turned out to be Bengals fans and it was entertaining to watch them speed-snowshoe away from us in fear. The Sherburne Trails were well worth the visit, especially with such a short drive, and I am looking forward to checking the trails out again when the snow has melted. Perhaps July?



Weather or Not Cadwell Loop Trail, Pittsford, February 11, 2023, by Sue Thomas

This past winter it seemed Mother Nature was having a nervous breakdown – swinging wildly from -20 to 45 degrees overnight, producing more rain than snow, and starting the sap flowing a month earlier than usual. I’m sure the poor groundhog was as befuddled as the rest of us – six more weeks of this? Yikes!



Windchill of -40 degrees cancelled our annual hot dog roast, and the following week warm weather and rain followed by a freeze threatened to do in the Cadwell Loop hike. But the sun was shining, the sky was blue, and five of us bravely donned our spikes and set out on the icy trail.

This lovely short loop trail begins and ends at a covered bridge, and follows along Otter Creek and Furnace Brook, crossing fields with sweeping views of mountains and farms. In years with more snow, animal tracks are usually numerous, as well as otter slides along the riverbank. Well, no otters this year, but good company, bright sunshine and beautiful scenery made it a great hike.

Winter Wonderland Lost Pond, Chilson, NY, March 19, 2023, by Allison Henry

The trailhead for Lost Pond is adjacent to Putnam Pond Campground, which is adjacent to the Pharaoh Lake Wilderness outside Ticonderoga, NY. The Lost Pond Trail is a “lollipop” trail with about a mile and a quarter hike to the pond, a mile hike around the pond, and then a return to the trailhead on the same route. By the Saturday afternoon before the hike, I had had no takers, so I assumed I wouldn’t be going and made other important plans with my rabbits. Silly me. By Saturday evening I heard from Larry (of course) and Lisa (hooray!). I was going to cancel since I wasn’t really prepared, but then on Sunday morning I was like “What am I thinking, let’s go!”

It was a chilly but sunny, clear day in Rutland, but we found ourselves driving in near whiteout conditions on the final few miles to the trailhead. During the drive we had discussed whether we really needed snowshoes, as I had scoped out the hike a few weeks before and found about a foot of old, packed snow, perfect for microspikes. Once at the trailhead, in a deluge of icy wet snow pellets, I climbed the wall of snow piled between the parking lot and the trail and plunged into thigh-deep snow. “Snowshoes!” I called to my two fellow group members, who already had their snowshoes on and were several yards along the trail already. Back to the car I went, geared myself up physically and mentally, and set out. When I caught up to Lisa and Larry they were deep in conversation about tree identification. Lisa and I were captivated by Larry’s description of tree features, including needle and leaf shape, bark patterns, and limb placement. I learned several new-to-me tree names including the Cottonbarked Humdinger and the Sketchy Woolneedle. Larry broke trail for the entire trek to the pond. Lisa and I tried to step opposite Larry’s tracks to make a nice treadway for our hike out, but Larry’s tracks were so far apart that we would have had to deploy ropes and sheets of plywood, borrowing from crop circle designers.

We found Lost Pond and found it to be very sunny and very windy. We took a leisurely lunch break in a somewhat-sheltered area in the trees and afterward I decided unanimously that we would not be hiking all the way around the pond. Our hike back was much easier with our nicely broken trail. As we approached the trailhead we encountered a small group of hikers beginning their hike and we accepted their gratitude for our trail-breaking efforts. The new arrivals politely refrained from mentioning that I was the only one covered in snow, but I knew their suspicions would be realized when they saw the giant Allison-shaped holes along the packed trail.



Maple Fest Scramble on Watkins Hill Rd. East Poultney, March 27, 2023, by Diane Bargiel

The rescheduled date came through with great weather and some sunshine. Larry, Sue, Carol and I started at the old yellow school house and historic Ward family cemetery at the corner of Watkins Hill and what locals call “the loop road.” There was still snow up there, so once we hit the hemlock forests further up the road, it was fabulous. The snow melt made for an active and beautiful stream with its contours and little falls. I had gotten permission to hike on two very large parcels of land owned by friends and neighbors, and it had been a dream of mine to hike on the other side of the gorge up there. Oh, what fun it was to hike through the snow and hemlocks and get a completely different view of that gorge. What looks like a really big drop-off from the view of the class IV road was just a gradual decline from that other side. It’s quite an optical illusion!

Anyways, we finished by climbing up to the top of my friends’ property for a view of Birdseye and a few other hills. *(continued on p.6)*

All told, we walked about 4.7 miles, and I hope the other three had as much fun as I did. I think the only time I didn't have a smile on my face was when I ripped my jacket while climbing under a barbed-wire fence. Larry put a big bandaid on the booboo, and I patched it up at home with some liquid Fabric Fuse. If I had just walked a few yards further, I could have avoided the barbed wire altogether. Shortsighted thinking always causes problems! Anyways, to go exploring in a beautiful hemlock forest with that waterway and snow on a sunny day, and to share that with friends, was just the tops!

Trail Mix

The **Green Mountain Club Annual Meeting** will be held Saturday, June 17 at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center. It's a great opportunity to meet folks from the other sections and learn about trail issues and club activities. In addition to the meeting, there will be presentations, hikes in the area and meals available. See your Long Trail News or visit greenmountainclub.org/annual-meeting for registration and lodging information.

Our **upper-elevation work day** is coming up on Saturday, June 3, coinciding with National Trails Day. People all over the country will be out on the trails that day doing clean-up and maintenance in preparation for the summer hiking season. Here at home we'll be tackling the higher stretches of the Long/Appalachian Trail in the Killington area, and all are welcome to lend a hand. Contact **Larry Walter, 802-775-3855**, or **Dave Coppock, 802-683-1614**.

The **Long Trail Patrol** will be working in our section this season, building stone staircases and improving drainage between Jungle Junction and Cooper Lodge.

Do you have a favorite trail you'd like to share? We can always use new hike leaders to add variety to our schedule! If you'd like to give it a try, contact **Sue Thomas, 802-773-2185**, to find out what's involved and we'll get you onto the next schedule, which will run from September to the end of November.

Email update: We have installed a new email system which will enable us to utilize our contact list more efficiently – that is, once we learn the ropes! So, if you have requested to receive Smoke & Blazes electronically but are still getting a paper copy, please be patient while we coordinate our lists and get it rolling.

Long Trail Day will be Saturday, August 19 this year, combining fundraising with "trail magic" opportunities and spreading information about the Long Trail and GMC. As of press time the Killington Section has not decided on an activity – it could be guided hikes in the area, fundraising hikes, or passing out refreshments to hikers at a trailhead. If you'd like to be involved, contact **Wayne Krevetski, 802-282-2237**.

We're hoping to coordinate with the Rec Dept.'s **Come Alive Outside** program, leading a hike or two as both a community service, and hopefully to interest some folks in joining the GMC. If you'd like to help, contact **Sue Thomas, 802-773-2185**.



A pair of loons successfully raised a chick at Kent Pond last summer. Join us for a hike to this scenic spot on Sunday, August 6 and hopefully we'll catch a glimpse of this year's family. See the hike schedule for details.

Backtracking

The Deer Leap Chalet at Long Trail Lodge: Pico's first ski lodge

By David Wright

In 1923, Mortimer Proctor presented Long Trail Lodge at Sherburne Pass to the Green Mountain Club. He had commissioned Paul Thayer to design and build it as the GMC clubhouse, and it soon became a popular summer overnight stop for Long Trail hikers and for travelers on US Rte. 4. It was



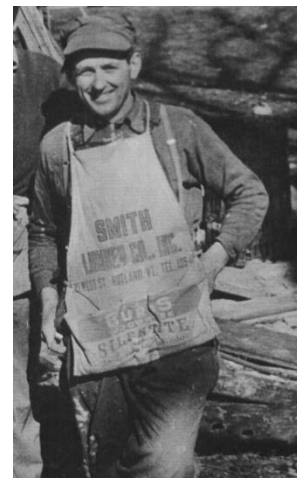
also a lunch, tea and dinner venue for diners from the Rutland area and beyond. By 1930 an enlarged dining room and kitchen had been added, several guest cabins built, and the GMC had leased the facilities to Treadway Inns, which was also operating a dozen resorts in historic and scenic New England and New York locations, including the Dorset Inn and Middlebury Inn in Vermont.

Nearby at Pico Mountain, Brad and Janet Mead developed and opened Pico Ski Area for the 1937-38 ski season, with a 1200 ft. rope tow, a 200 ft.-wide slope on Little Pico, and the two-mile Sunset Schuss from the top of Pico Mountain.

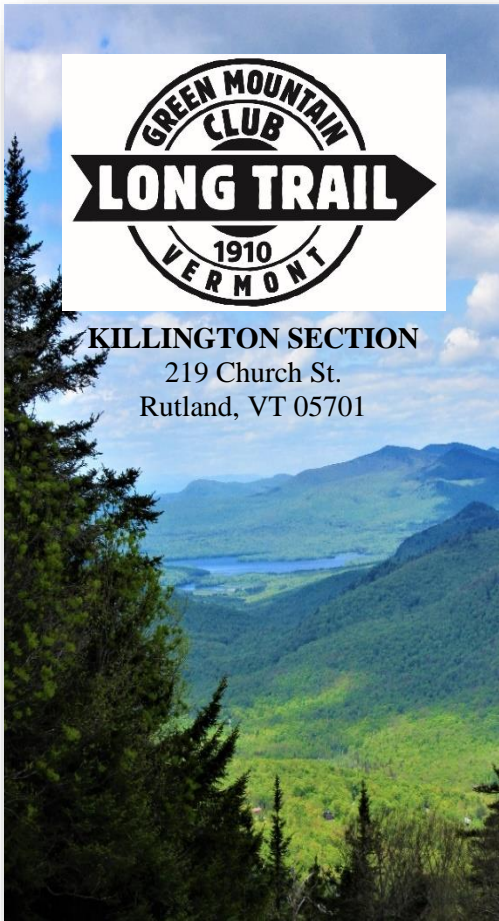
Grover Wright, manager at long Trail Lodge and friend of the Meads, kept the Lodge open for the first ski season, with limited success. Heating the place was almost impossible, water pipes froze repeatedly, snow blew through the single-board exterior walls. But skiers came and stayed in what was the first ski lodge in the Pico area and the second in Vermont (after a converted CCC camp at Stowe).

Encouraged by the GMC board, L.G. Treadway and the Meads, Wright approached Mortimer Proctor for funding to build a winterized chalet on the north side of Rte. 4. Proctor, who had leased the land for the ski area to the Meads, enthusiastically agreed. Wright turned to veteran Mendon builder Richard Sharp to construct the three-story hotel building, using Wright's sketched design. Sharp and his three sons, Glenn, Arnold and Fletcher, along with other tradesmen from the Rutland area, completed the building for the 1939-40 ski season. Now known as The Inn at Long Trail and operated by the McGrath family since the 1970s, it continues to welcome skiers and Long Trail hikers.

David Wright, the nephew of Grover Wright, serves on the Killington Section's History Committee, which is working to get State recognition for the Long Trail Lodge site across the road.



Builder Richard Sharp



KILLINGTON SECTION
 219 Church St.
 Rutland, VT 05701

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

