

President's Report, 2016

The Montpelier Section continued the custom of unfurling its 27-foot Long Trail banner every five years: on July 3, 2015, Morgan Irons, Steve Klein, Eric Seidel, Steve Bailey, and Andrew Nuquist carried it in the city's popular *Independence Day parade*. Joining them and other section members were outgoing GMC president Jean Haigh, incoming president John Page, and executive director Mike DeBonis. Participating in the parade is a fun way to draw attention to the protector and maintainer of the Long Trail: i.e. us.

Mike DeBonis joined us again at our fall *membership meeting* when he gave a special award to Doris Washburn for her many years of volunteer work. After the ceremony, George Longenecker showed slides of "Day Hikes in Utah's Red Rock Country." At our winter membership meeting, Mike Wetherell presented the second members' "All Star Show: Our Favorite Vermont Places." Both meetings were held at the T. W. Wood Gallery, a new venue for us.

Many section members attended the grand opening of the *Winooski River Footbridge* on June 12, 2015. It connects our section of the Long Trail south of the river with that of the Burlington Section to the north. In early fall, GMC staff members white-blazed the *Long Trail relocation* from the boat launch, west of the Bamforth Ridge parking lot, to the footbridge. (Steve Bailey reports on future relocation work.) This new section of the LT, with several stiles, skirts farmers' fields. In late fall hikers could walk past a big flock of white Thanksgiving turkeys and a brussels sprout "forest," surely a Long Trail first!

In February, the Montpelier Section hosted another program in the *James P. Taylor Outdoor Adventure Series*, "*They Call It Walking: Exploring the Trails of the United Kingdom*," presented by Andrew Nuquist and myself. The section donated the take from refreshments to the GMC.

On a more personal note, for this year's Women's History Month in March, the Vermont Historical Society asked me to prepare a talk on *women of the Long Trail*. To illustrate "Green Mountain Girls: Women of the Long Trail," I used historic photographs as well as more recent ones, and I was pleased to include slides of many Montpelier Section women.

In the past year, editor *Nancy Jordan* announced that members can now opt to read *Trail Talk* online, an alternative to receiving hard copies in the mail. About 40 members have so far chosen this cost-saving, and environmentally sensitive alternative. The section alerts members by e-mail when a new issue is available online in PDF format. Back issues are also posted.

Nancy is one of three indispensable, hard-working *appointed officers* of the Montpelier Section. Webmaster *John Buddington* has not encountered a computer problem he could not solve. *Kevin Ryan*, our publicity coordinator, labors every week of the year at posting section events to our e-mail list, to newspapers, and to Front Porch Forum. He has done this for the past seven years. Kevin also produces a trifold outing schedule that he and Christie Carter place at Onion River Sports.

I cannot say enough in praise of our appointed and *elected officers*: all are hard working and dedicated. Vice president *Kathy Gohl* has for the past three years compiled our outing schedule, a job that often involves nudging trip leaders into action. *Ken Hertz* has also come to the end of his allowed three terms as treasurer. Ken never puts off to tomorrow what he can do today—he keeps us on our toes. Secretary *Steve Lightholder* has a long history as section volunteer as does membership coordinator *Christie Carter*; I am glad both are eligible for additional terms. *Steve Bailey*, trails and shelters coordinator, scored points last fall when he brought teams of hard-working college students to our work hikes. Our representative on the GMC's board of directors, *Mike Wetherell*, is in his second 3-year term, keeping us well informed about board decisions. *Eric Seidel* is his alternate.

I have come to the end of my last term, having served a total of 8 years as president—in the 1980s, the 1990s, and for the past three years. I wish the new president, vice president, and treasurer welcome onboard. It feels good to welcome new officers with fresh ideas, while still having the benefit of returning officers and thus some continuity.

If I can be allowed two wishes for the future of the Montpelier Section, it is that (1) we can convince more members that leading section outings is a rewarding experience; and that (2) we can find young parents who can revive our Young Adventurers Club (YAC). It has been ailing lately, and as our YAC was the first within the GMC, it would be sad to see it disappear.

Reidun Nuquist
President