

Outings Report, 2015

From April 2014 through March 2015, GMC Montpelier members led and attended 66 section events. Of these outings, 4 were work hikes, 1 was a YAC event, and 19 were Trekkers events. The total also included 29 hikes and road walks (the same number as last year), 2 paddles (compared with 3 last year), 13 bike trips (4 last year), 7 snowshoes (4 last year), and 11 ski trips (8 last year). In addition, 6 events were canceled because of bad weather or insufficient interest. The significant growth in the number of bike and ski trips is thanks mainly to the energetic Trekkers. They have certainly brought a renewed vigor to the outings calendar.

An unusual event this year was Manny Garcia's history walk last April in Moretown, complete with old photographs of now-defunct dams and power plants. Manny will be doing another history walk this year, on May 7, in East Montpelier. Another was a moonlight snowshoe, led by Jill Aspinall, in early February. Some of the most adventurous events this year were led once again by Phyllis Rubenstein, who, on a cold February day, took a group of 5 cross-country skiing from Highland Lodge to Craftsbury, and also, in high bug season, led a hike up Porter and Cascade Mountains in the Adirondacks.

Again, Mike Wetherell and Lexi Shear of the Young Adventurers Club led the most popular outing, an April ramble to the Grand Lookout in Barre Town Forest, which attracted 21 kids and parents. Among the older adventurers, Ken Hertz led the most popular trip, with 14 people hiking up Spruce Mountain in mid-October. A close second was Mary Garcia's trip in mid-January to the Craftsbury Touring Center with 12 folks. A tie for third with 11 participants was George Longenecker and Cynthia Martin's wildflower hike to Little River State Park in May, and Steve Lightholder's ramble on Millstone Hill in Barre. Generally, however, this year's average attendance per trip was 5.5, with a median attendance of 5.

Reidun and Andrew Nuquist far and away led the most trips with 20; Mary Garcia and Mary Smith were second with a total of 10 bike and ski trips.

Mary Garcia was the most active participant: she went on 11 trips (aside from the 10 she led); Mary Smith 10; Steve Lightholder and Michael Chernick 9; Manny Garcia, Anne Miller, Andrew Nuquist, Reidun Nuquist, and a new member, Steve Bailey, 8.

We thank all of our trip leaders and trail workers. We especially thank trail workers, who this year included Steve Bailey, John Buddington, Michael Chernick, Gordie Hall, Ken Hertz, Morgan Irons, Steve Lightholder, Robert Lorenz, George Longenecker, Andrew Nuquist, Reidun Nuquist, Alan Paschell, Eric Seidel, and Pat Travers, among others. Trip leaders in 2014–15 included Jill Aspinall, Heather Bailey, Steve Bailey, Charlene Bohl, John Buddington, Michael Chernick, Paul DeLuca, Manny Garcia, Mary Garcia, Kathy Gohl, Ken Hertz, Fred Jordan, Steve Lightholder, George Longenecker, Cynthia Martin, Andrew Nuquist, Reidun Nuquist, George Plumb, Phyllis Rubenstein, Donna Russo, Mary Smith, Eric Seidel, Lexi Shear, and Mike Wetherell.

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