



GMC Montpelier Section Annual Meeting

4 May 2019

Schedule

- 4:30 Optional Walk (Phyllis Rubenstein)
- 5:30 Social Hour
- 6:00 Potluck Dinner
- 7:00 Business Meeting
- 8:00 Presentation: Zack Porter of Northeast Wilderness Trust talks on ***How much is enough?***

Agenda

Welcome: Steve Bailey

Guests: Mike DeBonis, GMC Executive Director; John Page, ex-President.

Old Business

1. Approval of 2018 annual meeting minutes
2. President's Report: Steve Bailey
3. Treasurer's report and proposed budget for FY 2020: Morgan Irons
4. Trails and Shelters Coordinator's report: Alan Paschell
5. Webmaster's report: John Buddington
6. Membership Coordinator's report: Linda Trono
7. Outings report and annual awards: Ken Hertz

New Business

1. Nominating committee report, election of officers (See last page for proposed slate.)
2. Other new business, announcements

Elected Officers 2018-19

President: Steve Bailey (*)
Vice President: Ken Hertz
Treasurer: Morgan Irons (*)
Secretary: Phyllis Rubenstein
Membership Coordinator: Linda Trono
Trails & Shelters Coordinator: Alan Paschell

Appointed Officers

Newsletter editor: Nancy Jordan
Publicity Coordinator: Kevin Ryan
Webmaster: John Buddington

GMC Director: George Longenecker; Alternate Director: Andrew Nuquist

(*) Third consecutive term of office

*Web Site gmcmontpelier.org
Sign up for members_list*

*Newsletter: Trail Talk
Sign up for electronic delivery*

**MINUTES OF THE
MONTPELIER SECTION ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 28, 2018**

The Montpelier Section of the Green Mountain Club held its 63rd annual meeting on April 28, 2018, at the North Branch Nature Center in Montpelier. Six people went on a trail walk with Phyllis Rubenstein before the meeting.

Following a social time and potluck dinner, Section President Steven Bailey called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. in traditional fashion by banging a wooden spoon on the old camp coffee pot. Steve welcomed 36 members and special guests Michael DeBonis, GMC Executive Director, and John Page, GMC President and Montpelier Section Member.

John said he will be leaving the club in great shape when he steps down in June. The board is streamlined and operating more efficiently. Last year the board developed a Five-Year Strategic Plan, which includes raising money to upgrade the northern section of the trail, replace older shelters, reach out to hikers under 30, and develop a GPS-based Long Trail interactive guide, which would provide a social media forum, allow communication between trail maintainers and staff, and allow hikers to report problems. The plan also provides for a major capital campaign as there has not been one in 10 years (except for building the Winooski Bridge). The club wants to boost its endowment by adding 2 ½ to 3 million dollars to the existing 4.6 million dollar fund.

John also remembered Dave Hardy, the Director of Trail Programs, who passed away in November, calling him the mastermind of the trails. Keegan Tierney has been hired to fill the vacant position.

Old Business

1. Ken Hertz moved to approve the minutes of the 2017 meeting. Doris Washburn seconded the motion. The motion passed.
2. Steve Bailey, in his president's report, highlighted events of the past year, including two successful membership meetings. The first meeting featured several club members who spoke about the best and worst trails in the U.S. and abroad. At the second meeting, Lexi Shear and her daughter Linnaea, talked about their Long Trail End-to-End hike in the summer of 2017. We also hosted Susan Koch's presentation at the Taylor Series of her trip to the Arctic Circle. Steve noted the publication of Reidun Nuquist's Century of Long Trail Guidebooks: A Retrospective; thanked everyone who participated in work hikes, one of which had a record number of 14 participants; acknowledged the work of the officers and committee chairpersons; encouraged members to volunteer to lead trips; and noted that the Annual Main Club Meeting will be June 1 to 3 at the Hulbert Outdoor Center in Fairlee. Next year our section is co-hosting the meeting with the Sterling Section so by attending this year, we'll learn what we need to do as hosts next year. Steve also reported that the section has been trying to attract younger people. He has posted his hikes on the Vermont Trail Trekkers Meet-Up group, resulting in several non-members attending his events.

Mike Debonis told us that over 900 people “hiked” the Long Trail at the Berlin Mall this year, and the mall has donated \$10,000 to the Club! The Mall will sponsor this event again next year.

3. Treasurer Morgan Irons reported that we have greater income and lower expenses than expected. Our funds are in a checking account, savings account, and CD. The Executive Committee decided we did not need to keep the money in the CD as we also keep 150% of our projected operating expenses on hand. Using the funds from the CD and about \$800 from the checking account, we can contribute \$4000 to the Club this year. We will also keep some money for expenses for the Club Annual Meeting next year. Dana Lawrence asked what costs a host may incur. Mike DeBonis said that a host typically makes a donation of \$500 to \$1000 and may provide the Friday evening dinner. Morgan noted that there is a \$21 penalty for early cash in of the CD. Nancy Thomas moved to accept the Treasurer’s report. Michael Chernick seconded the motion, and it passed.

4. Steve reported that Trails and Shelters Coordinator Andrew Nuquist is home after hip replacement surgery, but he submitted a report. On his behalf Steve thanked the people who participated in work hikes and served as trail and shelter adopters. Steve reported that there will be a work hike on May 19 with the Burlington Section to relocate the trail near Barnes Camp. He also reported that there will be a work hike on May 12 to re-route around the “big dig,” a ditch which needs to be shoveled out every year, on the Bamforth Ridge Trail.

5. Webmaster John Buddington reported that 15 years ago, at the home of Fred and Nancy Jordan, members started talking about developing the section website originated by Ed Loewenton. Dave Blumenthal contributed to the design of the website. Ken Hertz has put old reports on line. Now we can access reports and photos and even search reports using keywords. John Page noted that Ken also scanned all the Long Trail News for the Main Club. John Buddington reported that Kevin Ryan, Publicity Coordinator, sends out weekly schedules of section events. Steve noted that our section events are available on the Main Club calendar and if you subscribe to google calendar, they will pop up. Ken reported that we can locate all editions of the Long Trail News and the Long Trail Guides on our website at gmcmontpelier.org/Archive_Publications/index.htm.

6. Membership Coordinator Linda Trono reported that the membership is down a bit with 320 memberships and 478 voting members, mainly due to lapsed memberships.

7. Steve reported that last year, we had a total of 53 trips and 123 participants. Prizes were awarded to John Buddington, Ken Hertz, Andrew Nuquist, and Alan Paschell, who went on all four work hikes; George Plumb who participated in the most trips and was the most active trip leader; Phyllis Rubenstein (as a runner up as an active trip leader?), and Steve and Heather Bailey who led the most popular trip. Inadvertently omitted from the list of trip leaders in the Outings Report were George Plumb and co-leader Charlene Bohl. Nancy Thomas won the door prize. Steve encouraged people to volunteer to lead a trip.

New Business

1. Steve reported for the Nomination Committee (consisting of Charlene Bohl, Cynthia Martin, and Andrew Nuquist), and presented the following slate of officers: President, Steve Bailey; Vice president, Ken Hertz; Membership Coordinator, Linda Trono; Treasurer, Morgan Irons; Secretary, Phyllis Rubenstein; Trails and Shelter Coordinator, Alan Paschell; GMC Director, George Longenecker; and Alternate GMC Director, Andrew Nuquist. There were no nominations from the floor. Ann Burcroff moved to approve the slate. Michael Chernick seconded the motion, and it passed.

2. Steve reported that the Executive Committee has recommended that the bylaws be changed to allow the annual meeting to occur in April or May (rather than solely in April). Michael Chernick moved to approve the bylaw change. Nancy Thomas seconded the motion, and it passed.

3. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Following adjournment, Michael DeBonis presented a program about his retro hike on the Long Trail in June 2017, entertaining us with stories and slides about his two-week hike from the Massachusetts border to Johnson, the northern terminus in 1917. He made his pack; wore wool clothes, leather shoes, and leather hat; slept under a waterproof cotton tarp in a wool blanket; carried water in a canteen; and ate a lot of bread, cheese, meats, and canned anchovies. He said he'd do a retro hike again!

Respectfully submitted on April 30, 2018
Phyllis Rubenstein, Secretary

President's Report, 2019

This has been another successful year for the Montpelier section of the GMC. We have had three membership meetings to attract new members. In November Phyllis Rubenstein gave a wonderful presentation to a packed house at the TW Wood Gallery. Her topic was a recent trip of hers where she hiked "The Walker's Haute Route: From Chamonix to Zermatt". In January new arrival Zack Porter of the Northeast Wilderness Trust gave a great slide show about hiking off the beaten path in Montana, where he lived for several years before moving to Montpelier. Zack also filled the room to capacity. In March Andrew Nuquist attracted a big crowd to see pictures of his latest trip (out of four he has made) on a cruise ship following the Hurtigruten (fast route) from Bergen, Norway all the way to the Russian border. These three presentations combined to easily break our attendance records from past years. Thank you Phyllis, Zack and Andrew.

Trail work continues to be a focus for a core of dedicated people. Thanks to everyone who has participated in our spring and fall work hikes. We had very good numbers this past year on our work hikes, especially for the trail relocation around Barnes Camp last May.

We could not succeed as an organization without our elected and appointed officers. I wish to recognize the contributions of Vice President Ken Hertz, Trails and Shelters Coordinator Alan Paschell, Treasurer Morgan Irons, Secretary Phyllis Rubenstein, and Membership Coordinator Linda Trono. They are essential to the workings of our section.

Our appointed officers have done a wonderful job. I want to thank Nancy Jordan for editing the Trail Talk for the past 20 years. Kevin Ryan has been tirelessly publicizing our events for the past 10 years. We're not sure how long John Buddington has been our webmaster supreme, but he has shepherded the website through several revisions, ably assisted by Ken Hertz.

This year the GMC club is having its 109th annual meeting at the beautiful Windridge Tennis and Sports Camp in Roxbury, VT, about 20 min south of here. The weekend starts on the afternoon of Friday, May 31, but the main events are the business meeting Saturday morning followed in the afternoon by a variety of hikes, a bike ride, and a paddle on the Waterbury Reservoir. State botanist Bob Popp will also be leading a wildflower hike. You may stay for dinner or even stay overnight in a cabin or your own tent if you choose. There is a Saturday night speaker, photographer and naturalist Sue Morse, whose talk is titled "Wild Cousins of Our Best Friends: Wolves, Coyotes and Foxes." Please visit the GMC website, greenmountainclub.org, for more details or to register.

This year the Montpelier section is hosting the annual meeting. Much of the work has already been done – selecting a venue, planning outings, and getting a speaker. We have leaders for all of the outings. However, we will be needing volunteers on the weekend. The registration table needs to be staffed on Friday evening and Saturday morning. We will need one or two people to direct traffic on Friday and Saturday, someone to staff the silent auction table, and a small cleanup crew for the Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday morning. Please contact me if you can help with any of those jobs.

I would like to encourage people who have not led a trip before to seriously consider leading a trip to one of their favorite locations. It is a great way to meet new people and have fun at the same time!

Steve Bailey
President

INCOME

FY19 explanations

	2018 Actual	2019 Budgeted	2019 Actual	2020 Proposed
Dues	4,761.25	4,000	4,253.75	4,000
Donations	-	-	0.00	0
Taylor series	-	-	0.00	0
Interest	56.53	2	1.67	2
Close out CD			3,166.50	
Product sales	-	-		
Total Income	4,817.78	4,002	7,421.92	4,002

EXPENSES

	2018 Actual	2019 Budgeted	2019 Actual	2020 Proposed
Annual meeting	270.06	400	192.29	350
Communications	1,070.25	1,500	1,164.72	1,500
Taylor series	-	30	0.00	30
Trails & shelters	75.35	200	88.99	200
Website	163.88	150	0.00	210
Training	170.00	250	0.00	250
Misc. supplies, postage	-	100	0.00	100
Additions	-	200	150.00	200
Total operating budget	1,749.54	2,830	1,596.00	2,840
Donation to GMC	-	4,000	4,000.00	4,000
Total Expenses	1,749.54	6,830	5,596.00	6,840

Space rental, supplies, etc.

TT printing & postage (879.72), section meeting rentals (285.00)

Tools

2018 payment was for two years

Hiking fee to VT Fish & Wildlife (50), donation to The Bridge (100)

FY19 was \$1,234 under budget

For FY20: 2,000 toward annual meeting & 2,000 unrestricted

ACCOUNTS

Account balances end FY19

VSECU Checking	5,941.63
VSECU Savings	1,671.80
VSECU CD	0.00 (closed out)
Total Cash Assets	7,613.43

TREASURER'S NARRATIVE

The Montpelier Section typically keeps on hand 150% of the projected operating budget for the upcoming fiscal year (\$2,840 x 150% = \$4260 for FY20). We donate surplus funds to the GMC for their ongoing work, sometimes earmarked for a special project. We are hosting the 2019 GMC Annual Meeting, and realize that cost has been a barrier for some would-be attendees in the past, so we would like to specify that half of our FY20 GMC donation be used to reduce the cost to individual attendees. This should make this year's gathering accessible to more of the GMC membership.

Respectfully submitted,
Morgan Irons, Treasurer

Annual Trail Report

Last year's Spring work hikes accomplished opening the planned reroutes both in Smuggler's Notch and on the Bamforth Ridge Trail. In Smuggler's Notch a new section of trail was opened north of Barnes Camp creating a new short loop hike with the completion of the lower section of trail joining the new boardwalk. On the Bamforth Ridge Trail a new section was opened just beyond the bridge avoiding the continued maintenance of the "Big Dig" and rejoining the old trail as it parallels the cascades. Many thanks to all our volunteers and especially Steve Bailey and John Buddington who were present for all four work hikes. The fall work crews had more general maintenance keeping them busy with removal of blowdowns and the clearing of drainage. Thanks also to Dana Robinson and Nancy Thomas who have adopted the Bamforth Ridge Shelter and worked to secure the water supply after a dry summer. Looking forward, I would like to spend some time reblazing in Smuggler's Notch where necessary and cleaning out the ladders beyond the shelter on The Bamforth Ridge Trail. If there is not enough crew to accomplish this during our scheduled work hikes this Spring, I'll give a shout out to round up volunteers for dates later in the summer season. To my knowledge at present there are not other pressing issues at hand.

Alan Paschell
T & S Coordinator

Scheduled Work Hikes

May 11, Saturday - Duxbury. Bamforth Ridge. All abilities welcome and needed. Spring walk-thru and routine pre-hiking season trail work on the LT south of Winooski River to Bamforth Ridge Shelter, and farther south on Camel's Hump. Conditions permitting. Bring lunch, water, and work gloves. Wear sturdy boots and work clothes. Tools provided. Meet at MHS at 8:00 A.M. Contact Leader: Alan Paschell, dreamon@myfairpoint.net

May 18, Saturday - Stowe. All abilities welcome and needed. Spring walk-thru and routine pre-hiking season trail work on the LT north of Barnes Camp to Sterling Pond or farther toward Chilcoat Pass, the Sterling Pond Trail from Smugglers' Notch, and the Barnes Camp Loop from the picnic area. Bring lunch, water, and work gloves. Wear sturdy boots and work clothes. Tools provided. Meet at MHS at 8:00 A.M. Leader: Alan Paschell, dreamon@myfairpoint.net

Web Site Report

Our website, gmcmontpelier.org, continues to support the activities of the section. In particular:

1. 71 trip reports were posted (58 in 2018 and 13 in 2019).
2. Minutes of the Executive Committee and Annual Meeting were posted.
3. The Mailing List ('Dada') was used for weekly activity mailings by the Publicity Coordinator.
4. Archives: Almost all of the hard-copy archives are now available on the web site, including trip reports going back to 1955. You can also find all issues of *Trail Talk* and the main club's *Long Trail News* and LT Guides.

Several changes were made to the web site during the year:

1. The 'banner' (the boilerplate on the top of every page) was made smaller and the navigation simplified. The navigation options are shown on the next page.
2. The events on our Calendar are now exported to the GMC calendar using a 'download' option.
3. Usage data is now collected. Website maintenance usage can now be separated from membership usage. Summarizing the data is a project for 2019.
4. Random photos are selected daily from 1500 photos, most of which are linked to trip reports.
5. The 'Current Events' page lists recent reports and the events scheduled for the near future. It shows newly-added reports as well as cancelled events. The calendar includes references to changes. It is rebuilt several times a day and includes a selection of 'random photos'.
6. The 'Reports' page lists reports submitted in the current year and the previous year. It has links to all reports on the site. The index is updated nightly and presents the daily list of 'random photos'.

Plans for 2019

1. Submit reports will resize photos before uploading them. This will reduce the time it takes to upload a photo.

John Buddington, Webmaster

Green Mountain Club ▶ Montpelier Section

See [GMC Archives](#) for all
Long Trail News and Long Trail Guides.

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Membership Report -- March 2019 -- Montpelier Section

Our membership has held steady through recent years, at well over 300 memberships (and over 450 voting members).
Encourage a friend to join you on a hike and become a member.

Membership Counts

Category	2010 (Nov)	2011 (Nov)	2012 (Mar)	2013 (Mar)	2014 (Mar)	2015 (Mar)	2016	2017	2018 (Mar)	2019 (Mar)
Business-\$100		1	2	2	1					
Business-\$150			1	3	3	3	2	3	3	2
Business-\$250					1	1	2	1		1
Complimentary*	10	12	13	12	11	11	10	6	5	6
Defender	3	5	6	5	10	21	23	20	18	18
Dual Life	4	5	5	5	6	7	8	8	7	7
Family Transfer										
Family	116	123	137	137	136	133	131	119	94	100
Friend	31	24	26	35	31	39	35	40	39	41
Group						1	2	1		
Guardian	1	1	1		2	1	2	3	4	3
Individual	132	138	155	132	128	136	135	130	118	105
Life	11	11	10	9	9	10	10	10	10	9
Protector	12	14	19	19	11	4	4	6	9	8
Sponsor Transfer										
Sponsor	7	12	11	6	6	6	7	4	12	14
Steward		2	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	2
Memberships (total)	327	348	388	367	356	375	373	352	320	349
Voting Members (total)	N/A**	515	576	558	543	571	561	519	478	498

*We no longer offer complimentary memberships as a way of receiving our quarterly newsletter for free because *Trail Talk* is now available online at our website. We do, however, continue to send complimentary copies of *Trail Talk* to presidents of other GMC sections, all section newsletter editors, and to the GMC archives at the Vermont Historical Society.

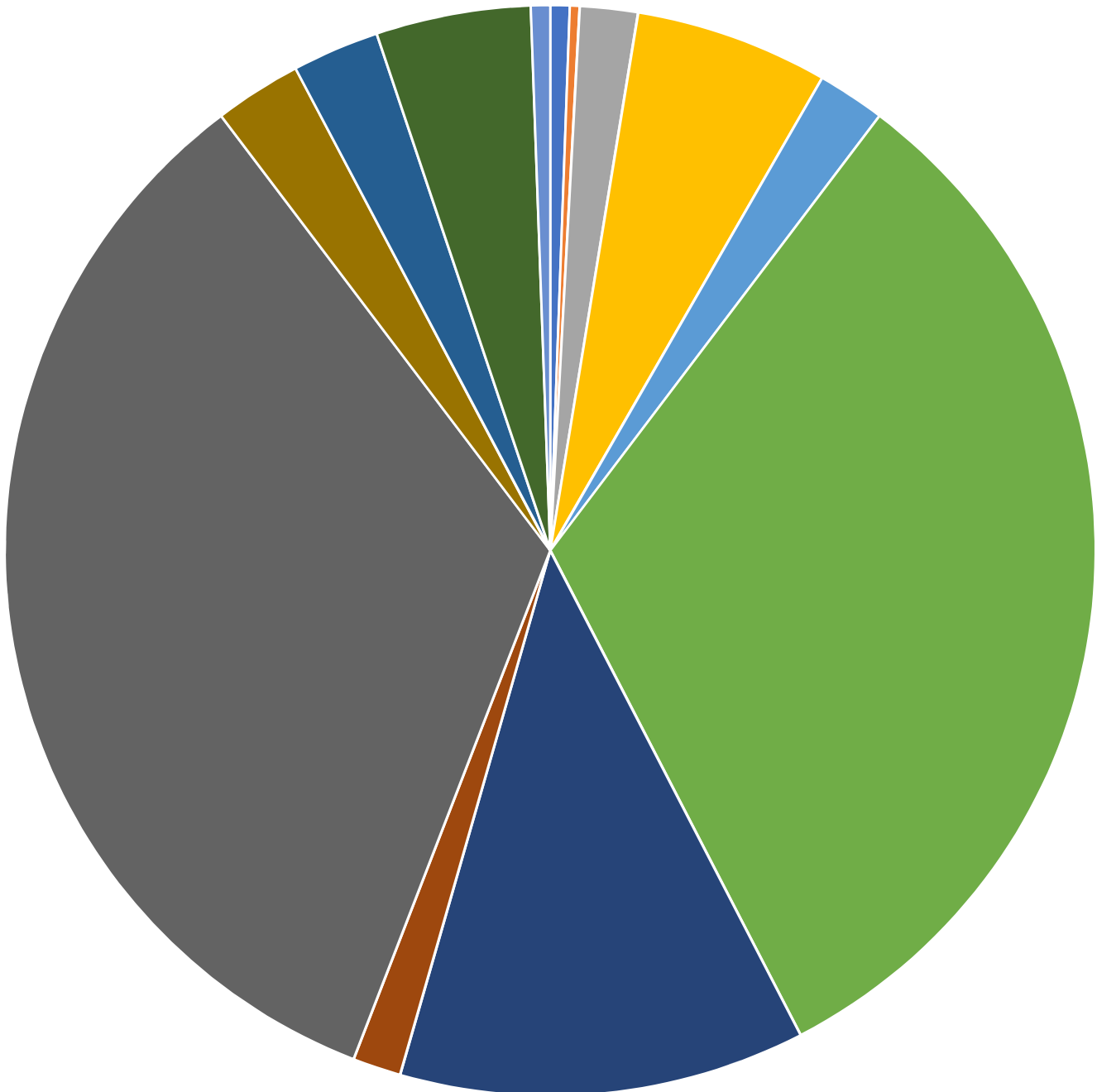
** Not available

Section Business Members are:

Old Stagecoach Inn
Stowe Cabins
West Hill House B&B

Linda Trono, Membership Coordinator

Montpelier Membership by Category
349 total memberships
APRIL 2019



■ Business \$150 -- 2	■ Business \$250 -- 1	■ Complimentary -- 6	■ Defender -- 20
■ Dual Life -- 7	■ Family -- 112	■ Friend -- 42	■ Guardian -- 5
■ Individual -- 118	■ Life -- 9	■ Protector -- 9	■ Sponsor -- 16
■ Steward -- 2			

Outings Report, 2019

1 March 2018 through 31 March 2019

The General Membership Meetings at the T. W. Wood Gallery have been very popular. In November, Phyllis Rubenstein presented *The Walker's Haute Route: From Chamonix to Zermatt*. In January, Zack Porter (tonight's speaker) talked about *Hiking off the Beaten Path*. And in March, Andrew Nuquist talked about a Norwegian coastal voyage. I should add that George Longenecker held a poetry reading at the T. W. Wood as part of Poem City.

Number of scheduled (*) outings

- 106 Trips scheduled
- 19 Trip leaders (see list below - and think about adding your own name to the list)
- 4 Work hikes
- 7 Walks
- 27 Hikes
- 40 Bike Rides (featured leaders: George Plumb and Mary Garcia/Mary Smith)
- 10 Paddles
- 12 Ski or snowshoe
- 5 Young Adventurer Club trips (YAC was started by Dave Blumenthal and Lexi Shear, and has spread to several other sections)
- 1 Trail Magic Day, where we try to show hikers that the Green Mountain Club wants them to join

(*) Both Trail Talk and last-minute additions to our Calendar. See gmcmontpelier.org/archives.

From reported trips (78 were reported, others were cancelled and a couple just not reported)

- George Plumb, Mary Garcia, Phyllis Rubenstein, and Steve and Heather Bailey led the most outings
- Denise Bergeron and Bill Frantz participated in the most outings they did not lead
- The April 21 2018 Walk around Berlin Pond led by Mary Garcia and Mary Smith had 11 participants.
- More than 110 names appear as participants.

Our Trip Leaders:

Alan Paschell, Anne Ferguson, Charlene Bohl, Cynthia Martin, George Longenecker, George Plumb, Heather Bailey, Hope Crifo, John Buddington, John Page, Kevin Ryan, Mary Garcia, Mary Smith, Michael Chernick, Morgan Irons, Nancy Schulz, Phyllis Rubenstein, Sharon Plumb, Steve Bailey

Add your name to the list! Email vicepresident@gmcmontpelier.org to say you're interested in leading an outing.

Nominating Committee Report

Nominating Committee Report to the 2019 Annual Meeting

We nominate the following candidates for the following offices for election at the Section's 2019 Annual Meeting:

President: Andrew Nuquist (first term)
Vice President: Ken Hertz (second term)
Membership Coordinator: Linda Trono (third term)
Treasurer: Steve Bailey (first term)
Secretary: Phyllis Rubenstein (third term)
Trails and Shelter Coordinator: Alan Paschell (second term)

These one-year offices have a three term limit.

We have no nomination for the expected vacancy as GMC Board of Directors Alternate Section Representative.

Our GMC Director (George Longenecker) is in his first three-year term; two terms are permitted.

The nominating committee:

Charlene Bohl
John Buddington
Kathryn Gohl

Appointed officers ([re]appointed annually by the elected officers) have no term limits:

Newsletter editor: Nancy Jordan
Publicity Coordinator: Kevin Ryan
Webmaster: John Buddington