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Please direct all inquiries regarding the Club to the President.

The Trail Talk is published four times a year, Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. Activity schedules are included in each issue. Reports of activities and articles must be sent to the editor no later than the tenth day of the month of the publication. Send articles to:

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### **Membership**

When filling out the form to join or renew, circle the **Connecticut Section** on the application to receive, at no extra charge, the Connecticut Section's newsletter and activity schedule.

### **Dues:**

Individual Adult	\$45.00
Family	\$60.00
Senior (70 or older) or Limited Income	\$25.00
Sponsor (Individual/Family)	\$75.00

Send annual dues to:  
The Green Mountain Club  
4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road  
Waterbury Center, VT 05677-9904  
(802) 244-7037, <http://www.greenmountainclub.org>

## **HIKE LEADERS**

**All reports must be sent in a Word Document in Times Roman 11. Reports sent from I-phones or I Pads will be returned. Thank you!**  
**Carol A. Langley & Celia Campbell-Mohn**

**Thank you for your Donation to the CT. Section Leslie & Richard Chandler. A big thank to Leslie who spent a morning this past summer helping me to get years of Trail Talk in order.**

As Jim Robertson has mentioned in his President's Message I plan to step down as your editor of Trail Talk after our next issue which will be sent out in Dec.

The job is not hard but time consuming. Reports are sent to me by most activity leaders shortly after they have held the activity. A format is set up and reports can be brought in very easily. The President's Message is also brought in to the header page. Dennis Himes our V.P. of Activities sends a ready to go activity schedule.

Trail Talk cut off is the 10<sup>th</sup> of Mar. June, Sept. and Dec. to allow time to get all reports and activities in. This allows time to get newsletter printed and some copies mailed at least 15 days before the first activity.

Yes, we are still mailing some copies as we have members who are our Arm Chair Supporters and do not have computers but enjoy reading the activity reports with a cup of tea or coffee in their easy chair. I will help whoever steps forward with the processing of the issue for Apr. – June of 2018. I would also encourage them to help with the issue that will be produced in Dec. It is basically following the format that has been set in place.

Please consider stepping up to help your section continue your newsletter.

Thank you, Carol your Trail Talk Editor!!!!!!

## **Hartman Park Day Hike** **Sat. May 13, 2017**

This delightful hike started by walking through fairy land, a small section of the trail near the beginning that is decorated with an assortment of fairies. I was a bit sorry I hadn't brought anything to add. We had a fun group which proved useful by the time we reached Laughing Rock.

There Linda decided to share a few "Don" stories about the wonderful cars she had the honor to drive through the years and believe me we were all laughing at her stories. From there we looked for Turtle Rock, next on the list of interesting rock formations in the park. Indeed when we found it, there was a formation at the top that looked just like a turtle. Our final find was Snout Rock which was featured in the 50 hikes book.

We came out to a picnic area that was set up like a classroom with a chalk board, chalk and erasers. Everything you need for an outdoor classroom. Having nice picnic tables there, we stopped and took a lunch break. We learned about several wild plants in the forest, as Tom Adams is really good at identification of plants. I always try to remember one plant on any given trip and this time it was lady slippers and wintergreen. There was also this neat stone fireplace in the middle of no-where. I just thought we had to stop and grill something there so I'm thinking we just may have to go back another time to do that. Anyway this is a delightful place to hike. We clocked in around 5 miles.

Hikers: Mandy Brink, Tom and Patty Adams, Don and Linda Hagstrom, Mike Shaw, George Jackson, Sarah O'Hare, Gary Griffin, Darry Ruiters

## **Bluff Point Kayaking** **Sun-June 25, 2017**

It was the perfect day to paddle. The temperature was perfect and there was a nice breeze on the water. Our first stop was a sandbar with much protected area for the Piping Plover. We walked around to the end, pulled our kayaks to the other side and paddled on.

We found a fabulous place for lunch on an island with a small protected cove. We sat on the rocks and just enjoyed the peace of the ocean while we ate our food. On our paddle back, we spotted a sandy beach full of little birds with bright orange beaks. Later I found out that they were American Oystercatchers. Our paddle back was a bit more work since the tide had shifted but delightful just the same. We all agreed it has been a great day on the water.

Paddlers: Mandy Brink, Mike Shaw, Dick Hart, Andy and Holly Hood

## **Quinnipiac River Paddle** **Sat. July 8, 2017**

Dave and Barbara pulled into the bowling alley parking lot just before 9:00 a.m. Kayaks unloaded we then spotted my car at the takeout.

The heavy rains from the day before had the Q River really moving. We did not paddle a ¼ down the river when we faced our first blow down. This would become a challenging day keep your eyes on the river and your paddles in the water. A few lovely calm places with trees arching overhead helped us to forget the blow downs and gave us the desire to continue. I had brought my bow-saw but it was useless in most places, what we needed was dynamite to get the job done in some places.

We came upon a large oak tree that was laid across the river and covered with poison ivy. Barbara put her ENGINEERING SKILLS to the test. Along side of my kayak was a long piece of a wood plank which together we managed to bring to the right side of the river where there was just dead limbs without the covering of poison ivy. With the plank in place we were able to pull all 3 kayaks and ourselves safely to the other side to continue on.

The Q was weaving itself in and "S" path most of the day. Wildlife sightings for the day were two families of ducks one a mallard and one a merganser, a Great Blue Heron flew over our heads as we rounded a bend. Next we had a barking dog who was running alongside us from his backyard shouting "keep out"!

Another bend, another blow down. This time Dave saw a path leading up a bank which we used to move our kayaks to a place where we actually were able to let them slide down the bank just past the blow down. Time for lunch and a well deserved break.

Passing under the rt. 322 bridge the paddling became easy since the river had been cleaned for the race. Here we relaxed and enjoyed the treed area. Because it had taken us so long to paddle from the bowling alley to rt. 322 I was having doubts as our having passed our take out. What suddenly appears but two gentlemen standing on the bank in their back yard who assured us the take out was just ahead.

Soon the white marks appear on the rock marking the takeout. Never once did Barbara or Dave want to give up. Dave just kept saying this is a tricky river. Thanks for being such great sorts.

If you want more than just an easy paddle the "Tricky Q" is for you.

Paddlers: Carol A. Langley, Barbara & Dave

## **Richard Goodwin Trail – East Lyme Sat. July 22, 2017**

The Darrow Pond portion of the Richard Goodwin Trail opened officially in June. This trail is a 14 mile trail that goes through East Lyme, Salem, Lyme and East Haddam. The trail is named after the Connecticut College botany professor, Richard Goodwin who was also founding father of The Nature Conservancy.

This new 5 miles section is a lovely walk. The hardest part of the day was probably getting past the heavy equipment on the road to the parking lot which was closed for paving.

It was a warm sunny day and the three of us headed into the woods. It was a gentle trail with ups and downs and lots of flat areas that went through some great fine forests. Richard spotted the most interesting rock which look exactly like a fish looking at us. There were lots of beautiful stone walls and wildflowers. We started our hike at Mostowy Rd. and hiked to the Grassy Hill Rd. It would be fun to take a day and hike the whole thing, maybe this fall. I would recommend this hike to anyone who would like a relaxing stroll in the woods.

Hikers: Many Brink, Richard & Leslie Chandler



## **Boston Harbor Islands July 28-30, 2017**

Jim Moore, Mike Shaw and I headed out to Weymouth, MA to start our paddle to the Boston Harbor Islands. Although Jim had been there before, it was a new trip for Mike and myself. We all were up to a good weekend.

We camped at Grape Island, a short distance from Webb Memorial where we started. It is a small island with not much more than the actual campground to speak for it. We took a walk around the island and just chilled out for the afternoon.

Saturday was breezy with possible rain in the PM. We headed around the island but with the wind and an inbound tide, we couldn't make good headway. As we got to the Eastern side, it really hit hard. We had to stop.

There are many ferries that stop at the dozen or so islands and pick up anyone who is already on an island so we were eligible for a ride. We took a ferry to Peddocks Island and Fort Andrews - a nineteenth century fort. We then took a ferry to Georges Island and Fort Warren - a fort for Civil War prisoners. On the way back to Grape Island we stopped by Worlds End.

We took some nice photos of the trip. But the nicest of all were of the City of Boston. Not many people see the city from one of the Eastern islands - it is really beautiful.

On Sunday the weather was much nicer and we paddled over to Bumpkin Island. We walked around the whole island before heading back to pick up our stuff at Grape and head on home.

Dick Hart

## **NH/Maine Backpacking Trip June 30 to July 3, 2017**

This was a hard weekend of backpacking. This section of the AT is not for the lighthearted. We started on Friday morning from Gorham, NH. It was a slow, steady hike up with the threat of rain as the day wore on. 4 of us started and arrived at the Trident Col campground. We were set up and preparing to cook dinner when the skies opened up and it started to pour. We were feeling bad for Brian who was joining us that evening. He arrived in the middle of the downpour and quickly got his tarp and hammock set up.

Being that the weather forecast was rain all day Saturday with thunderstorms, Jim, Brian and Kevin decided to hike back out to where Brian staged his car. In a moment of insanity, Mandy decided she did not want to have to come back so decided to continue on. Mike wanting to grab Goose Eye Mt, decided to continue on with her. The day started out nice enough with a stop at noon at the Genetian Shelter for lunch. After that it was the slow slog over Mt Success. We had just gone over the summit when we could hear the thunder in the distance. The rain followed and never stopped. The rain was quite heavy at times making the AT a river at some points. Certainly there was never a concern that we wouldn't have a water source.

It seemed like we would never reach the next shelter. We came upon a huge pile of boulders to climb through and on the other side were the welcomed blue blazes that told us we had arrived at the side trail for the Carlo Col shelter. This shelter is a decent ways off the AT and going downhill. We were so happy to arrive and find that even though the shelter was fairly full, they were willing to squeeze us in. Mike made some ramen noodle soup that was the best ever. It was into dry clothes and into the sleeping bags after dinner.

## Farmington River Paddle Sat. Sept. 9, 2017

Sunday was to be an easier day, so we thought. It was sunny and hopeful. Plans were to hike to Goose Eye and hike out the North Trail back to the car. The summit of Goose Eye Mt was beautiful. There was a slight breeze, sunny and great views are far as we could see. After a small rest, we continued on the AT. We passed the junction to East Trail and the North Trail appeared to be in a half a mile. We passed what looked like an abandoned trail and Mike made note of it but we continued hiking. After hiking what was way more than the half mile we expected, we began to suspect that the abandoned trail was indeed, the one we were looking for. A hiker coming south confirmed on her app that it was the trail we needed so we hiked back. It is amazing how quickly the forest takes back its own territory. The trail was overgrown, had blow downs and at times was hard to decipher what was the trail. It was hot and buggy. At one point we went over the same section of trail 4 times just trying to find a trail that seemed to be heading in the right direction. I can honestly say that had I not been with Mike, I would have been in big trouble. I'm not sure I would safely had made it out of the woods had it not been for his sense of direction and trail. We finally arrived at the car just as it was getting dark around 8pm.

For anyone considering this section of trail, be sure to mark your maps to use the East Trail and mark the North Trail as abandoned. I wouldn't recommend it for anyone to take that trail to or from the AT.

Sensible hikers for the weekend: Jim Robertson, Kevin Burke, Brian Mooney. Crazy hikers for the weekend: Mike Shaw, Mandy Brink



A cool late summer day for a paddle on the river. I had only one paddler inquire but never showed. After waiting for a half an hour I decided to enlist the help of a couple of paramedics who were parked in the lot waiting for a call.

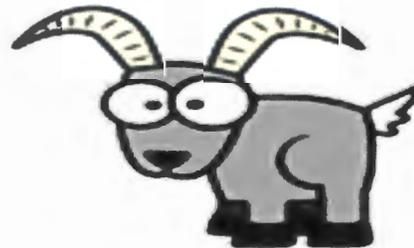
When they saw this little old white haired lady approaching them they were ready to help. Out of the truck in record time, kayak was in the river. The water levels were very low so after a short paddle and trying to paddle around many branches I decided to paddle back up stream which was easy since the water was flat.

Reaching the bank I looked around and found no cars or strong boys to help Grandma so it was put on her Thinking Cap and Big Girl Panties. I always have a rope tied on the front of my kayaks so I was able to drag it up the grassy bank, then pull my car alongside the fencing drop the Hullavator Rack and ease the kayak in. Mission accomplished but it was such a nice day I did not want to go home.

Finding my hiking boots in the back seat of my car I decided to drive to Brickyard Rd. and do a few miles on the Rails-Trails. Tons of people were out so I found an old path that paralleled the trail for quite awhile. The majority of people on the trail were the "speedo girls & guys" on their bikes trying to do 100 miles per hour. I personally would like to see a separate lane for bikers or just have them not allowed on the trail.

On a lighter note there was a bear sighting. And I had a conversation with a goat that came over to the fence and expressed his feelings concerning the trail traffic. Because I felt the same way I cut the walk short and headed back to my car and home.

Hope you can join me next time for our spring paddle in June. Carol A. Langley



## JOIN THE CONNECTICUT SECTION OF THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB

The Connecticut Section offers a wide range of outdoor activities all year around: Hiking, backpacking, canoeing, snowshoeing and work parties in VT to maintain our section of the Long Trail. Members will receive Trail Talk our section newsletter and The Long Trail News, a quarterly publication of the Green Mountain Club, published four times a year, and discounts on GMC items such as books and shirts, etc.

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