



Northern Frontier Section of the Green Mountain Club

Summer/Fall 2026 Newsletter

June 16, 2026

Summer Greetings!

Last winter began early, with snow in early November accumulating and adding up to quite a depth during the winter. Lots of snow had to melt before trail and shelter adopters could get out this spring for walk throughs. We've scheduled a variety of hikes and events this season and I hope you're able to join us on the trail.

The snow depth last winter was great for snowshoeing and XC skiing until a thaw during March. The NFS scheduled six hikes and four of them were well attended.

In January, the Whiteheads hosted a snowshoe/potluck at their home with ten of us attending. We did a short snowshoe hike in the Enosburgh Town Forest.

Six of us attended a snowshoe/potluck at Kip Potter's new home on a sunny winter day in January. Kip led us on a hike up the hill in the woods behind his home.

On a clear, beautiful day in February Dan Seeley led seven of us on a hike on the Jay Recreation Area Trails.





In early March, seven of us snowshoed up to the ice formations on Laraway Mountain. Unfortunately a thaw had just begun, which made for a very difficult hike. A clear blue sky was the backdrop for a slushy trail and full, running streams.

Our other two snowshoe hikes (in March and April) were cancelled because of thawing snowpack on the trails. We recently held our NFS Annual Meeting/Potluck on May 30, 2026 with 28 members attending.

Many thanks to everyone who came to the meeting and shared their good food and good company. Many thanks also to Jeff Miller, who brought his grill and cooked great bratwursts for us! The meeting summary is below and includes some of the latest information about our section.

NFS Annual Meeting 2026

After a welcome and introductions we reviewed our winter

snowshoe outings (listed above) and reviewed our trail work that's been done so far this year.

Jeff and Cathy Miller cleared water bars and blowdowns from Rt 105 to the Canadian border.

Tucker Windover did maintenance at Laura Woodward Shelter.

Howard Van Benthuyzen cleared blowdowns from Rt 58 to Hazen's Notch Camp and did maintenance at Hazen's Notch Camp.

Luke Sussdorff did maintenance at Shooting Star Shelter.

Ken Whitehead did maintenance at Jay Camp. He and Byron Dolan cleared blowdowns on Jay Loop Trail and Ken cleared water bars.

Kip Potter cleared water bars and blowdowns from Rt 242 up toward Jay Peak.

On May 11th, Adam and Elizabeth Paashaus and Jeff Corey did a walk through trail maintenance training hike with GMC staff and others. They cleared blowdowns and waterbars from Rt 242 to Hazens Notch Camp. They are the new adopters of that part of the LT and they'll return later to do any work remaining in their sections.

The North Country Union High School cleared blowdowns from Rt 105 south to Shooting Star Shelter.

Trail adopters Brooks Sturtevant, Michael Chase and Danny Richardson will go out on their sections soon, if they haven't already been out.

We introduced new trail and shelter adopters:

Adam and Elizabeth Paashaus – Rt 242 to Bruce Peak.

Tucker Windover – Laura Woodward Shelter.

And we gave many thanks to the previous adopters:

Walter Pomroy – Rt 242 to Rt 58 (25 to 30 Years).

Russ Ford – Laura Woodward Shelter (at least 10 years or more).

We announced trail work to be done this season:
Reblazing north of Carleton Mountain to the Canadian Border.
And from Rt 105 south to Shooting Star Shelter and maybe
beyond. Helping GMC staff install wooden planks (puncheon)
over muddy areas between Rt 242 and Hazen's Notch.

Jeff Miller talked about having the NFS purchase a high quality
hand saw to share among trail adopters for cutting blowdowns
on the trail. Jeff owns one (it's a version of a Silkie) and
recommends it as an alternative to always carrying a chainsaw on
a walk through.

Our GMC Board representative, Kip Potter gave a short summary
of GMC issues including the governance update which will be
ongoing for a while. Kip is on the Land Conservation Committee.

Walter Pomroy gave the section treasurer's report and he voiced
concern that membership dues collected so far this year are
about \$350 less than last year at this time. Either membership is
down or members just haven't renewed their membership
yet. Walter let the GMC know about this issue.

Ken announced that the GMC has insurance coverage for
volunteers. From the information provided by the GMC:
"Volunteers are included as an additional insured on GMC's
policies." That includes limited liability and supplemental
accident insurance for any "activity or event that is organized
under the GMC umbrella - outings, meetings, workdays,
etc." The supplemental accident insurance covers volunteers
injured on non-federal land.

Elections were held and all positions will continue to be filled by
the 2025 officers.

Ken mentioned the importance for younger folks to become
officers and keep our section functioning years from now.

At the end of our business meeting, we recognized 2 of our
oldest members who were present: Dave and Louise Ransom,
who are now in their 90's and hiked the LT end to end years ago.
They have a long history of participation in the GMC. Many

thanks for their membership and participation from the beginning of the NFS!

More Announcements

On Saturday, June 13th, The Green Mountain Club Annual Meeting took place at the GMC Headquarters in Waterbury Ctr., VT. In attendance from the NFS were: Dan Seeley, Adele Wolfson, Kip Potter, Ken and Sharon Whitehead. Officers and staff of the club gave summaries of finances, work and changes to GMC governance. Those of us present at the meeting voted on a few of the governance changes, while other changes will be decided and finalized later. The club is in good shape financially right now, but cuts in federal funding will affect programs in the next few years. Federal cuts in Forest Service staff are already affecting projects on the LT in the GMNF.

Long Trail Day is September 19. A Trail Magic Table will be at Jay Pass (Rt 242) from 9 AM to 3 PM. We'll need at least 6 volunteers to staff the table, pass out snacks and water and take contact information from LT hikers who are interested in the GMC. In addition to that, the GMC will have a fundraising page on its website and our section will participate by having a "Northern Frontier" fundraising team on that page. You can join with a donation, large or small. Each donation is important and very much appreciated!

Please submit a trail adopter or shelter adopter report after you complete a workday on your trail or shelter. Go to the GMC website, then Volunteer, then Volunteer Reports. Fill in the info and submit your report. When an email copy comes back to you, **please forward it** to Jeff Miller and Ken Whitehead so we'll know what work is being done. It's an important part of our job as volunteer caretakers of the Northern Frontier Section.

Many thanks to all volunteers who work on the trail, shelters, lead hikes and contribute through their membership in the Northern Frontier Section. Your hard work is what maintains the trail and makes it such a special place. Each one of you is greatly appreciated. Happy trails and all the best,
Ken Whitehead - President, Northern Frontier Section

2026 Summer / Fall Events

Saturday, June 27, 2026

Hike Moose Mountain to Willoughby Lookout (near Lake Willoughby). A moderate hike; 4.8 mi round trip; 850' ascent. Contact Ken at kenwhitehead.vthiking@gmail.com or (802) 933-5352.

Saturday, July 18, 2026

Hike the St. Albans Town Forest trails and have lunch afterward at Tatro's Restaurant in St. Albans. An easy hike, about 3 miles total. Contact Ken at kenwhitehead.vthiking@gmail.com or (802) 933-5352.

Sunday, August 9, 2026

Hike to Tillotson Camp and Lockwood Pond on the Frank Post Trail. A moderate hike; 4 mi round trip; 1180' ascent. Contact Byron at edennotch@gmail.com or (802) 744-0404.



Lockwood Pond near Tillotson Camp and Tillotson Peak

Sunday, August 30, 2026

Paddle your canoe or kayak with us on Green River Reservoir.

Contact Ken at kenwhitehead.vthiking@gmail.com or

(802) 933-5352.

Sunday, September 19, 2026

Long Trail Day

We'll have a Trail Magic table at Jay Pass 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Three shifts: 9-11 am, 11-1 pm, 1-3 pm.

To volunteer contact Ken at kenwhitehead.vthiking@gmail.com

or (802) 933-5352.

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Hike Burnt Mountain from High Ponds Farm Nature Preserve on Rossier Road in Montgomery.

A strenuous hike; 4.8 mi round trip; 1500' ascent.

Contact Kip at pottersvt@comcast.net or (802) 752-7508.



Burnt Mountain from High Ponds Farm Nature Preserve

Sunday, October 25, 2035

Hike the Krusch Nature Preserve trails and Cambridge Pines near Cambridge, VT. An easy hike in beautiful woods; about 3 miles. Contact Ken at kenwhitehead.vthiking@gmail.com or (802) 933-5352.

Northern Frontier Section Officers

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Northern Frontier Website

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