



OUR PURPOSES

To maintain and establish trails and shelters in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont.

To sponsor outdoor-related activities.

To promote awareness of the trails of the Northeast Kingdom.

To promote education about the environment of the Northeast Kingdom, including issues of stewardship of lands and wildlife.

To make the mountains of Vermont play a larger part in the lives of both the Section's members and the general public.

MEMBERSHIP

Sign up online with a credit card at: <greenmountainclub.org/packbask.cfm>.

Or, contact the main club at: 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Center, VT 05677.

(Be sure to choose the Northeast Kingdom section.)

All phone numbers herein are in area code 802 unless otherwise noted

Northeast Passages

From the Green Mountain Club's Northeast Kingdom Section

<www.thecompass.org/nekgmc>

Hiking Around the Champion Lands

By Beth Dugger, NEKGMC Director

Some of the best hiking I know is around the Champion Lands. No, not *on* the Champion Lands; *around* them. The mountains that circle the former timberlands have great trails and terrific views, not just of the new public lands but also of two states and another country. *The Day Hiker's Guide to Vermont* gives details, but here are some of the highlights and trailheads.

Burke Mountain's trails are some of the best-kept secrets in the Kingdom. Burke is topped by a firetower for spectacular all-around vistas, or you can just sit at the top of the ski slope and admire the western peaks of Camel's Hump, Mansfield, and Jay. Start from the parking area at the Mid-Burke Lodge, walk up the old grassy CCC road, and meet the trails.



Enjoying Notch Pond on a sunny day in April.

Summer in the Kingdom seems to demand hiking some of the paths around Lake Willoughby. If you're bored with Pisgah (I still love the overlook ... and the chance of seeing peregrine falcons), try **Wheeler Mountain**. The trailhead is off Route 5; take the Wheeler Mountain Road, 8.3 miles north of Route 5A in West Burke, or 5 miles south of route 16 in Barton. There are two versions of the trail, so check the guide and choose the one that best suits your stamina. It's 1.3 miles via the main (and rocky) trail to a

gorgeous view over the lake. (Caution: this is not a good rainy day hike; the rocks get slippery.)

Bald Mountain, with its new public land at the summit, is a treat. The best trail up starts on the Long Pond Road in Westmore; head for Long Pond, pass its parking area, and make the next left to the trailhead parking. As you start along an old roadway, watch for where the trail bears right, and from then on, it's a straight trip up, ending at another grand firetower. Make sure to bring water and lunch, you'll work hard for this one.

The new trail on **Gore Mountain**, far to the north, is a strenuous day hike with a steep rocky finale. The trailhead is just north of Norton Pond; park on the left, and climb on the right.

For the most international vistas of all, I recommend **Monadnock** in Lemington, a good hike for a blazing sunny day because you're in shade (although

climbing steadily) almost all the way from the trailhead, which is at the gravel pit just north of the turn for Colebrook; stay on Route 102 and it's on your left, well marked for parking. There are no views along the climb, and the firetower at the top is missing some steps, but it's worth the effort as you inspect Vermont, New Hampshire, and Canada from the top. Oh yes: And those **are** the Champion Lands to the southwest. Don't they look great from here?



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, July 14

Trail work day, Bald Mountain.

Brushing and waterbars.

Leader: Luke O'Brien

<vlc@sover.net>

Saturday, July 28

GPS training. Meet at Lyndon State College's Harvey Academic Center at 10. One-hour orientation with professor John Deleo, then field work. Bring lunch. Must preregister with Daisy McCoy, <mccoyd@mail.lsc.vsc.edu> or 626-6260.

Saturday, August 18

Trail scouting, West Mountain.

Leader: Luke O'Brien (see above).

Saturday, September 15

Trail scouting, Bald Mountain.

Leader: Luke O'Brien (see above).

SECTION LEADERS

Director - Beth Dugger

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633-3582

President - Pat Aubin

<pattyaubin@hotmail.com>

748-9344

Vice-President - Daisy McCoy

Secretary - Michael Chernick

<chernick@together.net>

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Treasurer - Joe Anastasia

Membership - Cynthia Barber

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Trails & Shelters - Luke O'Brien

<waldenmtn@hotmail.com>

Publicity - Judy Anastasia

Website/Newsletter - Jay Collier

**Main Club Honors
NEK Section Leaders**

Two charter members of our section received awards at the GMC Annual Meeting June 14.

Secretary **Michael Chernick** was honored for his efforts in helping develop the section. His thorough records documenting our quarterly meetings are maintained on our website at <www.thecompass.org/nekgmc>.



Our Section Director, **Beth Dugger**, was the recipient of the coveted GMC President's Award, presented in tribute to her extraordinary leadership on behalf of the main club's Champion Land's hiking corridor management proposal.

Recipients of a President's Award are usually honored for years, if not decades, of service to the club. That a mere 18 months have elapsed since Beth began her GMC Champion Lands' adventure signifies the special role that she has played for the club on this vital Kingdom issue.

Looking Back on Our First Year

By Pat Aubin, NEKGMC President

The Northeast Kingdom Section is the newest section of the Green Mountain Club, chartered in September 2000. The membership has grown from 17 original members to approximately 67 in less than a year.

The Northeast Kingdom Section is unique in that it is the only section without a direct tie to either the Long Trail or the Appalachian Trail. The section is focusing, instead, on the mountains in the Northeast Kingdom and is participating in the planning process for the former Champion Lands. The northeast corner of Vermont, known as the Northeast Kingdom, consists of Caledonia, Essex and Orleans counties.

Since September, our members have enjoyed several hikes in and around the Champion Lands. We have created a newsletter and a web site. Our section sponsored a "Keeping Track" program which was later followed by a hike including tracking instruction. A woodland snowshoe hike was enjoyed in January.

We have a business meeting every three months with great potluck dinners. We have three trail work days coming up as well as other scheduled hikes. A up-to-date list of upcoming outings can be found on our web site. Join us ... we're having a great time!

NORTHEAST PASSAGES

Green Mountain Club - Northeast Kingdom Section

c/o Pat Aubin

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St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

Save a Tree! If you receive this newsletter by U.S. Mail and would prefer to receive future newsletters and meeting notices by e-mail, please notify Cynthia at <joncyn@sover.net>