Summer 2026

RidgeLines

Green Mountain Club
Burlington Section

Section Presidents Message

Brian Williams
Burlington Section President

The trails are open! Memorial Day came early this year and the snow did finally melt – the Mansfield snow stake reached zero inches just before the end of May… and then, of course, we had one more 3" snowfall on top of Mt. Mansfield on May 30th:

Reports from our May trail work crews are that the trails are in good shape give or take the 50+ blowdowns cleared, numerous water bars dredged and a significant amount of clipping. Thanks to our Trail Co-Chairs, Scott Albertson and Pete Saile, as well as the more than 20 volunteers who came out on Saturdays this May so that we will be able to enjoy another great hiking season on our section's part of the Long Trail and side trails!

Main Club Governance Changes

A vote is scheduled for this year's Main Club annual meeting at Waterbury Center headquarters on Saturday June 13th at 9AM. There will be a vote on changes to the main club bylaws. The details of the proposed changes can be found on the main club website at 2026 Proposed Bylaw Changes - Green Mountain Club.

One item that will not be included is a change to the size of the board of directors. There are currently 32 directors. The discussion will continue within the club on the best number of directors and how much section representation is needed on the board if the number of directors are reduced. The vote on this part of governance has been delayed to the 2027 annual meeting to allow for additional discussion across the membership.

The response (or lack thereof) to our RidgeLines hardcopy mailing request will allow our section to allocate more section funding to trails and shelter support. Less than 10 section members have requested to opt-in to a hardcopy mailing. Thank you to all who have moved to electronic mailing. This is a significant cost savings for our section!

If you still want to receive a hardcopy and did not opt-in, you still can by sending an email to **gmc@gmcburlington.org**

See you out on the trails this summer!

GMC Burlington Taylor Series:

Trail Access for All: Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sports

On Thursday, May 14, 2026, the GMC Burlington Section welcomed Betsy Hoffmeister, Programs Manager at Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sports, for an engaging evening on what it truly means to build trails for everyone. Betsy brought the topic to life, literally, arriving with an adaptive bike in tow and delivering a talk that left attendees with a new perspective on Vermont's trail network.

She walked through the practical realities of running one of the Northeast's most ambitious adaptive outdoor programs, which takes participants with disabilities into the backcountry on adaptive bikes and hand cycles.

Among the highlights were some surprisingly simple but impactful trail design details: painted edges on bridges to help visually impaired users navigate safely, and wider bridge construction to accommodate adaptive devices. These small decisions, Betsy explained, can make the difference between a trail that's technically open to everyone and one that's genuinely usable by everyone.

The evening also featured a trailer for Best Day Ever, a film that dives into the world of adaptive mountain biking and captures the spirit of what Vermont Adaptive works toward every day.

Betsy's talk also touched on a question many Vermont hikers and bikers are grappling with together: how to keep shared trails harmonious as recreational use grows and adaptive access expands– a conversation as relevant to trail maintainers as it is to casual weekend hikers.

A great night for anyone who loves Vermont's mountains and the people who work to keep them open to all.

Upcoming Events

GMC Annual Meeting

The Green Mountain Club 116th Annual Meeting Club will be held at club headquarters, 4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road, Waterbury Center, on Saturday, June 13th starting with registration at 9AM. At the meeting, members and staff conduct club business review some of the past year's work and discuss plans for the year ahead. There will be group hikes led by GMC volunteers after lunch (provided). You can register for the annual meeting at GMC Annual Meeting. Hikes and signups for the hikes will be available at the meeting.

Vermont Lake Monsters Burlington Section Fundraiser Sunday August 2nd at 5:05 PM

Join the Green Mountain Club Burlington section for a night of baseball and fundraising at the Lake Monsters game on Sunday August 2nd at 5:05 PM. The Lake Monsters provide free tickets for all volunteers at this event.

We will sell 50/50 tickets at our table and take multiple hikes through the stands and beer garden at Delta Dental Diamond Centennial field selling 50/50 tickets. Half of the sales go to our section to support the activities within our section. Please contact the club at gmc@gmcburlington.org for more information if you would like to help us raise awareness of the GMC.

GMC Gear Swap — Save the Date!

Got gear collecting dust? Come swap it. The Burlington Section is hosting a member gear swap this summer at Pierson Library in Shelburne, VT — a low-key evening where you can sell what you no longer need, pick up something new to you, and catch up with fellow GMC folks.

Bring your old packs, tents, layers, boots, cook gear — anything outdoor-related is welcome. There's also a free pile for anything you'd rather give away. You set your own prices and handle your own sales, so bring cash or Venmo.

Date: Wednesday, August 12

Location: Pierson Library
5376 Shelburne Rd,
Shelburne, VT 05482

Time: 6:00–8:00 PM.

REGISTER HERE

(https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScLHvbsVGb3oEBkrHZwDc5FU3Zc2Yzqm48OeatllDT2-3_yiQ/viewform?usp=header)

Registration is helpful but not required.

Green Mountain Club Annual Trails Day

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, September 19th**. Trails Day is the largest fundraising event for the Green Mountain Club and a great opportunity to talk with hikers at trailheads within our section. Watch your email for more information on the exact locations and times. We are always looking for volunteers for 3 hour shifts at the trailheads so please email the section at gmc@gmcburlington.org if you would like to help.

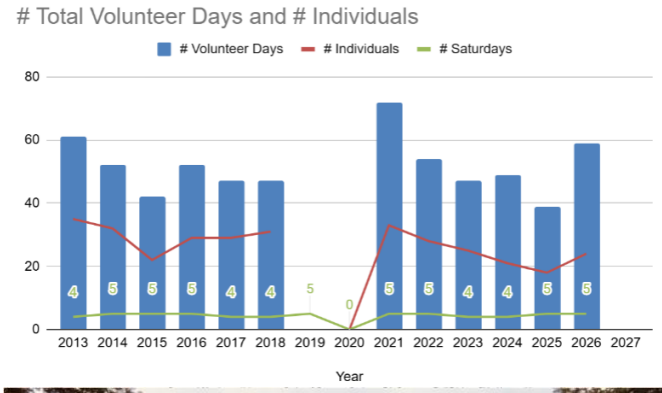
GMC Burlington Section 2026 Trail Clearing Report

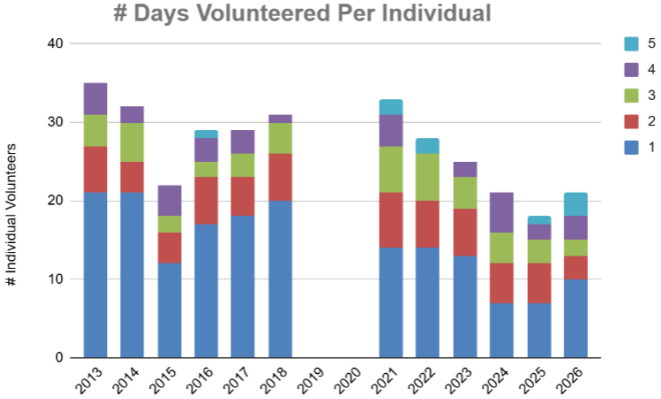
By Scott Albertson on June 2, 2026

We saw a rebound in both the number of volunteer days (increased from 39 to 59) and number of individual volunteers (increased from 18-24) this year. No doubt that the improved weather was a factor with only a sprinkling of rain here and there vs 2025's every Saturday washouts.
Efforts to reach out and broaden our volunteer base also were productive as we had 10 first time volunteers join us this year. Specific actions taken included:

21 of the 24 individuals who volunteered this year were current GMC members and one other was married to a GMC member who had an Individual membership vs Family one. Another was a past GMC member whose membership had lapsed but was planning to renew. Membership info was provided to the remaining volunteers.

A big thank-you to Peter Evan Smith, Mark Koob, Pete Saile and David Hathaway, who participated in all 5 trail clearing trips, plus Jonathan Breen, Rachel Frascella and Scott Albertson who made it to 4. Altogether these individuals accounted for over half of our volunteer days. It's particularly noteworthy that Rachel and Mark are new this year.





Are you getting emails from the Burlington Section? If you got an email from us telling you that this edition of RidgeLines was available, great; you're on our email list. If you didn't and would like to get news like this from the Burlington section, go to our website https://gmcburlington.org

A 3 Part History of Taylor Lodge (Part 1)

Editors Note:
It's always fascinating to come across archival material related to The Burlington Section of the GMC, especially the development of its shelters. This account of Taylor Lodge is reproduced (with minor edits from) Remarks at Dedication of 3rd Taylor Lodge, Sept. 1978, by Jan Abbott, GMC Burlington Section President. This is part I of three, with more to follow in future Ridgelines. - **Ted Albers**

Taylor Lodge is in Nebraska Notch, a deep cleft between the Forehead part of Mt. Mansfield and neighboring Mt. Dewey to its south. The trail to the Lodge starts at the sign-in at the end of Stevensville Road in Underhill.

By the summer of 1925 need was felt for a lodge in the vicinity of Nebraska Notch, and Taylor Lodge was first known as Nebraska Notch Lodge. The Club had been using the Trout Club facilities. The Trout Club was willing to donate the land but stipulated that an open shelter be built. The Section wanted a closed lodge, so the project was put on hold due to lack of funds and the Trout Club's stipulation.

Then the Main Club came through with the offer of $1000 from the Judge Hazelton Fund for the building of a lodge. It was voted to start building the lodge in Nebraska Notch and the cost of the structure was not to exceed $750. Just how the objections of the Trout Club were overcome is not clear from the records, but the lodge referred to as Nebraska Notch Lodge and later named Taylor Lodge was· built for $150 less than was authorized. [Burlington Section Records 1910-1927]

Fifty-two years ago [1927], when the 1st lodge on this site was constructed, the soaring stock market, flaming youth, and the jazz age were in the news and “Silent Cal” Coolidge was President of the U.S. The Burlington Section of the GMC, more liberated than the rest of the country, had already had two Women presidents. One of them, Mrs. Laura Cowles, was the first woman to snowshoe to the top of Mount-Mansfield.

Although Judge Cowles had written a letter to James P. Taylor as early as 1910, the year the club was founded, concerning building the trail from Mansfield to Bolton, with a branch running down to the Mansfield Trout Club, the Long Trail as we know it was not yet complete when the first Taylor Lodge was built. During the next decade, when Roy Buchanan and others were pushing through to the Canadian border, Larry and Alberta Dean arrived in Vermont from Manchester, N. H., got off the train in Essex Junction, and took the trolley past the busy cavalry post at Fort Ethan Allen to Burlington, where room and meals were $4 to $5 a week at the boarding houses, Main Street was paved with cobblestones and after leaving a restaurant near where Preston’s is now located, Larry’s young bride looked around and said. “But where is the main street of the city?!” The Prohibition rum runners were busy and Burlingtonians made home brew in Battery Park.

Back in Nebraska Notch, The Burlington Section had built a comfortable closed lodge of peeled logs, with bunks and mattresses for about 16 campers. However, Larry Dean recalls that the outhouse was on the primitive side, and only semi-private. Unlike the 1951 and 1978 structures, the first Taylor Lodge faced away from the outlook.

Story to be continued in future Ridgelines.

Outings Calendar
Summer 2026
July

7/5 (Sun) Camels Hump via Bamforth Ridge

We’ll spot a car at the Duxbury Camels Hump trailhead, then go down to Duxbury Road along the Winooski River. From there we’ll climb 4000 feet of the Long Trail in 6.4 miles to the summit of Camels Hump and descend via Monroe Trail.

Difficult Hike. Moderate pace. 10 miles. 4000’ elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 7/3.
David Hathaway
david.hathaway.78@gmail.com
802-899-9982 (landline, no texts)

7/11 (Sat) Mt. Ascutney

Mt. Ascutney is Vermont's only "Monadnock"; mountain, and right on the border of New Hampshire. This is a moderate to difficult out-and-back starting from the Weathersfield Trailhead. We will take the Weathersfield Trail to the top, making small detours to see Little Cascade Falls, Crystal Cascade Falls, the hand-glider launch site, an overlook from the West Peak, and the observation tower.

Carpooling will be available from the Richmond Park and Ride and is strongly encouraged as the lot at the trailhead is small. Please keep your pups at home.

Moderate to difficult Hike. Moderate pace. 6.6 miles. 2200' elevation gain.
Group limit 10. Contact leader by 7/8.
Michael Mortelliti
michaeljmortelliti@gmail.com
413-884-5932

7/12 (Sun) Stowe Pinnacle

This hike starts at the Stowe Pinnacle trailhead on Upper Hollow Rd and takes us up a short but rocky and steep trail to Stowe Pinnacle, with a wonderful view towards Mt. Mansfield and Camels Hump. The hike is popular on the weekends so we will have an early start. At a relaxed pace we should be back down by noon.

Moderate Hike. Relaxed to moderate pace. 3.3 miles. 1500' elevation gain. Group limit 10.
Contact leader by 7/10.
David McColgin
davidmccolgin@yahoo.com
802-356-9863

7/18 (Sat) Mt. Mansfield Forehead

Hike to the Forehead via Butler Lodge and Long Trail, returning on Maple Ridge and Frost.

Difficult Hike. Moderate pace. 6 miles. 2600' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 7/16.

Jonathan Breen
ghostman2651@gmail.com
802-318-8104

7/18 (Sat) Bear Head Mountain

This peak is just north of Mt Mansfield. We will hike the LT South from Barnes Camp and work our way to the junction of Hellbrook and Adam's Apple. From there we will bushwhack past the Lake of the Clouds to Bear Head. If all is good, we can continue to Bear Pond and Cub Hollow. The return will be mostly the same path.

Difficult Hike. Moderate pace. 6.7 miles. 3200' elevation gain. Group limit 10.
Rich Douglass
richdvthike@gmail.com
802-673-5963

7/25 (Sat) Presidential Traverse Run Point to point trail run of the Presidential Traverse in the Presidential Range (White Mountains) of New Hampshire

The run will start at the Appalachia Trailhead on RTE 2, travel up the Valley Way Trail to Madison Hut, follow the AT to the summit of Mt. Washington, and then along the ridge to Mizpah Spring Hut before finishing at AMC's Highland Center in Crawford Notch. We will stage cars to transport participants between trailheads. An ascent of all peaks on the Traverse is optional. We will start at first light and the trip will likely take most of the daylight hours. Only very experienced hikers/runners for this trip.

Very difficult Trail run/hike. Moderate to strong pace. 19-22 miles. 8500' elevation gain. Group limit 8.

Jordon Tourville
jtourville@outdoors.org

7/25 (Sat) Early Morning Sterling Pond to Madonna Peak

We will commence this hike at the Sterling Pond Trailhead by the Smuggler's Notch Visitor Center. This hike will begin early in the morning to beat the crowds that will inevitably balloon as the day progresses and to secure parking. Carpooling will be available from the Richmond Park and Ride. We will take the Sterling Pond Trail to the pond, give it a good stare, and move onward to Madonna peak via the Long Trail.

We will hopefully get a good view of Mansfield and have the peak to ourselves (usually the crowds do not go much further than Sterling Pond). We will descend the way we came. Please keep your canine friends at home.

Moderate to difficult Hike. Moderate pace. 5.5 miles. 2100' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 7/22.
Michael Mortelliti
michaeljmortelliti@gmail.com
413-884-5932.

August

8/1 (Sat) MT Norris via Larry Dean Trail

This is an abandoned trail up to the summit of Mt. Norris that is primarily a bushwhack through the woods following blue blazed trees. We will attempt to follow it all of the way to the summit and return to the trailhead via the regular trail. You must be comfortable bushwhacking off-trail and be prepared for a variety of terrain.

Difficult Hike. Moderate pace. 6 miles. 1500' elevation gain. Group limit 10.

Rich Douglass
richdvthike@gmail.com
802-673-5963

8/1 (Sat) Camels Hump Loop

This Camel's Hump loop is one of the most spectacular hikes in the Green Mountains. We will take the Forest City Trail up to the Long Trail and follow that north to the top of Camel's Hump, with wonderful views along the way and at the top. We then take the Burrow's Trail back down to the trailhead.

Difficult Hike. Moderate pace. 5.6 miles. 2400' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 7/30.

David McColgin
davidmccolgin@yahoo.com
802-356-9863

8/8 (Sat) Sunset at Red Rocks Park

We will start shortly before sunset at the Red Rocks parking strip off Central Ave in front of the park entrance. We will do half the loop and stop at a secluded cliff to watch the sunset with the backdrop of the ADK mountains. I will bring coffee and hot chocolate to share. Once the sun sets, we will complete the loop and head back to the cars. A headlamp and/or flashlight is required. Please keep your doggy dog at home.

Easy Walk. Relaxed pace. 3 miles. 300' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 8/5.

Michael Mortelliti
michaeljmortelliti@gmail.com
413-884-5932

8/9 (Sun) Mt Abe

Hike the Long Trail north from Lincoln Gap to the summit of Mount Abraham. There are some steep rock sections near the summit. May extend the hike along the ridge to Lincoln Peak depending on trail conditions, adding 1.6 miles.

Moderate to difficult Hike. Moderate pace. 5.2 to 6.8 miles. 1600' elevation gain. Group limit 10.

Jill George
jillghiker@gmail.com

8/15 (Sat) Jay Peak & Big Jay

This hike starts from the RT 105 trailhead and ascends to Jay Peak. From there we will follow the herd trail over to Big Jay. While this is a bushwhack from Jay Peak, the herd trail is well traveled and popular with winter skiers. Excellent views from many locations. The return will be on the same route.

Moderate to difficult Hike. Moderate pace. 5.5 miles. 2400' elevation gain. Group limit 10.
Rich Douglass
richdvthike@gmail.com
802-673-5963

8/15 (Sat) Baking a Bread Loaf: Lincoln Gap to Middlebury Snowbowl

This is a section hike of the Long Trail through the Breadloaf Wilderness from the Lincoln Gap parking lot to the parking area on route 125 near the Middlebury Snowbowl. During the hike we will hit up many of VTs 3000+ ft peaks. At least two people will have to volunteer to coordinate parking cars at the opposite end of the trail in order to make the hike feasible. This hike will have an early start to secure parking and to avoid the potential for night hiking. Please no doggos on this hike.

Very difficult Hike. Moderate to strong pace. 17.3 miles. 4500' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 8/12.

Michael Mortelliti
michaeljmortelliti@gmail.com
413-884-5932.

8/16 (Sun) Cantilever Rock

Starting from the Underhill State Park at noon, we'll head up the Sunset Ridge Trail and take the spur to Cantilever Rock.

Easy Hike. Moderate pace. 4 miles. 1200' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 8/14.

David Hathaway,
david.hathaway.78@gmail.com
802-899-9982 (landline, no texts)

8/22 (Sat) Devils Gulch

We will hike the Long Trail south from Vt 118 to Devils Gulch and on to Spruce Ledge Camp. On the return trip we'll take the Babcock Trail past Muddy Pond.

Moderate Hike. Moderate pace. 6.5 miles. 500' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 8/20.
Jonathan Breen
ghostman2651@gmail.com
802-318-8104

8/29 (Sat) Hadley Mountain Bushwhack

Located adjacent to Mt. Norris in Eden, this hike starts out on the Mt. Norris trail until it turns off the tractor path. From there we will continue up the path to the end of the maintained section and follow an abandoned path part way up Hadley Mountain. From there it will be bushwhacking up to the top of the mountain and return on the same route. This may be a good chance to practice your map and compass skills.

Moderate to difficult Hike. Moderate pace. 5.2 miles. 1300' elevation gain. Group limit 10.

Rich Douglass,
richdvthike@gmail.com
802-673-5963

September

9/5 (Sat) Mills Riverside Park Loop

This is a loop around the scenic Mills Riverside Park in Jericho which features great views of Mt. Mansfield, a nice pond, Brown's River, a large barn/pavilion, some quiet wooded areas, and some nice meadows. Carpooling will be available from the Richmond Park and Ride. Please keep your hound happy at home.

Easy Hike. Relaxed pace. 5 miles. 500' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 9/2.

Michael Mortelliti,
michaeljmortelliti@gmail.com
413-884-5932

9/5 (Sat) Belvidere

From Eden Crossing we'll climb the Long Trail to the summit of Belvidere Mt. where we can climb the fire tower for views from Mansfield to Canada, and the Adirondacks to the Whites.

Difficult Hike. Moderate pace. 5.8 miles. 1900' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 9/3.
David Hathaway
david.hathaway.78@gmail.com
802-899-9982 (landline, no texts)

9/12 (Sat) Whiteface Mountain from Beaver Meadow

We will hike up the Beaver Meadow trail to the intersection of the Whiteface trail and follow that trail to the top of Whiteface Mountain. We will return via the same route.

Difficult Hike. Moderate pace. 7.25 miles. 2330' elevation gain. Group limit 10.

Rich Douglass
richdvthike@gmail.com
802-673-5963

9/12 (Sat) Mt. Mansfield Loop

We will start from Underhill State Park and take the steep and rocky Laura Cowles Trail up to the ridge of Mt. Mansfield. We will follow the Long Trail north along the ridge with spectacular views off to either side, up to the Chin. We then return via the Sunset ridge trail and if we have time we will stop at Cantilever Rock along the way.

Difficult Hike. Moderate pace. 5.4 miles. 2500' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 9/10.

David McColgin
davidmccolgin@yahoo.com
802-356-9863.

9/13 (Sun) Mt Hunger & White Rock

We'll hike up Mt. Hunger from the Middlesex (east) side of the mountain. This trail goes up pretty steadily with a few scrambles near the top. From the top of Mt. Hunger, we will go down the west side of the mountain a short distance and then take the trail over to White Rock. From White Rock, we will loop back to the trail we started on and return to the trailhead.

Moderate to difficult Hike. Moderate pace. 6 miles. 2500' elevation gain.

Jill George
jillghiker@gmail.com

9/26 (Sat) Falls of Lana and Silver Lake Loop

We will start the hike from the Silver Lake parking lot at the Silver Lake Trailhead in Branbury State Park. We will hike up to the beautiful Falls of Lana via the Silver Lake Trail. We will then continue along the trail and do a short climb to Lenny's Lookout and hopefully get a good view of Lake Dunmore and potentially Lake Champlain. After the lookout we will proceed towards Silver Lake and do a loop around its perimeter before heading out the way we came. Carpooling will be available from the South Burlington Lowes parking lot. Please leave your cute, domesticated wolves at home.

Easy to moderate Hike. Relaxed to moderate pace. 6 miles. 1000' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 9/23.

Michael Mortelliti
michaeljmortelliti@gmail.com
413-884-5932

9/27 (Sun) Butler Lodge

Hike up to Butler Lodge with views of the Champlain Valley.

Moderate Hike. Moderate pace. 4.2 miles. 1600' elevation gain. Group limit 10. Contact leader by 9/25.

Jonathan Breen
ghostman2651@gmail.com
802-318-8104

Join the Burlington Section Committee!
The following new committee members were elected at our March section committee meeting:

Ira Powsner and Joshua Golek - Shelters
Marguerite Warner – Historian

Welcome Ira, Josh and Marguerite!

We still have a few Section Committee positions that are vacant:

RidgeLines Editor: Collate articles, upcoming section information on group hikes, section meetings, hiker submitted stories, other section activities once per quarter (March, June, September and December). Provide a finished product utilizing software of choice and submit an electronic version for website and email of finished product.

Vice President: Communicate and find section volunteers to fill open board positions. Discuss open board roles with interested section members. Advance to the President's role in the future. Fill-in for and support the current section president.

Contact the Burlington Section at gmc@gmcburlington.org or submit your interest via our website volunteer page (https://gmcburlington.org/volunteer). The Burlington Section committee meets quarterly in-person with a remote Zoom option.

Ridgelines
GMC Burlington Section
Green Mountain Club
4711 Waterbury-Stowe Road
Waterbury Center VT 05677

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Burlington Section of the Green Mountain Club
2026 Executive Committee

Officers
- President – Brian Williams
- Vice president – ***Vacant***
- Secretary – Megan Knight
- Treasurer – Jonathan Breen

Standing Committee Chairs and Co-Chairs

- Membership – Rob Gordon
- RidgeLines – Brian Williams (stand-in) – looking for a permanent lead
- Shelters – Ira Powsner & Joshua Golek
- Annual Meeting – Michelle Leonetti & Janette Williams
- Marketing & Communications – Barbee Hauzinger
- Education & Taylor Series – Rachel Frascella
- Section Historians – Ted Albers & Marguerite Warner
- Outings – David Hathaway & Jordon Tourville
- Trails – Scott Albertson & Pete Saile
- Website – Corinn Julow
- Director – Susan Tobin (June 2025 - May 2028 3yr term)