

Green Mountain Club Laraway Section

April-August 2008 Newsletter

Section Volunteer John Brown Passed away

On Sunday, May 13, 2007 John Brown died unexpectedly from natural causes.

John was a dedicated volunteer of the Green Mountain Club belonging to the Laraway and Burlington Sections. He was our Newsletter and Outings chairman for 3 years and was involved with trails and shelter work throughout the northern part of the long trail, helping with Butler Lodge reconstruction, building Spruce Ledge Camp, rebuilding Laura Woodward Shelter, and Journeys End Camp. John also helped us with trail clearing trips throughout the Laraway Section in the spring and he attended most section hikes.

There was a memorial hike to Spruce Ledge Camp on October 7, 2007 which was one of his favorite places on the Long Trail and he would have wished to have his memorial there.

John's dedication and willingness to help the GMC and Laraway Section will be missed.

Section Outings

The past few years our section outings have been focused on trail maintenance. We are fortunate this is the area of interest with volunteers and a good excuse to be on the trails early in the season.

I would like to do a few more hikes during the year and would like to ask for input and suggestions on locations that are of interest.

Last June we hiked 12 miles over Bolton Mountain from Stevensville Road to Bolton Notch Road, spotting a car at Bolton Notch to get us back to the Stevensville trail head afterward. These are hikes I would like to continue doing with anyone who does not mind the drive back to the starting point. It's a good way to hike through areas that you would not have time to do alone on a day hike.

Another hike last year was from Rt 108 LT crossing in Stowe to the Elephants Head Trail and around Sterling Pond. As the sun started to go down on the top of the Sterling ski lift line we could see the Montreal buildings on the horizon line. The sun set quickly and we used headlamps going back down the Sterling Pond Trail as it became dark.

Laraway Members

The Laraway Section currently has 50 members in our section.

Puncheon on Laraway Mountain

On August 29, 2007 a helicopter dropped 4 loads of hemlock to be used for mud bridges (puncheon) on the North side of Laraway Mountain. The drop location was a small clearing we discovered just off the trail and central to some of the mud bogs located to the North and South of Laraway Summit. It made a short carry with the lumber to get most of the mud bridges built.

The lumber was purchased by the Laraway Section in the fall of 2006 and stored at Pat Audet's house in Johnson for the winter. In the spring of 2007 Tom Neu, Chris Hale, and Dan Gaherty helped move the lumber to Montgomery where other lumber was staged to be flown to the Tillotson Camp restoration project and puncheon project on Haystack Mountain.

The helicopter flew the lumber to Laraway on August 29, 2007. Scott Christiansen and Duncan Macaulay helped with unloading and stacking the lumber when the helicopter lowered it down to us. We were amazed on the accuracy of the pilot to drop the 800 pound bundles of lumber exactly where we wanted it placed.

Tom Neu, Leo Leach, and Scott Christiansen helped with installing the lumber on 3 Saturdays in September. The puncheon (bog bridges) are located in the muddiest spots to the North and South of Laraway and will make the hike through much drier.

We still have a few sections to be installed this year and welcome anyone who would like to help. See the outings schedule for date and time.

Section Officers

President - Bruce Bushey,

Email: BrBshey@verizon.com

Vice President - Bob Erickson,

Email: erickson@cems.uvm.edu

Board of Directors - Chris Hale

Email: chris@digitalfrontier.com

Treasurer - Leo Leach

Email: Gmclt99@aol.com

Laraway Web Site

Thanks to Bob Erickson for hosting and maintaining the Laraway web site. Articles have been submitted by Bruce Bushey.

Visit the Laraway WEB Site at

www.emba.uvm.edu/~erickson/gmc/

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Trails & Shelter Help in 2007

On May 5,6 Laraway Section volunteer Bob Thomson lead a Boy Scout Troop consisting of Kyle Boomhower, Brian Thompson, Jamie Tazlar, Daniel Sullivan, Zachary Roberge, and James Tazlar. They cleared blow-downs, trimmed branches, and painted blazes from Hogback Road to Plot Road.

On Saturday, May 12 Laraway Section volunteer Sam Nelson lead a group of 4 students from the RockPoint School in Burlington over Laraway Summit clearing blow-downs, clipping branches, and cleaning water bars.

Thank you Bob and Sam for involving younger people in the Long Trail. The work helped the trail adopters in those sections.

Laraway Adopters

We would like to thank the following volunteers for donating their time to maintain the trails and shelters through the Laraway Section.

To report problems contact Bruce Bushey or the adopter responsible in problem location.

John Zaber *Rt 15 to Plot Road* 648-3591
John Carmola *Roundtop Shelter* 527-7233
Sue Swindell *Plot Road to Coddling Hollow*
244-4998
Bruce Bushey *Coddling Hollow to Corliss Camp*
- 893-2146
Patrick Audet *Corliss Camp* 635-2106
Josh Hockenson *Corliss Camp to Bowen South*
635-7880
Matt Wels *Davis Neighborhood Trail* 524-3179
Danielle Paradis *Bowen South to Babcock Trail
Jct.* 660-0471
Scott Christiansen *Spruce Ledge Camp* 524-4920
Bill & Martha McClintock *LT from Babcock Trail Jct.
to Rt 118* 878-8768
Chris Hale *Babcock Trail* 635-9995

Trails & Shelters News

Bruce Bushey

Last Spring Tom Neu, Scott Christiansen, Tony Smith, John Lepinski, Danielle Paradis, Duncan Macaulay, and Pat Audet helped with trail clearing in May and June removing downed trees, trimming branches, and clearing water bars.

Looks like we finally stopped the skylight leak at Spruce Ledge Camp. Roofing tar fixed the leak that happened during strong rains.

The snow at Spruce Ledge Camp can accumulate up to 3 feet on the roof creating a potential structural problem. A few years ago the Laraway Section purchased a snow rake and Rich Furlong has been keeping the roof clear of the deep snow. Thanks Rich.

This year the shelters look to be in good shape with no problems from the winter snows. However the conifers in the higher elevations will need clearing off the trail after freezing rain this winter has pulled many down across the trail.

Laraway Annual Meeting

Last year we were not able to have our annual meeting on the scheduled day. It was a busy summer and I neglected to re-scheduled for a later date.

This year our meeting will be hosted by Scott Christiansen at his house in St. Albans. Being our Saturdays are busy this year we will meet on Friday night at 6:30 pm.

- From the I89 exit 19 in St Albans travel 1 mile to S. Main St / Rt 7.
- Turn left on Rt 7 and travel .9 mile to Prospect Hill Road.
- Turn left on Prospect Hill Road and travel .1 mile to Bay View Road.
- Turn left on Bay View Road and travel .1 mile to Georgie Ave.
- Turn right on Georgie Ave. House #9 on left. Call Scott at 524-4920 to confirm.

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Laraway Activities Schedule.

April-August 2008

For trail workdays listed below contact Call Bruce Bushey 893-2146 or email BrBshey@verizon.net for meeting time and place

April 26.

Trail Walk Through, clearing blow-downs and trimming branches. Location TBD. Bring gloves, lunch, water, and branch clippers.

May 3.

Trail Walk Through, clearing blow-downs and trimming branches from Plot Road to Coddington Hollow. Moderate 2.4 miles. Bring gloves, lunch, water, and branch clippers.

May 10.

Trail Walk Through, clearing blow-downs and trimming branches. Location TBD. Bring gloves, lunch, water, and branch clippers.

May 17.

Trail Walk Through, clearing blow-downs and trimming branches over Laraway Mtn. We will spot cars at Coddington hollow and Davis Neighborhood. Approximately 4.8 miles. Bring gloves, lunch, water, and branch clippers.

May 23.

****** Laraway Section annual meeting ****.**

This year our meeting will be hosted by Scott Christiansen at his house in St. Albans. See notice on page 2 for directions and time.

May 24.

Trail Walk Through, clearing blow-downs and trimming branches over Butternut Mtn. We will spot cars at Davis Neighborhood and North Hyde Park. Bring gloves, lunch, water, and branch clippers.

May 30, 31

GMC Annual Meeting.

Awards ceremony, section presentations, receptions, and many hikes. Waterbury Center.

June 7.

National Trails Day.

Finish installing puncheon mud bridges on Laraway Mountain. Tools furnished. Approximately 5 miles. From Coddington Hollow over Laraway Summit. Call 893-2146

June 14

Hike Camels Hump. Spot cars at River Road LT parking and Monroe Trail Head. Difficult 9 miles. Call leader 893-2146.

July 19

Hike Lafayette and Mount Lincoln, NH. Moderate 9 miles with 3900' elevation gain. 6.25 hours. Leave VT early to beat the crowds. Call 893-2146 for details.