



Randolph Mountain Club Newsletter

“... sharing the collective knowledge of its members ...”

December 2017



VIEWSHED CLEARING IN THE RANDOLPH COMMUNITY FOREST

by Bob Drescher

There are many popular viewpoints along the RMC’s trails below treeline, both in the Northern Presidentials and in the Crescent Range on the north side of the Randolph valley, and if you’ve visited them from time to time, you’ve probably noticed that the views have changed as the surrounding trees have grown in. At some locations, the beautiful view you remember from decades ago may have completely disappeared. These viewpoints are important resources for our club community and for the public, providing enjoyable hiking destinations during much of the 20th century. At some locations—think of Castleview Rock—to reach the viewpoint was the main reason for cutting the trail in the first place.

Since 2014, beginning with the work of former Trails chair George Brown, the Trails Committee has been exploring ways to restore these viewpoints, through “viewshed clearing”. We might define a viewshed as a geographical area that is visible from a certain location, including all surrounding points that are in line-of-sight. Initially our focus was drawn to sites such as Dome Rock, White Cliff, King Cliff and Kelton Crag,

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Fall trail crew member Dan Shea at the re-opened view from Castleview Ledge, in October. Bob Drescher photo.



A NEW RMC TRAIL: ‘WILL’S WAY’

by Randy Meiklejohn

At their October meeting, members of the board of directors voted unanimously to accept a proposal for a new RMC trail, to be known as Will’s Way. The trail, approximately 680 feet in length, starts on the Pasture Path just west of its junction with the Diagonal, and runs north to a point on Randolph Hill Road opposite Sugar Plum Farm. It is very much like the Short Circuit, which follows a similar route about five hundred feet to the east. Together they form a loop for short walks between the Midlands and the Hill.

The trail honors the memory of Will Hartman, and passes along the west side of the land where he grew up. He died in October 2016 in a kayaking accident in India, and many in the Randolph community saw a remembrance of Will in last December’s issue of the Mountain View. His mother, Lynn Hunt, brought the trail proposal to the club, and has provided additional notes about the trail and about Will for this article.

In considering the addition of this trail, the directors followed the policy adopted by the board in July 2015 regarding

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The new “Will’s Way” trail, ascending towards Randolph Hill Road from the Pasture Path. R. Meiklejohn photo.

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Randolph Mountain Club 2017-2018

Officers, Directors,
committee chairs and honorary members

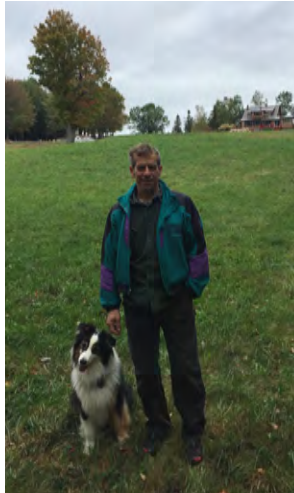
President	Jamie Maddock, South Berwick ME
Vice President	Kate Hudson, Pelham MA
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Secretary	Randy Meiklejohn, Brookline MA
Other Directors:	Pete Antos-Ketcham, Starksboro, VT Dwight Bradley, Randolph NH Bob Drescher, Barnstead NH Benzo Harris, Portland ME Carl Herz, Bedford MA Ben Lieberson, Boston MA Jenn Scarinza, Franklin Stone Wenk Samarjit Shankar, Arlington MA Jeff Smith, Berlin NH Franklin Stone Wenk, Brooklyn NY Wendy Walsh, Randolph NH
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Social Events:	Jenn Scarinza, Franklin Stone Wenk
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Merchandise:	Michele Cormier
Planned Giving:	Randy Meiklejohn
Communications:	Samarjit Shankar
Membership:	Michele Cormier
Stewardship:	Samarjit Shankar
Safety:	Bill Arnold
Stearns Lodge:	Paul Cormier
Work Trips:	Chris Campbell, Bob Drescher
Newsletter:	Randy Meiklejohn
Webmaster:	Jeff Smith
Archivist:	Al Hudson
Historian:	Judy Hudson
Cartographer:	Jon Hall
Radios:	Bill Arnold
Honorary members:	Bill & Barbara Arnold Paula Bradley Al & Judy Hudson Robert Kenyon Edith Tucker

The mission of the Randolph Mountain Club is to promote the enjoyment of the Randolph area through hiking, trail development and maintenance, upkeep of camps and shelters, and the sharing of the collective knowledge of its members.

The Randolph Mountain Club is a diverse organization, committed to equal opportunity in employment and program delivery. The RMC prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, political affiliation and familial status.

www.randolphmountainclub.org

From the President ...



It was quite a fall up here in the North Country; those of you who live in New England know about the severe windstorm at the end of October. Many houses were without power for up to a week. Around Randolph and the Northern Presidentials, the storm took down many trees, to the point that some trails became impassable. There were many individual blowdowns, and it's possible to navigate around those, but at other locations there were tangles of multiple downed trees. Arriving in October, this event caused more damage than it would have in winter because the ground was saturated and quite soft, so many trees were not snapped but uprooted.

So—right at the end of the summer and fall trail crew seasons, suddenly we were faced with extensive work just to keep our network open for hiking over the cold months of the year. The good news is that we were readier than ever to respond to situations like this, after a remarkably successful year of organized volunteer efforts on the RMC trails. Elsewhere in this newsletter issue you'll see what they accomplished. And the key word is “organized”; I especially want to thank our Trails co-chairs Bob Drescher and Benzo Harris, and outgoing-in-2017 co-chair Chris Campbell, for all of the planning, coordinating, communications outreach and collaboration with me and the board that made the season so successful.

Back to the October storm damage: in response, we began to assess the trails, and to clear some priority routes, and to reach out to members likely to be able to mobilize. Bob and Benzo emailed past trail volunteers and local members on Nov. 14th, describing the damage, asking for additional assessment help, and inviting them to send photos and descriptions of specific locations (to be posted in a growing trail conditions log at the RMC website). The message also advertised a weekend trail work day, on the last weekend before Thanksgiving—and just before this newsletter issue went into production, so we've included notes and photographs from the event. Many thanks to those who came out in parkas, hats and mittens to clear our trails; I was proud to be an RMC member on that day. Thanks also to Katie Kelley for the dinner for our volunteers, who earned it—in one day they completed everything we planned.

Fortunately, none of our bridges or camps were damaged, but there will still be more to do on the trails in 2018, including repairs to routes severely eroded by the storm. At our January board meeting, we'll discuss whether we should budget more than usual for trail work; I'll let you know more in my annual letter in February. I hope you'll support next season's trail work program in any way you can, and if you know someone who would make a good crew member, please encourage him or her to apply this winter.

Wishing you all a good winter, and see you soon in Randolph (maybe at the “Cabin Fever Reliever” square dance, on March 10th!).

Jamie Maddock

Above, Jamie and Guyot, in the meadow below the Hunts' on Randolph Hill Rd., in September. R. Meiklejohn photo.



New RMC Directors

By Chris Campbell, 2017 Nominating Committee chair

At the Annual Meeting on August 11, members elected two new directors to initial three-year terms on the board; brief biographies appear on this page. Members also elected three currently serving directors to second three-year terms (Benzo Harris, Carl Herz and Jenn Scarinza), voted to extend Kate Hudson's initial term to 2018, and re-elected Jamie Maddock as President, for a third year. At the meeting, Jamie acknowledged and thanked outgoing directors Chris Campbell and Ryan Smith.

Wendy Walsh has been hiking, running, snow shoeing, and cross country skiing the trails of Randolph and the Whites with at least one of her dogs for the past 20 years, and is a year-round resident of Randolph. Fortunately, she is able to work primarily from home as a Research Associate Professor at the Crimes against Children Research Center at the University of New Hampshire, where she evaluates child abuse and sexual assault prevention and intervention programs. This year she is just completing serving on the Randolph Foundation Board, and now welcomes the opportunity to be on the RMC Board.

Ben Lieberson first came to Randolph a decade ago, after doing a Google search for "trail crew jobs" and stumbling upon RMC's website. He worked as a member of RMC's trail crew from 2007 to 2009 and went on to serve as Field Supervisor in 2010 and 2011. Since then, he worked on the Routt National Forest in Colorado and at Acadia National Park, where he focused on restoring historic stone masonry on the trails. In 2014, Ben moved to Boston to follow his other passion: theater. He works as a freelance set designer and technical director for many small and mid-size theater companies in the Boston area. Ben has enjoyed coming to Randolph for the past few years to help out with training and to spend time with the trail crew, and is excited to give back to the RMC in a new way.



RMC members at summer 2017 social events. From top, dining in the garden at Libby's, at the August fundraiser and auction; Dick and Caroline Doyle at the Picnic & Charades; Ben and Barb Phinney and others at the benefit square dance at Sugar Plum Farm. Franklin Stone Wenk photos.

1,148 hours of RMC volunteer trail work in 2017

By Chris Campbell

The June issue of this newsletter included an overview of our volunteer trail work program for 2017, and an appeal for volunteers. At the end of this season—which included significant volunteer work into the fall—I'm pleased to report on a very successful year. Here are a few numbers and details about what we did together.



On 12 scheduled work days in July and August, 35 volunteers spent 453 hours brushing 16.8 miles and blazing 10.5 miles on 16 trails: Mary Adams, Anne Barschall, Geoff & Grayson Beringer, Rudy Bourget (3 days), Amanda Boisvert, Dwight Bradley (2), Viv Buckley, Chris (5) and Margaret Campbell, Ray Cooper, the DeMarcos (Hannah, Allison, Garrett, Nathan, & Jennifer), Dylan Costa, Bob Drescher (10), George (2) & Renee (5) Dunham, Benzo Harris, Carl Herz, Jamie Maddock, T.J. McAndrew, Randy Meiklejohn, Danielle Normand (2), Ben Phinney, Chris Pollari (3), Greg Rossolimo, Tom Straub, Steve Weber (7), David & Franklin Stone Wenk, Andy Wiley, and Jeff Wilson (12).

These volunteer hours directly support our eligibility for grants from government or non-profit organizations, because their value provides a required match for a certain percentage of a grant. In our application to the NH RTP (Recreational Trails Program) for work on the Israel Ridge Path in 2017, our match commitment of \$7,450.00 (20% of the grant) included 48 hours of volunteer work (value \$1,141.92) along with the paid trail crew hours. Our actual brushing-and-blazing volunteer hours totaled 128, plus Bob Drescher and Jeff Wilson contributed 66 hours for repairs to the ladders on the trail, which had been constructed in 2002 and 2004.

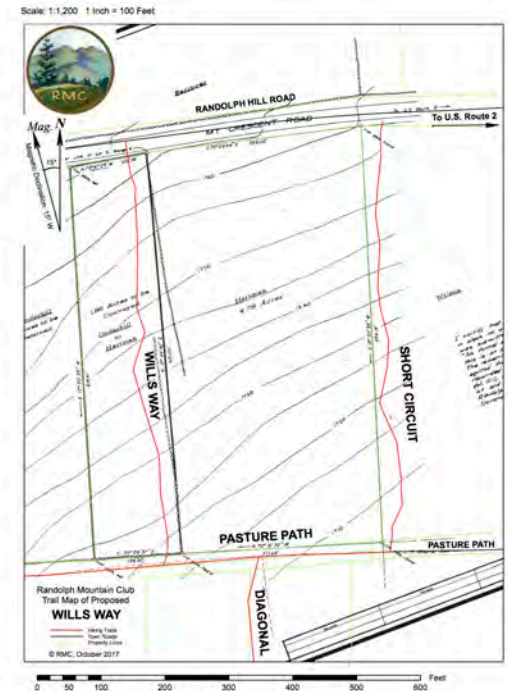
Above, Steve Weber and Viv Buckley on the Israel Ridge Path volunteer work day. Chris Campbell photo.

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“Will’s Way”, from page 1

changes to the club’s trails. Proposals for adding, removing, substantially relocating or re-naming RMC trails are to be 1) considered only in a meeting of the board of directors, 2) decided by a majority vote of the board, 3) documented in a map, and 4) accompanied by evidence of the consent of the owner of the land where the trail is located.

Will’s Way is newly named and a new addition to the RMC network, but it is not a new trail; it has been in use by local residents for many decades, and in all seasons. The club’s directors would like to thank Lynn Hunt for her proposal to the RMC, and to encourage members who aren’t familiar with this route to come enjoy a walk in the woods.



Above, the aerial photographic view and detail map of the trail network were developed after the October board meeting, through collaboration between outgoing Trails co-chair Chris Campbell and RMC cartographer Jonathan Hall; they show the route of the new ‘Will’s Way’ trail as recorded with a portable GPS device.

About Will Hartman, and ‘Will’s Way’



In the late 1970s, the property between the western stone wall of 215 Randolph Hill Road and the western end of the “kayak area” was part of the Underhill estate, now owned by the Eitels. Robert Underhill cut the original path from Randolph Hill Road to the Pasture Path, his trail paralleled Pasture Path, then north to his home--a perfect circle.

“Will’s Way” is a *double entendre* (a word or phrase open to two interpretations).

1. It is a path that has been used by many for decades and unknown by many for decades.
2. It is the spirituality and the philosophy of how Will conducted his life in this world.

The choices we make in the way we treat and love our friends and family are reflected in "Outline For A Well-Lived Life As Observed In Will Hartman". On this page are some of these, excerpted from statements made by Will’s close friends.

Incorporating “Will’s Way” into the RMC trail system ensures Will's passion for life, his smile, and his spirit will live on.

- Lynn Hunt



Above, a temporary RMC trail sign at the Randolph Hill Road end of the trail, October 2017. Left, Will Hartman in his kayak. Photos courtesy of Lynn Hunt.

- Get Out In Nature
- Do What You Love
- Do It Some More
- Read Books
- Surround Yourself With Good Friends
- Beat Them At Scrabble
- Call Your Mom--Tell Her Your Secrets
- Tell Everyone You Love Them
- Do Fun Stuff With Your Dad
- Listen More, Talk Less
- Live Simply
- Challenge Yourself
- Give To Others
- Fall In Love

Trails Report

By Bob Drescher and Benzo Harris

With a full season of work to do on the Israel Ridge Path and six 1st year crew members, we knew it would be a challenging and interesting summer. Despite some mid-season departures, the crew made great progress and met all the problems head on. Instruction in rock work and griphoist training was provided by new director (in 2017) and former field supervisor Ben Lieberson at the start of the project, which included setting sixty-two rocks for constructing an eleven-step rock staircase, rock waterbars, retaining walls and check steps. Thanks to our 2017 Field Supervisor Brian Behr, Crew Leader Justin Taylor and Hailey Vlass and for their leadership and skilled work this season. Trail hardening work, including a large rock staircase beyond the 2nd Cascade, and replacement of two log ladders was accomplished by our fall crew of Justin Taylor, Dan Shea and Matt Rebolini.

Other work this season included patrolling the trail network, replacing four sets of bog bridge stringers on EZ Way and replacing one set of stringers on the Howker Ridge Trail. Work on the RCF Interpretive Trail and the Crystal Mine Trail included installing new sign posts and signs.

As we look forward to the coming season, we are excited to announce that we are now hiring for the 2018 trail crew, and ask members to pass on the word along. If you know someone qualified who would be interested in working on the RMC Trail Crew, please have them contact us at trailschair@randolphmountainclub.org.

Volunteer Profile, continued from back cover

map or with only a really poor map; many plan on using their phones as a map, and as GPS, flashlight, and communications device. Some are ambitious and don't understand the difficulty of the trails in this area, or the time their hike will take. Fortunately, most seem to be open to suggestions and are grateful someone is there to give guidance and let them know what weather to expect, as well as what the trails are like. In addition to manning the trailhead, I also patrol the trails all around the Presidentials, breaking up fire rings, checking on trail and sign conditions, and talking with hikers. I really enjoy interacting with the hikers both at the trailhead and on the trail and, if one hiker avoids rescue after talking with me, I feel I've done my job.

Volunteers, continued from page 3

From May through October, other RMC volunteers worked on trails alone or in small groups. Benzo, Bob, Chris Campbell, Carl, Curtis Moore, Jeff, Katie Kelly, Michele Cormier, Renee, and Steve worked another 307 hours brushing another 10 miles on 12 other RMC trails; replacing trail signs; estimating materials for bog bridge replacements and bridge repairs; performing trail assessments; creating GPS tracks; helping with the Burke Mountain Academy volunteer day; and repairing Sanders Bridge.

From November 1st to the 17th, Ben, Bob, Carl, Jamie, Jeff, Kelsey Andre, and Tom spent 118 hours clearing blowdowns and patrolling for storm damage from the October 30 storm on 23 trails, focusing on those trails leading to RMC shelters. A volunteer work trip on November 18 attracted 22 volunteers who spent 188 hours on 35 miles of RMC trails. Special thanks to Kathleen and Mark Kelley for providing housing and sustenance for volunteers after trail work on this day.

The 2017 volunteer effort is a major step up, with more than double the number of volunteers and hours in 2016. We think this increase comes in large part from our email appeal to the membership in the spring, growing recognition of the value of RMC trails, and individual contributions from many volunteers, notably Jeff Wilson and Bob Drescher. We hope RMC volunteers will continue their support of RMC trails in the future.



Top, Nov. 18 volunteers, front to back, L to R: Amy Patenaude, Phoebe Seltzer, Debra Hodgkins, Dylan Costa; Jamie Maddock, Wendy Walsh, Nathan Hillman, Chris Campbell; Kathy Forrestal, Beth Malachowsky, Jeff Wilson; Dwight Bradley, Steve Hartman, Ben Lieberson, Eric Kinter, Jean Kinter; Chris Durning; B. Drescher, Benzo Harris. E. Tucker photo. Above left: Re-built ladders on the Israel Ridge Path; Justin Taylor photo. Above right: Jeff Wilson on the Amphibrach, after the October 30 storm; Bob Drescher photo.

Burke Mountain Academy Students Volunteer on RMC Trails

By Bob Drescher

In conversations along the trail with RMC members, you can learn something you didn't know, or get to know a fellow hiker a little better; and sometimes, you can cook up a plan to help the Club in a new way. I spent time with member Vivian Buckley on an Israel Ridge Path volunteer work trip this summer, and before we got off the mountain that day we had done that third thing: we had a great plan for the RMC. Viv is a math teacher at Burke Mountain Academy in East Burke, Vermont, and she told me about the outdoor volunteer work that BMA students often do. Could we find an opportunity for the students to pitch in on RMC trails too? In fact, Chris Campbell and I knew about two construction projects on the trails that we were planning to do soon, but for which we hadn't been able to get all the materials in place. Together with Viv, we sketched out a plan for her students and BMA staff to come over to Randolph in the fall, and hand-carry our materials out on to the trails.

Fast-forward to October 21 at 9:00 AM, and the vans are rolling across the bridge to Cold Brook Lodge, to a spot in the field where sixty students spill out. They head for Stearns Lodge, for a brief talk about the RMC trails, Leave No Trace practices and safety, and then disperse to their designated trails. Half of them carried pre-cut hemlock 2x8s and 4x4s over two miles from Appalachia to the Sanders Bridge (on the Randolph Path, crossing Cold Brook), returning by way of Cliffway and Amphibrach. The others moved forty-five-3x8x8' tamarack stringers and nearly forty 36" wide cedar bases from Grassy Lane to the Pasture Path, for bog bridge replacement, and returning by way of the Four Soldiers Path and the logging road in the Community Forest.

First and foremost we thank the BMA students, who were physically fit, cheerful and numerous; they blitzed through the work before lunchtime. We thank Viv for being our point of contact at the school for all of the necessary coordination, and the RMC board for their decision to purchase the materials this fall. Finally, RMC volunteers Jeff Wilson, Chris Campbell, Bob Drescher, Dwight & Lauren Bradley, Mark & Katie Kelley Benzo Harris, Brian Behr, Steve Weber, Edith Tucker, Bill Arnold and Jeff Parker all contributed to making this event successful, and we all are still in amazement over the "force" known as Burke Mountain Academy.



Above, BMA students and staff with RMC volunteers, on Randolph Hill. Left, top to bottom: students carrying bog bridge bases; students carrying bog bridge stringers; a team headed up the Amphibrach with lumber for Sanders Bridge; collapsed deck boards at Sanders Bridge, before the repairs; students and volunteers at the bridge; Sanders Bridge after extensive repairs by Bob Drescher and Jeff Wilson. Bob Drescher photos.

Jeff Wilson, RMC Volunteer of the Year

By Chris Campbell

The RMC board of directors has recognized Jeff Wilson as our 2017 volunteer of the year, for his skilled contributions to trail construction and clearing work, his steady companionship on our volunteer work days, and his remarkable commitment of time and effort in the past two seasons. Jeff first volunteered for the Club on the July 30, 2016 volunteer day on the Vyron D. Lowe Trail. Later last year, he worked with Trails co-chair Bob Drescher to blaze all 1.7 miles of the Kelton Trail and to repair the Peeko Folsom Memorial Bridge (on the Bee Line, over Carlton Brook).

This year, Jeff was the only volunteer to participate on all twelve volunteer trail days, from the Brookbank in early July, to all three days on the Israel Ridge Path in July and August, to the Edmunds Col Cutoff in August. Jeff also spent about thirty-six hours repairing the two largest Israel Ridge Path ladders; twenty-two hours brushing the Crystal Mine Trail, the Diagonal, the E Z Way, the Community Forest Interpretive Trail, the Pasture Path, and the Groveway and other trails on Randolph Hill before the RMC's Annual Meeting; eighteen hours with Brian Behr, Chris Campbell, Bob Drescher, and Benzo Harris on trail assessments for Lowe's Path, Short Line, and Starr King Trail; sixteen hours preparing for the Burke Mountain Academy (BMA) volunteer day on October 21st, seven hours with Bob Drescher replacing signs and installing sign posts near the new trailhead; and five hours during the BMA work day itself. Part of the BMA effort included transport of materials for repair of Sanders Bridge (on the Randolph Path, over Cold Brook), which Bob and Jeff completed this fall. Finally, Jeff put in sixty-one hours on ten days from November 1-18, removing blowdowns from the October 30 storm. Jeff's efforts for RMC trails this year—so far—sum to an amazing two hundred forty-two hours, and they are greatly appreciated by the Club.

During his volunteering last year, Jeff was inspired by the RMC's dedication to our trail system. He says about his motivation to maintain RMC trails that "we owe it to the path builders to keep their trails going." Jeff's enthusiasm for RMC trails and his good spirit have been enjoyed by other volunteers, RMC members, and the hiking public.

Jeff has hiked all his adult life, both on short outings from his home in Stow, Maine where he is a self-employed handyman, to longer routes, including the Appalachian Trail (two full trips), the Long Trail, and the John Muir Trail (in the Sierra Nevada). He first hiked on RMC trails about fifteen years ago and joined RMC in 2012. Jeff is a member of the RMC trails committee and of Androscoggin Valley Search and Rescue (AVSAR).



Top: Jeff on the Howker Ridge Trail.
Above, on new treads on an Israel Ridge Path ladder, Chris Pollari, Jeff, Rudy Bourget, Bob Drescher.
Bob Drescher photos.

Welcome new members!

Joined April – November 2017

Eoghan & Dana Kelley, Danvers MA
Jesse & Aoibhinn Daniels, Gorham NH
Tom Skinner, Middleton MA
Richard Schaler, Marblehead MA
Jef Grinarmi, Salem MA
Susan Elaine Zoller, Concord NH
Andrew Barlow, Hampstead NH
Wallace Teto, Organge MA
Gregory Rossolimo, Pomfret CT
Paul Tellers, Pittsburgh PA
William Moss, Harvard MA
John McCarthy, North Andover MA
Matthew Hayden, Newburyport MA
Benoir Caron, Montreal QC
William Robichaud, Intervale NH
Steven Adefeff, Cambridge MA

Linda McDermott, Franconia NH
Robert Haynes, New York NY
Cale Magruder, Allston MA
Thaddeus Duprey, Jersey City NJ
Keith Deterling, N. Concord VT
Philip Werner, Malden MA
Laura & Brent Maroon, Wolfboro NH
Dylan Boucher, Hooksett NH
James Bonneville, Shrewsbury MA
Vincent Marconi, Portsmouth NH
Richard Gerber, Fremont NH
Simon Piette, Montreal QC
Gene Kelly, New Boston NH
Thomas Groleau, Nashua NH
Cory Kirk, Winthrop MA
Mary Holmes, Norwood MA
Earl Gilbert, Biddeford ME
Keith Rayeski, Barrington NH
Eben Palanza, Mansfield MA

Kathryn Caldwell, Bristol NH
Richard Day, Chelmsford MA
Nicholas Stavropoulos,
 New York NY
Dennis Himes, Vernon CT
Jean Duet, Sylvania OH
Alex Holman, Cambridge MA
Merritt Maxim, Bethel ME
Kevin Dutt, Newton Centre MA
Warren Miller, Ansonia CT
Angela Bellisio, Brooklyn NY
Ethel Macleod, Boston MA
Carrick Gambell, Camden ME
Heather Deschenes, Essex MA
Rob Oliver, New Haven CT
Emily & Wayne Atwell,
 Jersey City NJ
Sheila Dube, Saco ME
Beth Zimmer, Meredith NH



Before



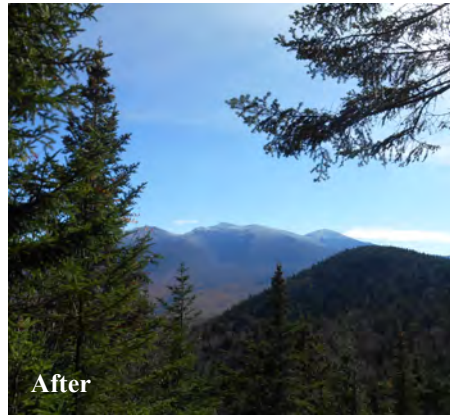
Before



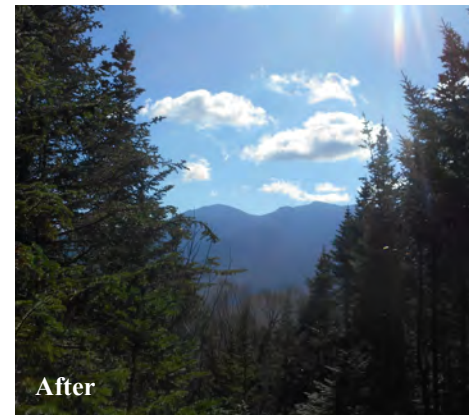
Before



After



After



After

Castleview Ledge

Lafayette View

Mt. Randolph View

Viewshed clearing, continued from first page

Photos by Justin Taylor

all of which are located in the White Mountain National Forest. Before proceeding with viewshed clearing at these locations, any RMC proposal must undergo a federal environmental review, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, to ensure that the removal of trees doesn't have a negative impact on plant or animal habitat.

Over the past year, we identified opportunities to undertake viewshed clearing along our trails in the Crescent Range, where many historic viewpoints lie within the Randolph Community Forest. Club historian Judy Hudson helped us develop a list of locations, and she also devised a practical rating system to describe the current view conditions at each. For example, we rated Eye of the Needle as "View About Gone", and the North View on Mt. Crescent as "Doesn't Need Clearing Now". After this analysis, we listed six sites for proposed clearing work in 2017: Castleview Rock and Castleview Ledge (on Castleview Loop); Lafayette View and viewpoint below Mt. Randolph summit (Crescent Ridge Trail); and Eye of the Needle and the "View" 0.1 miles east of Eye of the Needle (Four Soldiers Path).

In April we presented this project at a meeting of the Randolph Community Forest Commission, and received their permission to selectively cut trees to open up the proposed sites, on the conditions that we 1) provide photographs documenting the completed work, and 2) maintain the views. Also in April, the RMC Board of Directors approved funding for the fall trail crew to spend a week in the RCF to begin work. A fall start was necessary in order to avoid cutting during the Northern long-eared bat's prime nesting season, which is from early June through early August.

After meeting with Field Supervisor Brian Behr and fall crew sawyers Justin Taylor and Dan Shea, we flagged the Castleview Loop sites and the sites on the Crescent Ridge Trail, with cutting beginning on October 5th. We had good luck with the weather: mostly clear skies allowed us to see the viewsheds and cut almost every day during the second week of October. The process to restore a view requires a very measured approach, identifying the trees to be removed, reviewing the results after each tree is cut out of the sight line, and then bucking up the felled tree and mincing up the limbs and brush. Since most of the sites are located on ledges, rocks and cliffs, we were fortunate to be able to engage Justin and Dan, who have experience working on steep terrain. The views from Castleview Rock and Ledge are now much improved, while the Lafayette View and Mt. Randolph View are open again for all to enjoy. We appreciate the support of the Community Forest Commission and the RMC Board of Directors in this effort, and we hope that restoring these historic views will enhance the experience of everyone who uses our trails. Please go have a look; we would be happy to hear from members about the work as it continues.

From the Archives

By Judy & Al Hudson

In August 2016, Sandra Woodard Cathey and her husband Bill gave the Club LeRoy Woodard's small etching of Speck Pond, entitled "RMC Mahoosuc Trip" (*below*). The delightful etching from her father's estate must have been created in the late 1930s. Sandra has been revisiting her childhood memories of Randolph vacations, while she explores her parents' legacy in Randolph.



Roy Woodard (*left*) resided and painted in Randolph for about ten years throughout the 1930s. In 1931 he moved into the attic of the Town Hall, where he lived for a number of years. Among his many depictions of Randolph scenes are the RMC's logo, the poster of "Randolph, New Hampshire" that we sell on our website, and the original Randolph hiker sign that still (in revised form) marks the town's boundaries on US Route 2. He married another Randolph artist, Margaret "Miggy" Arnold, whose family had rented the former Hincks-Nelson Smith House on the Hill for many years.

We are hoping to find wall space in Randolph for the etching, so that everyone can enjoy this memento of the RMC's history. We continue to collect printed information and scan photos for the Archive. Please be in touch if you have anything to share! abudson@anthro.umass.edu.

A Truck for the Trail Crew?

By Jamie Maddock and Randy Meiklejohn

Most RMC members know about, and many have visited, the Stearns Lodge and the Goetze workshop, the Club's two buildings adjacent to Cold Brook Lodge along Durand Road; they're where our employees live and where we store and maintain our tools. Those who haven't been members of the trail crew might not know how those employees, tools and materials actually get to the crew's work sites every day. The answer is: it depends, and sometimes it depends upon the good will of our employees, who often agree to let their personal vehicles be used to transport everything to and from the trailheads. But tools and building materials can be heavy and have sharp edges—has anyone ever thrown a bunch of five-foot rock bars in the back of your Subaru?—and at the end of the day everything can be dirty and wet, so the wear and tear on our employees' cars has been a problem.



At the October board meeting, president Jamie Maddock appointed a committee to look into a more sustainable solution to this recurring transportation need. In their preliminary report, the committee has recommended the Club consider acquiring a truck, and making this proposal known through the newsletter, in case any of our members can help.



Our ideal vehicle is a crew cab truck or cargo van with removable back seats, to carry at least four employees, plus their packs, tools, and lumber, and occasionally to safely transport chainsaws, brush saws and fuel. We would drive less than 2,000 miles per year, spring through fall, typically within a twenty-mile radius of Stearns Lodge.

Do you have a truck that might meet the RMC's needs? Please contact Jamie Maddock with any offers or ideas, at president@randolphmountainclub.org, or any of the directors.

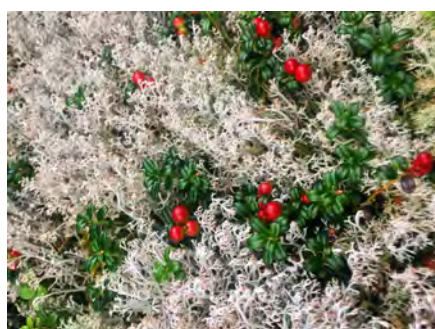
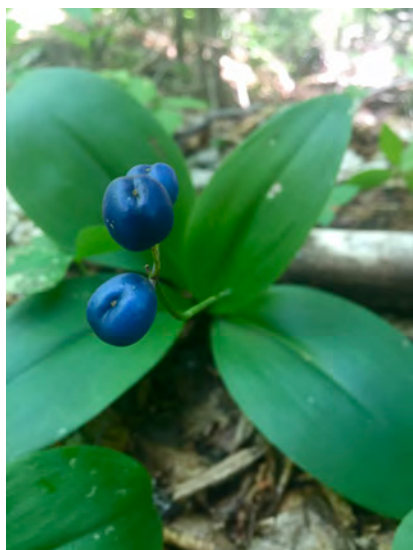
Crew member Andy Olson & field supervisor Brian Behr, with tools, on the Israel Ridge Path. Bob Drescher photo.

Treasurer's Report

By Kathleen Kelley

	Administration	Development	Camps	Stearns	Trails Grants	Trails	Total	2017 Budget
Revenue								
YTD Q3:	\$32,771	28,935	40,949	0	21,220	0	123,875	\$135,614
Expense								
YTD Q3:	\$15,626	3,774	3,774	11,947	21,220	11,726	103,046	\$136,891
Net	\$17,145	25,161	2,196	(11,947)	0	(11,726)	20,829	

Financially, we are now finishing out our first year of classifying our revenue and expenses in the six categories above, and it has been informative for the board of directors as we plan the upcoming year. Through the third quarter, we have performed well against the 2017 budget. One of our current revenue challenges is the increasing number of people reaching our camps with no credit card or cash; although they promise to pay after they get off the mountain, many never do so. Nor has the weather has been our friend this year; we incurred additional costs to repair the damage done to some trails and Stearns Lodge. An unexpected reduction in summer trail crew employees caused expenses to be lower than budgeted; note that over 50% of our operating costs are in payroll.



Volunteer for Botany Research

By Carl Herz

The RMC is recruiting volunteers for its participation in an exciting new project designed to contribute high-quality data to climate science. The work involves tracking the stages of plant development each week at ten mountain sites, from late May or early June through mid-October of 2018. All ten are located along RMC trails, including the Amphibrach, the Randolph Path, the Spur Trail and Lowe's Path. The plants we will be monitoring include Canada mayflower, bunchberry, hobblebush, bluebead lily, Bigelow's sedge, lingonberry, diaspensia and bog bilberry. Don't worry if any of the plants are unfamiliar to you—they are all easily recognized with a little training! These species are monitored by other outdoors groups across the Northeast, and have been selected for this project in order to expand the pool of data about them. We will upload our data to the National Phenology Network (usanpn.org), where students and professionals can access it for free as they look at trends in seasonal changes within the monitored species. If you love our trails and want to contribute to scientific research, this is a great way to help. No horticultural experience is necessary, although volunteers should be prepared for a long day hike, as the highest site is near the summit of Mt Adams.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Carl Herz at cherzx87@gmail.com. Training will be scheduled sometime in late May of 2018. Each volunteer will be assigned a data-collection weekend within the 2018 research season. Volunteers should come equipped with hiking gear and the necessary essentials, but all materials for the data collection will be provided.

Clockwise from top left: Bluebead lily; mountain cranberry; diaspensia; bunchberry; Bigelow's sedge. Carl Herz photos.

RMC Website and Merchandise

Jeff Smith / Michele Cormier

Head to the RMC website year-round for **new memberships** or **membership renewal**, **merchandise**, **events**, **volunteer work trips**, **regular hikes**, and more.

In 2017 we continue to feature the RMC t-shirt with the historic Leroy Woodard “hiker guy” artwork on the back!



Above is the website homepage; navigation is by the trail signs at left and right. Go to **STUFF WE SELL** for merchandise; look for events and trips under **ABOUT THE RMC**. To join or renew, use the **Quick Links** at center of page.

Our website: www.randolphmountainclub.org.

For **membership** or **merchandise** you may pay with **Paypal**.

RMC 100 Finishers

latest in a series ...

At the end of the season in 2017 we heard from three (or four – see below) more hikers who had completed the RMC 100 challenge, having walked the length of all of the Club’s trails since our centennial year in 2010. Unsurprisingly all three are “redliners” – redlining being the term for walking all the trails in a certain guidebook or especially on a certain map, and keeping track by tracing over each trail with a red pen.

Daniel Saltmarsh, of Milford, New Hampshire, began redlining the trails in the White Mountain National Forest in 2012, and along the way discovered the RMC trails and the RMC 100 challenge. He began on May 26, 2012 (Fallsway) and finished on August 30, 2017 (Gray Knob Trail).

Beth Zimmer, of Meredith, New Hampshire, has just become one of the newest members of the RMC – welcome Beth! Another active redliner, she capped off the challenge this fall with a trip up the Air Line to John Quincy Adams, and down the Howker Ridge. She began on August 14, 2010 (Underhill Path) and finished on Sept. 23, 2017.

RMC member **Jon Burroughs**, of Glen, New Hampshire, has submitted his logbook showing completion of all of our trails in the company of his dog Cody. Jon and Cody set a high bar for other man-and-dog hiking duos, as they have also completed the New Hampshire 4,000-footers together, and moreover Jon notes that on the entire RMC trail network Cody needed assistance at only one location: yes, in the Ice Gulch. They began on May 11, 2012 (Starr King Trail) and finished on August 27, 2017 (Israel Ridge Path). We’ll be sending them two of our special “RMC 100” patches.



Daniel Saltmarsh,
at the summit of Mt. Adams.



Beth Zimmer,
“Along the Brink”.



Jon Burroughs and Cody,
at the summit of Mt. Washington.

Volunteer Profile

The editor met and photographed member Jo-Ann Driscoll at Appalachia this summer; here, she writes about her volunteer work as a trailhead steward.



I started hiking in the White Mountains back in 1972 and have always felt drawn to these mountains. Over the years, as my husband and I hiked, we often encountered hikers unused to the conditions here and unprepared for what they were to find. We hiked and backpacked on the Northern Presidentials a lot and I feel especially close to this area. When the call went out from the Forest Service in 2015, asking for volunteers to man the trailheads, it seemed like a perfect way to use my knowledge of the area to help others. Maybe I'd be able to help someone avoid getting into trouble and having to be rescued, which is the primary mission of the trailhead steward program.

The Appalachia trailhead is my preferred site, and the hikers I meet there are, on average, a bit more prepared than at other locations. However, some do show up lacking a

Continued on page 5

New RMC Directory in 2018!

By Michele Cormier and Randy Meiklejohn



Cover of our most recent directory.

In 2018 we're planning to publish an updated directory of RMC members, as some of you have requested. The last edition was published in 2014, and since then our membership information has changed, as it always does. As before, we'll include names and addresses only of those members who "opt in"; we will start selling it at the Fourth of July Tea in 2018; and we will sell it to RMC members only.

More information about the new directory, and how to include or update your contact information, will appear in the annual dues appeal mailing in early 2018.