

THE GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB AND THE LONG TRAIL



James P. Taylor

The Long Trail was conceived by James P. Taylor, a schoolteacher, on the summit of Stratton Mountain and took its first step towards reality when twenty-three people gathered in Burlington on March 11, 1910 to found the Green Mountain Club.

Beginning in 1910, the founders of the Green Mountain club blazed and cut the Long Trail along the spine of the Green Mountains from Massachusetts to Canada. Today, the GMC and its 10,000 members and hundreds of volunteers work to protect hiking trails and backcountry lands for all people for all time.

The mission of the Green Mountain Club is to make the Vermont Mountains play a larger part in the life of the people by protecting and maintaining the Long Trail System and fostering, through education, the stewardship of Vermont's hiking trails and mountains.

The Green Mountain Club's hundreds of volunteers and dozens of seasonal staff maintain the Long Trail and its shelters in cooperation with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and private landowners.

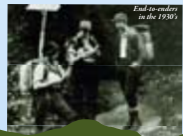
HISTORY



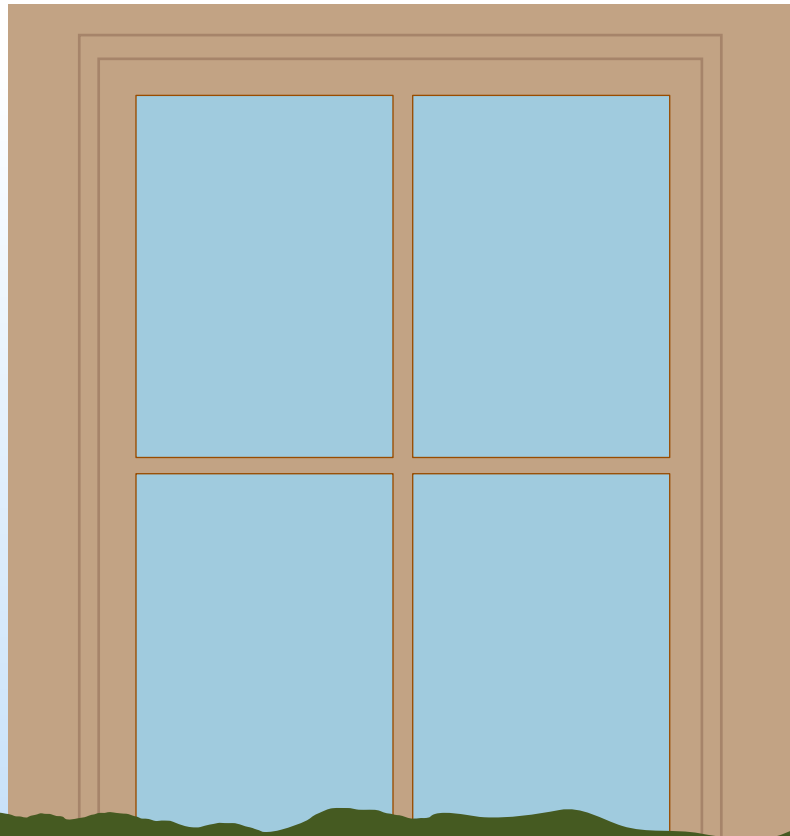
The center of Indian Village in the 1920s.



Built by the Green Mountain Club between 1910 and 1930, the Long Trail is the oldest long-distance trail in the United States. Free and open to all, the Long Trail follows the main ridges of the Green Mountains from the Massachusetts-Vermont state line to the Canadian border, 270 miles crossing Vermont's highest peaks.



End-to-enders in the 1930's



CONSERVATION

In 1971 the Vermont Legislature passed a resolution recognizing the Green Mountain Club as "the founder, sponsor, defender, and protector" of the Long Trail System and delegating to it the responsibility for developing programs for the "preservation, maintenance, and proper use of hiking trails for the benefit of Vermont."



Caption here about volunteers, generations of volunteers and donors, legends, etc.

In the 1980's, club leaders realized that nearly one quarter of the trail was on private land and vulnerable to closure. Since 1986, GMC has acquired over 25,000 acres of mountain lands and easements, protecting 80 miles of hiking trails and many special, fragile places and creating the Long Trail State Forest.

GMC is committed to permanent stewardship of all lands conserved to protect the Long Trail System.

Approximately 10 miles of the trail system remain on private land by landowner permission but without permanent legal protection.



STEWARDSHIP