

Sterling e-Stomper

Newsletter of the Green Mountain Club Sterling Section

It's Spring!

Don't be fooled by the snow... spring is here! Trails may be closed for now, but rest assured a time for hiking and trail work will come again. The Sterling Section is here for you with updates while you wait and with plenty of fun activities in the works for this summer!

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Dutchman's Breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*)

2020 Section Officers

**Kevin Hudnell, President and
Trails & Shelters Chair**

Ron Lucier, Outings Chair

**Elisabeth Fenn, Director to
the Board**

Dorcas Jones, Treasurer

Caitlin Miller, Secretary



Red Trillium (*Trillium erectum*)

Officer Updates

At the 2020 annual meeting, all 2019 section officers were voted in for another term, and will continue serving in 2020.

Congrats to officers Elisabeth Fenn, Kevin Hudnell, and Caitlin Miller, who won volunteer awards at the 2019 GMC Annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic!

What COVID-19 means for hiking and outings

The Long Trail and side trails in Sterling Section are currently closed to the general public. Trails on state land are closed every year for 'mud season' to help the trails dry out, particularly at elevation. This year, that closure is reinforced by a general closure of Long Trail facilities (privies, shelters, etc.) as part of Vermont's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Don't worry, we'll be hiking the ridgeline again soon! Ron has outings planned for this summer in the Worcester Range and Mt Mansfield. See [our section website](#) and the [GMC Calendar of Events](#) for more info.

You can also check GMC's COVID-19 page for the most up-to-date information on Long Trail access. Links on the last page of the eStomper.

Until then, consider exploring trails in the valley near where you live:

In Stowe, several properties managed by Stowe Land Trust are still open. Find out more at www.stowelandtrust.org

In Morrisville, Johnson, and Cambridge, the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail is open and easily accessible from each town. Find out more at www.lvrt.org

What COVID-19 means for trail maintenance

While trails are closed to the general public, GMC volunteers are permitted to do essential trail work to prepare for the hiking season. However, there are now strict guidelines that will change how we run our section workdays.

It is important that **ONLY** sanctioned work trips are on the trail right now, so if you're interested in helping out, please contact Kevin at khudnell@gmail.com to coordinate assignments.

We will announce a schedule for work trips as soon as possible on the section website and the GMC Calendar of Events. Links on the last page of the eStomper.

GMC's 110th Annual Meeting is going virtual!

Due to the impacts of COVID-19, GMC's Annual Meeting will be adapted to a virtual platform.

The business meeting and board meeting will be online on Saturday, June 13th. Please register online to receive an email with instructions on how to participate from home. Link on last page of the eStomper.

As you may know, Sterling Section was scheduled to co-host the 2020 GMC Annual Meeting with the Laraway and Northern Frontier Sections. We will instead co-host the 2021 meeting, so stay tuned for info on how to get involved!

Info Center: Links

Here's the list of links for more info on our outing schedule, GMC, and GMC's response to COVID-19.

Sterling Section Website & Facebook Page:

www.gmcsterling.org

www.facebook.com/GMCSterlingSection/

For Outings, Ron Lucier:

lucierj@gmail.com

For Work Trips, Kevin Hudnell:

khudnell@gmail.com

GMC Outings Calendar:

www.greenmountainclub.org/calendar-outings-events/

GMC COVID-19 Response:

www.greenmountainclub.org/covid-19-response/

GMC Annual Meeting Registration:

www.greenmountainclub.org/annual-meeting/