

BOOTPRINTS

Volume 16, Issue 2

March 2012

BRAND NEW WEBSITE

Dick Forrest and I recently took a tour of our website. The results of the tour led us to believe that the website required a new look after ten years of serving our club very well! Since that day Dick Forrest has been working diligently and professionally to produce for the PVHC a quality, user friendly, blog type site.

I am here to tell you that Dick Forrest has delivered! Please take the time to enjoy our new website! Thank you Mr. Dick Forrest for stepping up and creating a great Club website for all to enjoy and utilize as a great resource!

With gratitude, Chip Pray, and all the membership of the PVHC.

Please take the time to enjoy our new website!

THE PRESIDENT'S CLIPBOARD

Greetings fellow club members! I am today writing in Bootprints to ask for volunteers; club members willing to "step up" and volunteer as chairpersons for the Holiday Party which will be held on December 8, 2012. I know this seems like a long time from now but we've already decided that we've outgrown the Pueblo Club. Therefore, we need to secure a new hall within the next two months in order to get the best choice of hall possible for the Party. Secondly, I am willing to coordinate and set up the first and second day schedules for our table for Club Day at the Hadley, MA EMS but we need someone to help out by collecting our club items at the end of the day on Saturday April 14th. Therefore, we will need club members to volunteer to man our PVHC table at EMS both Friday and Saturday April 13th and 14th, for 4 hour increments both days from 10 am to 9 pm. Please call me at 413-783-5658 to volunteer. I thank each and every one of you for your sincere dedication to our club!

Chip Pray

NEW ACTIVITY RELEASE FORM

Recently, both at membership meetings and the executive board meetings, there has been quite a bit of discussion concerning liability protection for our Activity Leaders. As you are all aware, our leaders are the backbone and essence of the PVHC! Fortunately, our own club member, Kevin Withers, was part of the discussion and offered to draft a new club

Plan B was the Manchester Merrimont Holiday Inn Tour.

release form, which we now have to help protect our leaders, all of whom are unpaid volunteers.

The sole purpose of this form is for the protection of our leaders. I am asking that all leaders implement this release. The release form is obtainable on our website, <http://www.pioneervalleyhikingclub.org>, or at our greeters table at each monthly meeting. For this release to be effective each hike leader should require each participating club member to sign individually; with guardians signing for their minor children, etc. Out of fairness to the others, I am asking that hike leaders refuse admission to the event for those individuals failing to sign the release in the proscribed manner. Please note that this release form has been implemented since The Bald Mtn hike on 1-28-12, without incident. I encourage all of you to please read the form on the club website. Thank you so much for your anticipated cooperation. I thoroughly enjoy my hiking time with the wonderful people here of the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club!

The best hike is always the next one! Please don't hesitate to call me with any questions; 413-783-5658. Chip Pray PVHC

AL GOODHIND'S BENNINGTON VERMONT WEEKEND

By Cindy Dolgoff

Gary and I were psyched - yes! Another Al Goodhind December weekend. And somewhere new for us - Bennington and Manchester, Vermont.

The weekend started with a tour of the Grandma Moses Museum in Bennington, but we opted out of that as it was too early for us. So our weekend began at noon on Saturday, December 3. Al had arranged for some activities that were cancelled (not by Al), so he had to come up with Plan B. Plan B was the Manchester Merrimont Holiday Inn Tour. This was exciting for me, because it was an event I always wanted to do. The tour was arranged for guests to enjoy Manchester region's lodgings decorated for the holidays. We had a list of 21 lodgings to choose from.

We started at the Arlington Inn, which was the meeting venue for most of us. A friendly dog greeted us at the door. And cookies - yum! Next, we went to the Wilburton Inn, an estate founded in 1902. It is currently owned by a psychiatrist (who loved talking with us) and his wife. On to The Equinox, a grand old hotel in town built in the 1700s, with hiking
See Vermont on page 2 for continuation

Vermont from page 1

trails in the rear of the property. Concerts are held here - in fact, Peter and Paul (of the Peter, Paul & Mary fame) were performing that very night, and several of the PVHCers were able to get tickets! The Equinox served chocolates and wine. Right next door to the Equinox was the Reluctant Panther. This place had colorful rooms and one of them had a huge bath and shower large enough for an entire family. Hot apple cider was served here. The Inn at Manchester, our next stop, was formerly a private residence, and its owners are originally from North Carolina. Its claim to fame is its beautiful grounds with hammocks. At the Dorset Inn (established in 1796), we decorated our own cookies. We dubbed the Dorset "the prettiest Christmas trees of all." Next stop was the Squire House, off the beaten path; a bed and breakfast with a tasty-sounding breakfast (anyone for lemon popovers?). Our final visit was the Marble West Inn - a bed and breakfast built in 1840 by Mr. West - a 4'8" tall marble baron who married an opera singer.



Al Goodhind and friends

At the end of our tours, we voted for our favorite inn, and the winner was The Wilburton Inn. Each inn was charming in its own way. It was a wonderful tour. The Sirloin Saloon was the site of our evening dinner. I'm surprised we were hungry after all the goodies we consumed at each inn. But we were! Delicious food here, including one of the best salad bars I've ever encountered. And Enola purchased, to bring home, an ENORMOUS loaf of bread. It must have weighed five pounds! Oh, I forgot

to mention that, on the way, we were treated to the town's annual Christmas Tractor parade. That was certainly unique.

The next day, those of us who had stayed overnight participated in a tour of The Hildene House. This was the former home of Robert Todd Lincoln, the only child of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln to survive into adulthood. Our guide was extremely knowledgeable and thoughtfully answered our numerous questions.

After a quiet lunch and latte in town, we drove back to Massachusetts.



Marcia and Gary

BILL BURGART'S WAY: PROTECTING LAND... NICKEL BY NICKEL

By Marty Klein, PCT

The following is a tale of dedication, commitment, and love. When Bill Burgart first shared this with me a few months ago, my initial reaction was, Holy cow, you're kidding!+ (OK, I paraphrased.) Later, I decided this is a story deserving of a wider audience.

His devotion to the cause of land protection goes back to 1982, when he was one of the original founders of Pascommuck Conservation Trust (PCT). Over the years he's worked with land owners, given financial support, done trail maintenance work, attended countless meetings, and promoted the cause with his distinctive style.

In May of 1987, following the death of his wife, Bill decided to continue an activity that the two of them had done together previously: picking up cans and bottles from roadsides, trails, wherever, and redeeming them for pocket money. At the same time, they were doing their part to beautify Easthampton and the Valley by ridding the landscape of litter. Bill made a pledge to himself to honor his late wife by donating all the money he received from those redeemables to the cause of land protection, primarily in Easthampton.

As many of you know, Bill is an avid cyclist and *See Nickel on page 3 for continuation*

Nickel from page 2

hiker. Whenever he goes out riding or on a trail, he stops if he sees a can or bottle, bags it, and continues on till the next one appears. In recent years, he says the numbers are down from previous years, possibly owing to the economy, or maybe because people are more conscious about not littering. Some years, he admits, he picked through the trash cans at the Fall Festival.

In 1994, Bill convinced his bike club to emulate him. They collected \$1100 in total, \$200 of that from Bill's pickups. The money was given to Valley Land Fund, as the club members lived in different towns in this area.

Here are some numbers to consider:

Over the past 24 years, Bill has kept records of the amount of money he's received and the number of cans redeemed. His total: 92,055 cans and bottles! If amassed, how many acres would they cover? If you lined them up end to end, I calculated they'd stretch for 6.5 miles! But, even more impressive is what Bill's done with all those nickels (and some dimes

If you lined them up end to end, I calculated they'd stretch for 6.5 miles!

Bill has contributed to the following land protection projects:

- MA Audubon Arcadian land purchase - \$1,020
- Mt. View Farm (formerly Ole Turtle) - \$2,310
- Echodale Farm - \$300 to date (goal is \$1000)
- TTOR . Little Mt. Tom purchase - \$1,000

A total of \$4,530 (which works out to 90,600 nickels)

In Bill's words: "This is a game of persistence, a nickel at a time, with the goal of protecting the environment; adding that occasionally people have given him their cans and bottles. He has no intention of stopping and will accept contributions. You can call him at 527-9080, if you'd like to add your 2 cents, well, nickel's worth, to his Herculean efforts on our behalf. Bill Burgart is a true local hero, and an inspiration to all who support the cause of land protection in Easthampton and beyond.

MT. FORT AND THE NEW ENGLAND 100 HIGHEST QUEST

By John Klebes

Mt Fort . October 12, 2011

This fall I took the opportunity to explore the wild bushwhack peaks of Maine to complete my New England 100 Highest quest. After some confusing and harrowing backwoods dirt roads, I finally found approaches to some of my last peaks in Maine. I am not afraid of a little bushwhacking and figured with a good map, compass, and GPS I would have a fun time with the challenge. Little did I know that the biggest challenge was finding a route through the back roads; many with difficult road clearance issues, overgrown brush, and recent beaver activity. I think I may have spent more time driving in circles in paper company land, than actually hiking. Guess I should have done more research, but I earned these peaks the hard way and had a blast climbing where

few others climb. As a bonus I saw more moose than I have ever seen while driving and hiking in Maine.

I saved Mt. Fort as the final peak to complete my quest; a peak that I failed to explore while doing the Brothers years ago, and long before I knew about the 100 highest lists. It was with great excitement that I made my return to Baxter State Park to climb the loop over the Brothers and Mt Coe, along with my final peak on the New England 100 Highest list, Mt Fort. Climbing North Brother I had fine views of Mt. Katahdin, which brought back great memories of finishing the Appalachian Trail in 2010. From North Brother it was a

dense but very obvious bushwhack across the divide between North Brother and the summit of Mt. Fort. I must say that it's a great summit, with fantastic open views, and a long open ridgeline with plenty of opportunities to enjoy the sunshine and great weather on the ridge. After a long enjoyable rest to take in the views and take lots of photographs, I headed back to the circuit hike around South Brother and Mt. Coe.

I had the pleasure to meet a thru-hiker from the AT, who was exploring North Brother before heading home from her AT completion hike. Great times sharing memories together. After a great climb over North Brother, South Brother, and then Mt. Coe, I descended the exciting rockslide off Mt. Coe. I had a case of déjà vu on the descent, as I once again missed the cut-off trail to Mt. O-J-I. One gets so excited about the exciting descent down the slide from Mt Coe that you never find the easy traverse over to Mt O-J-I. Oh well, guess Mt O-J-I will have to wait again for another grand opportunity to explore the wonders of Baxter State Park. After reluctantly reviewing the weather forecast and admitting that it would be many days before good weather would afford a nice attempt on the Traveler Loop (another of my live list pursuits), I headed home with the completion of the New England 100 Highest under my belt and the memories of the mountain wilderness in my heart.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

January

George Schmeck
Sandi Knoll
Elizabeth Ortix
George Schmeck

February

Neil & Virginia
Downey
Mary Langevin

CLUBS ELECTIONS

By Marie Babbitt

Our newly elected board members are listed below. Thanks to all of them for accepting the nominations and continuing to support the club with your hard work, dedication, and contribution of time.

President . Chip Pray

Vice president . Marcia Kelly

Co-Secretary . Cindy Hibert

Co-Secretary . Cindy Dolgoff

Treasurer . Carol Vanderheiden

And a BIG THANK YOU to Deb Gebo for her tireless work over that last four years.



Here's a little snow

Pioneer Valley Hiking Club Officers & Committees

- Chip Pray, President
- Marcia Kelly, Vice President
- Cindy Hibert, Co-Secretary
- Cindy Dolgoff, Co-Secretary
- Carol Vanderheiden, Treasurer
- Scott Cook, Wilderness Experiences
- Ray Tibbetts, Founder

Standing Committee Chairs

- Hike Schedule:** Sue Forest & Chip Pray
- Backpacking Coordinator:** Rick Briggs
- Trail Maint:** Chip Pray & Rob Schechtman
- Web Page Editor:** Dick Forrest
- Non Member Email Coordinator:** Rob Schechtman
- Club E-mail Coordinator:** Mike Reed
- Quartermaster:** Mike Carrier
- Bootprints Editors:** Marie Babbitt & Mike Reed

Bootprints is a publication of the Pioneer Valley Hiking Club. Send your story/event contributions to the editor at: marie_babbitt@hotmail.com,

MT. MONADNOCK

By Marie Babbitt

I made Dick and Sue Forrest's annual trip to Mt. Monadnock this year and we had a great fun. The group was over 20 strong. The day was sunny and cool but not really cold for a January day. Since there has not been a lot of snow this year the footwear for the day was stabilicers or micro spikes, some even bare booted it. It was really the ice that we had to be concerned with.

After our circle of introduction we headed up the mountain on the White Dot trail. Although the parking lot was full of cars the trail was not full of people. People

broke off into groups based on their hiking ability. There were some people I never saw again that day. I am not sure if I am really that slow or they are really that fast. I was enjoying the hike up the trail and thinking of my conversation Lori Tisdell about the section of the trail called `the slide and her experience with using a rope to get up it. She recommended not going to the left to try to avoid it since you would be on the edge of the mountain, and falling off the mountain would probably hurt more than sliding down it. But along the way I was also noticing the water that was flowing under the ice and how it looked like little minnows, so I dubbed them `rock minnows. When I pointed them out to my hiking companions they were amused.

We finally arrived at the slide and because of the lack of snow and a warm day there was very little ice and I was able to climb up it with little difficulty. It helped that Carol and Harry were in front of me and let me know of the hand holds that were available, swinging my body up and around the first rock was a little challenging, more in body mechanics and once up the rest was fairly easy. There were some in the group that were considering going to the left but thought better of it and went further to the right and up the mountain. It is always interesting to see how each of us tackles the mountain. I like the rock scrambling part of hikes, unless of course I am in the Adirondacks where scrambling up and over rocks can mean a whole other thing.

Not too far from summiting we crossed paths with some of the stronger hikers that were on their way back down. We finally arrived at the summit and if we had not already put on our wind gear we were putting it on. It was quiet windy topside and a bit crowded. The sun was clouded over but we still had a good view. We ate a relatively leisurely lunch and then headed back down the mountain. There was a section of the mountain that Eva and I mused about being another planet by the look of the terrain and we dubbed it Planet Rock. Then we met an inhabitant of Planet Rock named Seymore. We joked about what Seymore might say to us and enjoyed the story we were making up. We also saw a dolphin in the landscape.

We took the White Cross trail down the mountain. Hikers coming up the trail said it was a bit icy which turned out to be a little of an understated, but not dangerously so. We all had our stabilicers or micro spikes on and we just took our time coming down. The trail to me was really very beautiful. Initially I was hiking down the side of the trail trying to avoid the ice but it kept calling to me and so I walked out to the middle of the frozen trail and hiked the rest of the way down the trail. It looked like a frozen cascade of water. The beauty of the trail made taking the risk of doing this hike in the winter worth it.

After the hike we went out for a late lunch or early dinner and drove home. It was a wonderful day. Thank you Dick and Sue for a great hike.

Important Notice

The following memberships are up for renewal:

March Renewals:

Joan Holmes
Daniel Koehne
Paul & Maxine
Lessard
J. Denusia Lokii-
Braese

April Renewals:

Kathleen Blanchard
Stephanie Bustos
Kay Byington
Suzanne Carey
Mike & Gail Carrier
Norma Casillas
Susan DeMaria
Howard Eldridge
Chirstine Enz
Alan Goodhind
John Gorey
John Klebes
Michele Lloyd
Edmund Marrone
Denise Matthews
Chuck O'Connor
Richard Perreault
Lorraine Plasse
Linda Quesnel
Kevin & Robin Withers

Please renew early, and renew by mail. (*Make checks payable to PVHC.*) Mail your renewal with your name and any address or phone number changes to:

Pioneer Valley Hiking Club
PO Box 225
West Springfield MA 01090-0225
(Dues are \$25 member, \$40 family, and \$15 for students)



A cryptic message from a fellow hiker



Can you find the dolphin?



Lori and Lori



Seymore and I

UPCOMING EVENTS AND THE USUALS

- Every Mon. (MA) Morning Hike . various locations
- Every Tues (MA) Tuesday evening hikes with Carol
- Every Wed (MA) Wednesday
- Mar. 9 (Full Moon) (MA) Southwick Rail Trail
- Mar. 10-11 (VT) Annual Stratton Pond Backpack
- Mar. 11 Sun. (NY) Howe Caverns (\$)
- Apr. 14 (NY) Annual NYC Bus Trip rescheduled (\$40)
- Apr. 28 Sat. (MA) Bog Bridge maintenance & lunch
- Late April Hiking in Ireland (\$, Res) (10 days)
- June 15-17 (NH) White Mt. Sampler (\$, Res.)
- Late June Hiking Camino de Santiago (Pilgrims Way Spain into France)
- July 27-29 (NY) Adirondack Heart Lake Car Camp & hikes(\$, Res)
- Sept. 14-16 (NY) Adirondack JBL Lodge Backpack (\$, Res.)

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IMPORTANT NOTICES

- ❑ Next Club Meetings:
April 3, 2012, 7pm at **FBC**
May 1, 2012, 7pm at **FBC**
- ❑ Deadline for Submissions for the next BootPrints is April 18, 2011

FBC - First Baptist Church, West Springfield

*** Check out our web page at:
www.pioneervalleyhikingclub.org

Members may join the PVHC Email List by sending a message to:
pvhc.hikingclub@gmail.com

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