



Hogback Mountain
Conservation Association

P.O. Box 20
Marlboro, Vermont 05344
Email: hogback1@sover.net

Newsletter #25 - January 2015

Hogback Mountain Newsletter

News and Events at Hogback Mountain

HMCA has a new President

Diana Todd has been elected as president of the Hogback Mountain Conservation Association (HMCA). She is replacing long-time president Bob Anderson who will remain on the HMCA board. Bob plans to remain active with HMCA activities on the mountain such as trail maintenance and the Newsletter.

HMCA is quite fortunate that Diana has agreed to step into the role of president. We look forward to the fresh ideas and perspectives that Diana will surely bring to the table. She has been involved with HMCA and Hogback in several roles ever since the HMCA's very beginning. She aided in the early days of fundraising and subsequently has done a lot of research about Hogback, not the least of which was a thoroughly detailed history of the Bishop farmstead. Most recently she researched, organized and directed the on-going Early Successional Habitat program at Hogback, now entering its third season this summer.



Diana Todd at the Strolling of the Heifers, 2013

The work for which Diana may be best known has been as a very talented mapmaker. The handsome, detailed trail maps available for free download at the Hogback website (www.hogbackvt.org) are just a few examples of Diana's map-making endeavors.

The other members of HMCA's eight person board have graciously agreed to continue their roles and will continue the good work they have been doing for Hogback. HMCA currently has one vacancy on the the board. Folks interested in being considered should contact one of our board members.

Our email address is hogback1@sover.net. If you prefer not to receive future Newsletters please let us know. Suggestions for improvement are always welcome as are articles and pictures for future publication

2015 Board members

Diana Todd - president, (cartographer, website co-host)

Staley McDermet - vice president, (trails committee)

Nancy Anderson - secretary/treasurer

Jen Carr - assistant treasurer

Carol Berner – Education Committee co-chair

Michael Clough - Education Committee co-chair, (naturalist)

Patti Smith - naturalist

Bob Anderson - newsletter editor, website co-host

Other committee chairpersons: Mike Purcell is chairman of HMCA's trails committee and a board member of the Hogback Preservation Commission (HPC*).

This is a good time to mention that all members and indeed, the public, are invited to attend any meeting of the HMCA. We intend the term "member" in the most inclusive way, that is, to include Newsletter recipients, Facebook followers and others who have participated in past events.

Meeting dates and locations will be announced in our News Bulletin and on the HMCA website (www.hogbackvt.org). Meetings are a great opportunity to participate in discussions about Hogback and to present ideas and observations of your own or just sit and listen.

* A word on the respective missions of HPC and HMCA: The Hogback Preservation Committee (HPC) is an official town organization charged with establishing policies for the Hogback Mountain Conservation Area. The seven members of the committee are appointed by the Marlboro Select Board for specific terms and serve solely at the pleasure of the select board. They meet six times a year.

By contrast, Hogback Mountain Conservation Association (HMCA) is an entirely volunteer organization and not a part of town government. HMCA originated in 2006 with some local citizens organizing to raise funds for the purchase and conservation of Hogback Mountain. After completing fundraising and the subsequent donation of Hogback to the town, HMCA today continues as a volunteer group serving as "boots in the field" for the benefit of the Conservation Area. Working in partnership with HPC, this volunteer group publishes the Hogback Newsletter, hosts the Hogback website (hogbackvt.org), maintains the trail network at the Conservation Area and develops and publishes Hogback trail maps, (free download on the website). HMCA also supports and supervises educational activities at the mountain for both schools and the public. It develops new initiatives at Hogback such as the previously mentioned Early Successional Habitat program. HMCA also maintains a public mailbox (hogback1@sover.net.) to answer general questions about Hogback from the public.

As a matter of policy HMCA prohibits HMCA board members from holding a board seat on HPC, but HMCA certainly encourages anyone from the membership or the public at large to convey their interest in being an HMCA board member.

Moonlight in Vermont

7:30 pm, Saturday, January 31, 2015

Let's go snowshoeing by moonlight! On Saturday, January 31 the moon will still be a few days away from full, but it will be shining with 92% of its maximum illumination. We'll meet in the parking lot on Route 9 west of the gift shop at 7:30 pm and head up the Tower Trail as far as the former Meadow ski slope. That's where we've been cutting back the vegetation to stimulate the type of dense young growth that game birds and other wildlife love (known as early successional habitat, or ESH). The regrowth is still young, so the slope is essentially wide open, creating a magnificent view. We'll snowshoe straight down the former ski slope. It was a beginner slope, so there aren't any hair-raisingly steep pitches. At the bottom, we'll see if any ghosts of skiers past are haunting the old warming hut and lift lines. Then we'll climb back up to the parking lot on the easy switchbacks of the former Rim Run ski slope, now used as a VAST snowmobile trail.



The total distance is a little over a mile.

We'll probably be out for an hour to an hour

and a half. We're going to try to do the entire snowshoe hike by moonlight, but bring a headlamp and/or flashlight in case the moon fails us.

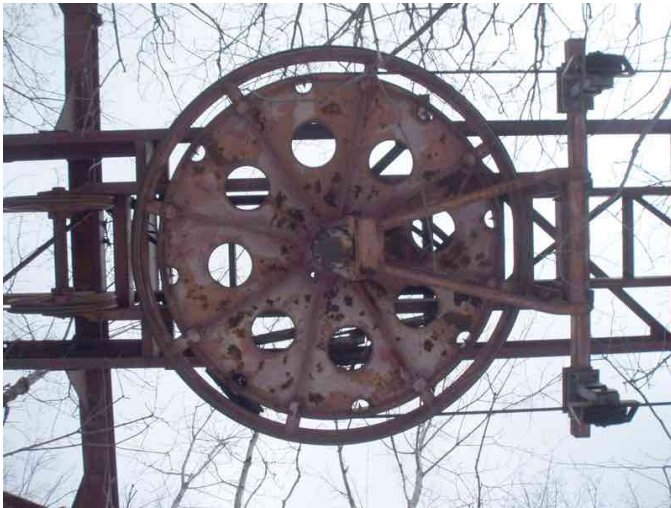
If it's heavily overcast, we'll cancel, but if there are just a few clouds scurrying across the sky we'll probably give it a go. Check the Hogback web site (hogbackvt.org) before you leave home. If we cancel, the announcement will be posted there.

(Article by Diana Todd)

Early Ski Lift Technology Snowshoe Hike

1:00 pm, Saturday, February 14, 2015

Hogback was one of New England's earliest ski areas. When it opened in 1946, its 900 person per hour T-bar lift was the largest capacity lift in U.S. When the ski area closed in 1986, several generations of surface lifts had been deployed on the mountain. Many significant pieces of the lift systems are still in place. We'll visit a wide variety of artifacts, from repurposed automobile wheels that carried the early rope-tow to sleek 1960's futuristic single-pole towers that supported the Poma lift and later a T-bar. We'll bring along photos of the ski area in action back in the 1940's, 50's, and 60's, and compare what we see on the mountain today to what existed back then.



We'll be doing a lot of bushwhacking through some modestly dense growth, so skis might be clumsy. Snowshoes are the recommended mode of travel. We'll eventually work our way through some significant elevation gain, about half the total height of the former ski area. We expect to be out for about two hours. This won't be an easy stroll, but it will be worth it!

Meet in the parking lot on Route 9 west of the gift shop at 1:00 on Saturday, February 14.

(Article by Diana Todd)