



The Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway Coalition

Newsletter #81

February 2014

ANNUAL MEETING: March 16, 2014

This year's annual meeting at Our Lady of Fatima Church Hall on Main Street in New London will begin with a pot-luck supper at 5 p.m. Jean LaChance would like to hear from you about what dish you will be bringing so please give her a call at 927-4345, sooner rather than later. After dinner and a brief business meeting we will be entertained with a few songs from the North Country Chordsmen Barbershop Harmony Society. The Chordsmen, based in Hanover, sing songs from movies, shows and the American folk culture in four part harmony *a capella*. The featured presentation "A Walk Back in Time" with Adair Mulligan, follows the singing. If you are only interested in the program, that should start at about 6:30 p.m.

Adair Mulligan, Annual Meeting Speaker

The SRKG board is pleased to announce that Adair Mulligan will be the guest speaker at our annual meeting on Sunday, March 16th. The topic for her talk, "A Walk Back in Time: The Secrets of Cellar Holes," promises to answer many questions about a feature central to the New England landscape.

Ms. Mulligan has worked in the conservation field for 35 years including time as a loon biologist and Education Director for New Hampshire Audubon and as conservation director for the Connecticut River Joint Commissions. In 2010 she became the Executive Director of the Hanover Conservancy, the oldest local land trust in New Hampshire. A resident of Lyme Center for the past



North Country Chordsmen Barbershop Harmony Society

Ms. Mulligan is currently co-leading a project to survey Lyme's many cellar holes for just that reason. Should our towns launch similar initiatives? This is our chance to learn more about abandoned house sites and help us identify clues for imagining our past.

In the introduction of one of her books Ms Mulligan wrote "My parents bred in me a love of history and of the land, and taught me to leave my campsite in better condition than it was when I arrived." Do not miss an opportunity to meet and hear from from this remarkable woman.

20 years, Ms. Mulligan serves on the Lyme Conservation Commission and the Lyme Heritage Commission. She is also the author of several books including *The Gunstock Parish: A History of Gilford, New Hampshire*. She holds a master's degree in Environmental Biology from Smith College and has long been interested in the cultural and natural history of northern New England. Somehow, throughout this full career, Ms Mulligan has also raised three children and climbed her way into the AMC 4,000 footer club.

Because many of our Greenway trails pass near old house sites, it is common for a group of hikers to pause, look and ponder when they come across an old cellar hole. What about the people who lived there? Did they really settle so far from anybody else? Does that chimney come from a kitchen stove or is it part of a sugaring operation? These remnants of the homesteads of former residents contain evidence about those who came before us; they are a valuable educational resource and as such deserve to be protected and studied.



Cellar Hole on Patterson Rd trail in Wilmot. photo Brian Faughnan

WINTER HIKE REPORTS

On January 18th Andy Hager, Dave Gardner, Lisa Correa and Sue Reel made the best of marginal snow conditions to ski from Twin Lake Villa to Morgan Pond and back. (Photos: Andy Hager)



Sue and Lisa on Morgan Pond



Frank Baker (pictured above) led an exploration of the Tucker Mountain area of East Andover on January 25th. Eight of us followed Frank in a bushwhack past porcupine dens, through fierce saplings, over stone walls and finally through a notch to reach our destination, Weeks Pond. Soon after getting a nice fire started, Frank chopped a couple holes in the ice to measure both ice thickness and pond depth.

At lunch time the youngest member of our group, Sam Shain, was disappointed to unwrap a frozen-solid bagel. It didn't take him long to find a stick and deal with the problem.



SRKG Director Dave Gardner



Chef Sam Shain

Greenway Town Directors

Andover	Nan Kaplan	735-5352
	Lee Carvalho	735-5719
Danbury		
Goshen	Tom Lawton	477-1995
Newbury	Nathan Richer	763-2127
New London	Andy Hager	526-2846
	Nick Baer	526-8233
Springfield	Mike Chiarella	763-4661
	Susan Chiarella	763-4661
Sunapee	Ron Wyman	763-5822
Sutton	Jean LaChance	927-4345
	Dave Gardner	927-4033
Warner	Peg Bastien	456-2347
Wilmot	Brian Faughnan (C)	526-7838
At large	Brent Scudder	763-0187

Winter Hikes Still to Come

[Feb 15 \(Sat\) Dave Cook](#) (526-4570) Again, the famous "Moonlight Madness" snowshoe hike on the Cook easement in New London. Starts about 9:00 PM. **Essential** to check with Dave **a few days** ahead. (M)

[Feb 22 \(Sat\) Nathan Richer](#) (344-0287) If Mother Nature cooperates this will be a ski tour of the old King Ridge ski area in Sutton, off SRKG trail #13 (M)

[Mar 1 \(Sat\) Gerry Gold](#) (526-2857) Snowshoe to Lucia's Lookout on Sunapee-Pillsbury Ridge from Andrew Brook Trail and Lake Solitude. (D)

[Mar 9 \(Sun\) Lisa Correa](#) (518-281-1494) Snowshoe hike in Newbury. Fisherfield Park Perimeter Trail. Approximately 2 miles. (M)

M = moderate

D = Difficult