



# The Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway Coalition

Newsletter #89

February 2016

## Annual Meeting to Feature Kevin Gardner on NEW ENGLAND STONE WALLS

On **Sunday March 13th** the annual SRKGC meeting will be held in the downstairs hall of Our Lady of Fatima Church in New London. The directors are pleased to announce that the speaker will be Kevin Gardner. You won't want to miss the chance to watch him actually construct a miniature wall as he speaks about the history of stone walls in New England.

Gardner's talk will cover a few of the main topics of his book, *The Granite Kiss: Traditions and Techniques of Building Stone Walls in New England*.



*Annual Meeting Speaker Kevin Gardner. Courtesy photo*

Gardner will explain how and why New England came to acquire its thousands of miles of stone walls, the ways in which they and other dry stone structures were built, how their styles emerged and changed over time, and their place in the famous New England landscape

A writer, teacher, and tradesman, Gardner is a lifelong resident of Hopkinton. He has spent the past thirty years building and restoring walls as part of a family business that is renowned for traditional stonework.

**MEETING DETAILS:** It all starts with a pot-luck supper at 5:00. Jean LaChance has volunteered again to organize the dinner so please call her (927-4345) sooner rather than later to let her know what you are bringing. There will be a brief business meeting after dinner followed by Gardner's talk. If you are only coming for the presentation, plan to arrive about 6:30.

Winter adventures, to be continued...

Feb 20 (Sat) Lee Carvalho (735-5719) :The third annual bushwhack with Frank Baker. We will have an adventure on snowshoes exploring some remote part of East Andover. (M)

Feb 27 (Sat) Gerry Gold (526-2857): Snowshoe to Lucia's Lookout on Sunapee-Pillsbury Ridge from Andrew Brook Trail and Lake Solitude in Newbury. 10 miles. (D)

Mar 6 (Sun) Nathan Richer (763-2127) XC Ski on SRKG Trail #4 in Springfield. A six mile round trip from Route 114 to Deer Hill and back. (M)

Mar 12 (Sat) George Beaton (938-2637): Snowshoe hike on Rowe Mountain in Bradford (M)

### Renewal Time !

Membership fees were due in January. Please renew online ([www.srkg.com](http://www.srkg.com)) or bring a check to the annual meeting in March.

*(Correction: Thanks to alert reader Jim Block for noticing an error in a photo caption in the December '15 newsletter. The lake in the background is Massasecum, not Mascoma. Apologies to all Bradford-ites.)*

## Thru-Hike Adventure

Here's a great idea: convince four friends to join you on a thru-hike of the SRKG trail system -- 75 miles in 4 days. And why not do it in the winter when the days are as short as possible? That's the caper Wilmot resident Matt Miller dreamed up and accomplished in mid-December 2015.

Matt is an experienced hiker having completed both the Appalachian Trail and Vermont's Long Trail. Even though he grew up in Wilmot, Matt knew little of the Greenway trails. Eager to try them out he enticed some friends to join him. Hiking long days in December meant using headlamps to find their way in the early morning as well as late afternoons and evenings. They appreciated our reflective blazes and how well the trails were marked. Matt, whose trail name is Gator, is enthusiastic about our trail system. He maintains "it's the most picture-

On January 23rd eight others joined Tom Lawton for a hike in Goshen that took them past an old graphite mine. This trench-style mine was operated in the 1800s by Benjamin Pierce and later owned by his son, U.S. President Franklin Pierce. The hike culminated in gorgeous views at Lucia's Lookout on the Monadnock-Sunapee Greenway.



Enjoying the views at Lucia's Lookout. photo: Jim Block

Rosanna Dude and Dave Gardner led a group of 7 hikers up the Lincoln Trail on January 31st. Starting on Kearsarge Valley Road they hiked about half way up to the summit of Mt Kearsarge to "The Overlook". The vista is on a 0.2 mile spur trail off the Greenway that leads to a rock outcrop with views of New London, Mt. Sunapee and the surrounding area. It was a great day with very warm temperatures and lots of smiles.



At The Overlook., photo: Dave Gardner.



Matt Miller, center, and friends experience some wet weather conditions on the Greenway. photo: Matt Miller

perfect way to capture the local countryside. You've got roads and trails and wetlands and summits." Their favorite section by far was Trail 5, in Springfield and New London. Matt's group referred to it as The 10 Mile Wilderness, comparing it to the legendary 100 mile wilderness in the Maine section of the AT. You might enjoy watching the YouTube account of their adventure entitled "Extreme Weather in December -- Where's the Snow?" By the time this newsletter reaches you Gator and his buddies will have tackled another thru-hike, this time on the 165 mile Cohos trail in northern NH.

### Greenway Town Directors

Andover	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		
Sutton	Jean LaChance	927-4345
	Dave Gardner	927-4033
Warner		
Wilmot	Brian Faughnan	526-7838
	Rosanna Dude	828-1001

The SRKGC Newsletter is issued four times a year. Comments and articles may be sent to SRKG PO Box 1684, New London, NH 03257. Editor: Lee Carvalho, [leecarvalho6@gmail.com](mailto:leecarvalho6@gmail.com)