



PUTNEY MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION
NEWS+EVENTS
SPRING-SUMMER 2018

PMA Closes on Western Slope Project

— Pat Shields

March 22, 2018 was a good day for PMA! After over two years of planning, fund-raising, and more than one bump on the way, PMA closed on two properties, totaling 161 acres, on the western side of Putney Mountain and Windmill Ridge. We then placed a conservation easement on it with the Vermont Land Trust and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. The land is protected from development, forever.

Public access to our West Cliff Trail which crosses the property as part of a 38 mile trail system is ensured, and important wildlife habitat and movement corridor is preserved. The land is steep and entirely forested. Streams drain from the slopes into Grassy Brook in Brookline. A sizable vernal pool is used by wood frogs, spotted salamanders, and other amphibians to reproduce. This summer we will be flagging a new trail which, when built over the next two years, will provide shorter and easier access to the summit from the Brookline side.

This project was made possible by our many generous PMA members and supporters who once again rallied to the cause, and by critical grants from the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, Davis Conservation Fund, William Wharton Trust, and Open Space Institute's Resilient Landscape Initiative, which is made possible with funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

We thank you all. We are especially grateful to the Vermont Land Trust who worked with us helping to raise the funds to purchase and conserve this land. •



The two properties total 161 acres of forested slopes.



A new summit access trail will be flagged this summer.

Trail Stewardship Update

— Geordie Heller

Stewardship of the PMA's 705 acres includes managing trail construction, public access, kiosks, signage, and maintenance. This work is accomplished by volunteers including the fifteen Trail Adopters handling routine care on our nearly twelve miles of trail.

Last fall an eleven member volunteer crew assembled for a work-day project to build a section of turnpike over a particularly wet section of the Ridgeline Trail between Banning Road and the summit. We have flagged a new loop trail on the Silvio Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge property, slated for construction this summer.

Now that the Western Slope property acquisition is finalized we have an opportunity to simplify Putney Mountain access from the Grassy Brook area.

Trail construction is planned for summer 2019. There is an ongoing need for stewardship volunteers and openings for Trail Adoption. Work-days for trail-work and various other projects are being planned. All PMA members are invited and encouraged to get involved. See the PMA website for Trail Adopter and upcoming work-day information. •



Keeping trails in good shape takes dedicated volunteers.

Buckthorn Control Program Resumes; Volunteers Needed

This will be the fifth summer of PMA's grazing program, using sheep to discourage the proliferation of invasive glossy buckthorn on the summit. Volunteers make this program possible. Sheep will arrive sometime in June, and stay possibly through September. Each day, there needs to be someone to tend the sheep, giving water from the tank on the summit, and providing a little grain from the supply kept on the summit. Volunteers generally go in pairs. Some go once a week, others less often. There will be training for new volunteers. and we will make a schedule for the summer that reflects the needs of both the sheep and the volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Claire Wilson at claire34wilson@gmail.com. •

On the trail of a poem: Putney Mountain Poetry Contest

PMA and Antidote Books of Putney are presenting the Putney Mountain Poetry Contest! Submit up to three poems (or three pages) inspired by the natural landscape of Vermont. The winning poem will be displayed at the Putney Mountain trailhead, and the winner will receive a scholarship to attend a poetry workshop at Antidote Books in Putney. Email submissions as a PDF attachment to putney.poetry@gmail.com by June 30th. •

In Other News

PMA is pleased to welcome three new members to the board of trustees! Steve Connor, Dan Kubick and Hayden Lake joined the board in January. •

PMA is an all-volunteer organization. Your donations help us make conservation possible. Thank you!
Please visit us at putneymountain.org to make a donation or become a lifetime member.

Upcoming Events



Wildflower Walk

With Pat Shields

Saturday May 5, 1:00 PM

Explore spring wildflowers of the Putney Central School Forest. Meet at the kiosk on School Forest Drive (immediate right off front school driveway) . The walk to the site might be wet, so boots are a good idea. This walk is co-sponsored by the Putney Mountain Association and the Putney Conservation Commission. Questions, call Pat at 802-387-8595.

Birding Walk

With Cathryn Abbott + Richard Foye

Saturday, May 12, 7:00 AM

Meet at the wetlands on Sand Hill Road, Putney. Over the seasons, more than 100 species of birds have been seen in this area! Cathy and Richard will demonstrate how to identify birds by both eye and ear. If time permits, we can continue into the Central School forest to search for woodland birds. If you have binoculars, please bring them.

Exploring the Hannum Trails

With Dan Kubick + Steve Connor

Saturday, June 9, 10:00 AM

Meet at the kiosk at 442 Holland Hill Road. There will be two groups; one taking a walk of about one hour, and one taking another route for about two hours. We will explore some key features of these trails and how they connect with the larger network of trails. Please bring water and sturdy shoes.

Before It's Too Late: Conserving New England's Forest + Farmland

Sunday, June 10, 3:00-5:00 PM

Join us at Next Stage for a presentation on the recently released Wildlands and Woodlands report, with speakers from the Harvard Forest in Petersham, MA. The report details the need to increase collaboration between conservationists and landowners to permanently protect forest and farmland throughout New England. Co-sponsored by PMA, Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association, Vermont Land Trust and Windham Regional Commission.

Lichen Walk

With Katrina Maloney

Saturday, June 23, 10:00 AM

Meet in the Putney Mountain parking lot. Please wear sturdy shoes, bring a water bottle and a snack. Do you know what "old man's beard" is? Do you know we have "British soldiers" and "reindeer moss" in our forests? Have you ever noticed "pixi cups"? Join local ecologist Dr. Katrina Maloney on a walk up Putney Mountain and learn about these fascinating organisms – lichens! We will take an easy stroll through the different habitats found on the way up the mountain, going slightly off-path. You will come away from this easy walk knowing the names and ecological importance of some of our most common species. We will be able to determine if the air is really as clean as it seems!

Orienteering

With Andrew Morrison

Sunday, July 29, 12:00 PM

Meet in the Putney Mountain parking lot. Andrew will share an afternoon of orienteering fun for adults and children (preferably in at least 3rd grade). Activities will build an understanding of how to read a map, know how to stay oriented in the woods with a compass and the terrain, and will culminate in an orienteering challenge across Putney Mountain. Bring a personal compass if you have one, but all necessary materials will be provided. To register, please RSVP to mr.a.morrison@gmail.com

Invasive Plant Walk

With Andrew Morrison

Saturday, August 11, 10:00 AM

Meet in the Putney Mountain parking lot. Andrew is an invasive plant specialist and will do a guided walk of Putney Mountain trails to familiarize participants with some of our most common invasive plant species. The walk will include a visit to the Putney Mountain summit to discuss the ongoing project using grazing animals to control glossy buckthorn, and conversation about the history of invasive plants in Vermont, the connection between invasive species, our agricultural history, and what the future might bring for invasive plants in New England.



For the latest updates on all our programs, please follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and visit putneymountain.org

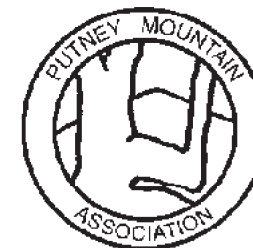
Putney Mountain Association

P.O. Box 953 • Putney, VT 05346



HELP SAVE PAPER + POSTAGE

To receive newsletters digitally, please send your email address to mr.a.morrison@gmail.com



BECOME A MEMBER OF PMA!

Putney Mountain Association is an all-volunteer organization. Your donations help pay property taxes and insurance to make land conservation possible. Thank you!

PMA lifetime membership \$25 ea _____ Is this a gift membership? _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL + PHONE _____

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION \$ _____

Make checks payable to
Putney Mountain Association

Please mail this form to:

Claire Wilson
26 Spring Hill Rd
Putney, VT, 05346